



PREPARED FOR HIS SOON RETURN SERIES

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THE ANNAS AND SIMEONS OF TODAY

"For my eyes have seen your salvation" – Luke 2:30

The Bible gives us the story of a righteous and devoted man called Simeon who was living in Jerusalem during the time of the birth of Jesus:

- He was a devoted man;
- He was righteous;
- He was waiting for the consolation of Israel;
- The Holy Spirit was on Him;
- God revealed to Him that he will see the Lord's Messiah;
- He acted moved by the Spirit;
- He recognized the baby Messiah when He came to the temple;
- He prophesized on the child Jesus.

At the very moment Simeon recognized the baby Messiah Jesus, and prophesized on Him, a widow by the name of Anna join them to thank

God and to speak about the child to all those looking for the Redemption of Israel. Her spiritual predispositions:

- An old and humble woman (an old widow of 84 years old)
- She was always in the temple.
- She was fasting and praying day and night.
- She was a prophet.

Anna and Simeon recognized the baby Messiah when the time was fulfilled. The religious leaders though they had the writings of the prophecies, were blind, and did not recognize the Messiah. The appearance of the child was marred with a poverty that did not attract their attention; yet the spiritual qualities needed for such a crucial spiritual time they did not work on. The Holy Spirit overwhelmed the soul of the old Simeon with joy he never had before. In the book *Desire of Ages*, we read:

- So it is still. Events upon which the attention of all heaven is centered are undiscerned, their very occurrence is unnoticed, by religious leaders, and worshipers in the house of God. Men acknowledge Christ in history, while they turn away from the living Christ. Christ in His word calling to self-sacrifice, in the poor and suffering who plead for relief, in the righteous cause that involves poverty and toil and reproach, is no more readily received today than He was eighteen hundred years ago (Ellen G White – DA , 56).

Simeon and Anna were old people tired of life. Their focus would have probably be a good retirement life. Meanwhile, they were not tired of Jesus; and their focus on spiritual things and on the coming Savior were stronger in their old ages. The religious leaders may have been waiting for dreams and visions, and special revelations to recognize the time of the appearing of the Messiah. But the appearing of the Lord Messiah rested on:

- The sure word of prophecy;
- A constant abiding in Christ;

- And a life in the Spirit.

At the dawn of the return of Jesus-Christ, what does the Lord requires of us? If we want to be ready for the soon return of Jesus and not be surprised unprepared, we are to have the same spiritual predispositions that Anna and Simeon had at the time of the first appearing of the Messiah:

- Study to show ourselves approved;
- Live a life of constant abiding;
- Live by faith and not by sight;
- Surrender ourselves to God and obey the voice of the Holy Spirit;
- Trust the signs or landmarks the Lord has given us regarding His return;
- watch and pray;
- Pray without ceasing;
- live in expectancy of the return of the Lord.

Dear friends, as the world has today put in our hands many things to divert our attention from the most important things we need in our preparation for heaven and the new earth, God is calling for Annas and Simeons to wake up in this sleeping hour with enough oil in their lamps that can stand the test of waiting.

May God bless you to be a Simeon or an Anna today ever ready to meet the Lord Jesus-Christ when the cry goes out at midnight; and with excitement, may you go with holy happiness to meet Him and see His face when He appears in the cloud of heaven. Amen

Yours in the blessed hope.

- Edem Fabrice Ameyou

To See His Face Ministries Intl