

Simeon and Anna

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In this meeting we look at the account of Simeon and Anna at the presentation of Christ at the Temple.

JESUS PRESENTED IN THE TEMPLE

[Luke 2:25-38](#)

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him.

²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required,

²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹ "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss your servant in peace

³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel."

³³ The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him.

³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against,

³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,

³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.

³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

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DISCUSSION THOUGHTS:

The Gospel reading describes the testimony of two people who were present when Jesus was brought to Jerusalem by his parents, when that day of Mary's purification according to the law of Moses were complete, to present Him to the Lord.

1. Who were Simeon and Anna?
 - Simeon was a just and devout man [Luke 2:25](#) , compare Cornelius [Acts 10:22](#)
 - Anna was a prophetess [Luke 2:36](#)

2. Can we read any significance in there being two witnesses?
 - In law this is set down as a general principle [Deu 19:15](#)
 - Jesus uses this reading of the law in the gospels [Matt 18:16](#)
 - Jesus applies this to Himself [John 5:31-36](#)
 - Being a man and woman can we draw the conclusion that the witness of Simeon and Anna represent all human kind?

3. Are there similarities between Simeon's declaration and Peter's confession?
 - Simeon: [Luke 2:26](#)
 - Peter: [Matt 16:16-17](#)
 - Does this provide for us continuity between the Old and New Testaments?

4. What is our reaction to these witnesses?
 - The witness of Simeon, Anna and Peter were spiritually discerned.
 - Does it make us feel uncomfortable that scripture makes clear we cannot explain everything by natural laws using our only our intellect? [1 Cor 2:14](#) , [Matt 22:37](#) , [Mark 4:9](#)
 - How do we react to the witnesses of:
 - Christ's birth (The Shepherds, The Magi)
 - Christ's death (Mary, the beloved disciple, the Roman soldiers)
 - Christ's resurrection (Mary Magdalene, Peter, the men on the road to Emmaus, the Apostles, Thomas, James, 500 believers and Paul)
 - In our heart, in the inner most recesses of our being, do we accept their testimony? If not, why?

5. What is our duty of witness today?
 - To God? [John 6:29](#)
 - To Jesus Christ? [Matt 28:19-20](#)
 - To mankind? [2 Pet 3:9](#)
 - How do we relate our witness to our community, our village?