



Pastor-Teacher | Chris Regas | 1.16.2021

Welcome the Advent of the Lord!

Lesson 5 • Luke 2:36-38

ADVENT on PURPOSE: A Bible-Based, Christ-Exalting, and Gospel-Centered Approach

The CANDLES of Advent	The CHARACTERS of Advent	The CALLINGS of Advent
1. The PROMISE Candle	The <i>Prophets</i> who predicted His coming.	WAIT for His arrival in the “Not Yet”!
2. The PREPARATION Candle	The <i>OT Saints</i> who were prepared for His coming.	WATCH with anticipation!
3. The PROCLAMATION Candle	The <i>Shepherds</i> who proclaimed His coming.	WITNESS with abandon!
4. The PARTICIPATION Candle	The <i>Wisemen</i> who participated in His coming	WORSHIP with adoration!
5. The PURPOSE Candle	The <i>Sovereign Savior</i> who redeems and restores.	WELCOME His arrival in the “Now-Not Yet”!

Simeon's Greeting Prepares Us to Greet Christ When He Comes Again!

“For My eyes have seen Your salvation!” (2:30)

Overview of Simeon's Greeting at the First Advent of the King

- (2:25) Simeon **waited for the arrival**, because he knew the **OT PROMISES** (especially Isaiah's prophecies).
- (2:26-28) Simeon **watched with anticipation**, because he was **PREPARED**.
- (2:29-32) Simeon **witnessed with abandon**, because Good News must be **PROCLAIMED**.
- (2:33-35) Simeon **worshipped with adoration**, because the King's arrival calls for whole-hearted **PARTICIPATION**.
- (2:36-39) Anna **welcomes the arrival**, because public praise is the proper response to the King's **PRESENCE**.

➤ Similarities between Simeon and Anna

- 1) **Old in Age:** Represents the long expectation of OT saints, the passing away of the OT covenant, and the perseverance required to overcome until Christ comes.
- 2) **Devoted to God:** Recognizes that true faith is an obedient faith that loves God and His commandments.
- 3) **Word-Fed:** Reveals that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the message of Christ.
- 4) **Spirit-Led:** Reminds us that apart from the Spirit we are unable to be ready for His coming.
- 5) **Prophetic Speaking:** Reflects the end of 400 years of silence and the blessing of the Spirit's indwelling with the New Covenant.
- 6) **Watchful for His Coming:** Reassures us that those who wait and watch won't be disappointed in the End.
- 7) **Bold Witnesses of the Gospel:** Reaffirms that good news is to be shared with great joy to all peoples.
- 8) **Believed in an Age of Unbelief:** Reproves us for letting what others do or don't do become an excuse for our own apathy.

➤ Differences between Simeon and Anna

- 1) Simeon's greeting is given **more space** than Anna's welcoming.
- 2) Anna's background is given **more space** than Simeon's.
- 3) Anna is **identified** as a prophetess (feminine word) but Simeon is not.
- 4) Simeon's **greater role ends** with **the comfort of a peaceful death**, while Anna's seemingly **lesser role** is the **actual climax** of the section and **continues** with **the joy of a proclaiming life**.

SIMEON'S LARGER ROLE	ANNA'S SMALLER BUT EQUALLY SIGNIFICANT ROLE
Ending	Continuing
Comfort of a Peaceful Death	Joy of Proclaiming Deliverance
Pictures the End of the Old Covenant	Pictures the Arrival of the New Covenant
Climatic Fulfillment of OT Promises	Climatic Future of NT Fulfillment

- 5) Together they present a picture that is consistent with Christocentric complementarity: *Anna's placement in the story is a **Spirit-filled welcoming response** to Simeon's **Spirit-filled greeting initiative**.*

Anna's Welcome Models How Christ's BRIDE, the Church, Welcomes Her Bridegroom Home!
"At that very moment she came up and began giving thanks and continued to speak of Him to all..." (2:38)

The Welcoming Heart of Christ's Bride

1. Anna LIVES as a Spirit-filled Prophetess in the Temple.

"And there was a prophetess, Anna...She never left the temple," (vv. 36-37)

Anna's Passion for the LORD Pictures...

- The HEART of the faithful remnant under the Old Covenant promises during the time of the Gentiles.
- The HOPE of the faithful remnant for the New Covenant fulfillment under the coming of Christ.

2. Anna LAMENTS as a Devoted Servant of the Faithful Remnant.

"serving night and day with fastings and prayers." (v. 37b)

- Anna's story is one satisfaction in the LORD in spite of SUFFERING.
- Anna's story is one of serving the Lord through SUPPLICATION.
 1. She "**watched and prayed**" like King David and King Jesus. *Matthew 26:41; Psalm 5*
 2. She was a "**widow indeed**" like Paul taught the church to honor. *1Timothy 5:3-16*
 3. Her praying was filled with **lamenting** (weeping), **longing** (waiting), and **looking** (watching).

3. Anna WELCOMES the Child King to His Temple.

4. Anna PICTURES the New Covenant Bride of Christ.

- The name "*Anna*" means "**GRACE**."
- Her tribal name of "*Asher*" means "**BLESSED**." *Deuteronomy 33:24*
- Her father's name "*Phanuel*" means "**FACE of GOD**." *Genesis 32:30*

The Welcoming Heart of Christ's Bride Overflows with Joyful Thanksgiving and Continual Sharing!

- The Church welcomes the Bridegroom home with hearts FULL of thanksgiving
- The Church welcomes the Bridegroom home with hearts EAGER to share.



The King of Glory Sends His Son by Isaac Watts

Simeon and Anna both conspire
The infant Savior to proclaim;
Inward they felt the sacred fire,
And blessed the Babe, and owned his name.

Let Jews and Greeks blaspheme aloud,
And treat the holy Child with scorn;
Our souls adore th' eternal God,
Who condescended to be born.

"I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches.
I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

The Spirit and the bride say, "**Come**." And let the one who hears say, "**Come**."
And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.
Revelation 22:16-17

HE HAS COME! HE IS COMING AGAIN!

