

# Jesus is Hope

## *A Christmas Sermon Series*

Sunday Morning, December 11, 2022 » Pastor Josiah Kagin

**Message Title:** Jesus is Hope for the Lonely who have Suffered Loss

**Message Text:** Luke 2:36-38

### Introduction:

*1 Timothy 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope;*

There are many intriguing characters that play a part in the Biblical narrative of Christ's birth. Most of them were very common, unpopular and even hurting people. Whether it was the poor shepherds, the longing Simeon or the lonely Anna, the mere sight of Jesus as a baby brought great hope to their hearts. Hope because God's promise of a Messiah had indeed come true. Hope because Jesus Himself is hope. Today, we will look at the only three verses in the Bible concerning Anna and see how Jesus is hope for the lonely who have suffered loss. Do you know someone like Anna? Can you identify with her? May her story encourage your heart and draw you toward Christ who is our hope.

## 1. A Portrait of Compounded \_\_\_\_\_

(36-37a)

*Luke 2:36-37a And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; 37 And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years...*

NOTE: A prophetess was a woman who was known for declaring God's truth. Anna is the only woman inside the New Testament to be called a

scan for  
sermon notes



prophetess. Miriam, Deborah, Huldah and Noadiah were Old Testament “prophetesses”.

VIRGINITY — she had honored God and kept herself pure.

ANNA KNEW PAIN

Pain of a Broken \_\_\_\_\_ — *Asher was one of the northern tribes that was lost during the exile.* [openstax.org/r/lessons-from-little-known-women-of-the-bible-anna/](https://openstax.org/r/lessons-from-little-known-women-of-the-bible-anna/)

Pain of Great \_\_\_\_\_ — *Anna was likely over 100 years of age.*

Pain of the Loss of \_\_\_\_\_ — *Anna had lost her husband.*

Pain of a \_\_\_\_\_ Womb — *Anna did not leave the temple from the time she was widowed. (Proverbs 30:16)*

Pain of a Lonely \_\_\_\_\_ — *Anna had no husband as a companion or provider.*

Pain of \_\_\_\_\_ — *Anna faced continual poverty as a widow.*

## 2. A Pattern of \_\_\_\_\_ Service (37b)

*Luke 2:37b ...which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.*

TEMPLE — The temple was the center of life in Jerusalem.

NOTE: Being at the temple would provide many “triggers” for Anna and all the loss she had experienced.

DEFINITION—SERVE: to serve as an act of worship

ANNA SERVED GOD *WITH* \_\_\_\_\_ AND PRAYER

QUOTE: Prayer is reaching out after the unseen; fasting is letting go of all that is seen and temporal. Fasting helps express, deepen, confirm the resolution that we are ready to sacrifice anything, even ourselves to attain what we seek for the kingdom of God. —Andrew Murray

*1 Peter 3:12 For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.*

QUOTE: Prayer is the answer to every problem there is. —Oswald Chambers

QUOTE: Prayer succeeds when all else fails — Edward Bounds

QUOTE: All that God is, and all that God has, are at the disposal of prayer. Prayer can do anything that God can do, and as God can do anything, prayer is omnipotent. —R. A. Torrey

### 3. The Power of \_\_\_\_\_ Expectation (38)

*Luke 2:38 And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.*

JESUS WAS ANNA'S HOPE

GAVE THANKS — to profess openly in honor of another, whether in praise, thankfulness, or acknowledgement.

*Matthew 12:34 ...out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.*

BECAUSE JESUS WAS ANNA'S HOPE SHE SPAKE HIM TO OTHERS

DEFINITION—LOOKED: to wait; to look forward to the occurrence of or arrival of; to hope

DEFINITION—REDEMPTION: salvation; the buying back of a person from sin and its consequences via the death of Jesus Christ on the cross.

NOTE: Anna was aware of the others in Jerusalem that had this hope in the coming Messiah and He bound their hearts together.

*Psalm 62:5 My soul, wait thou only upon God; For my expectation is from him.*

## Conclusion

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## Questions to Consider

Will I consecrate myself afresh to serving God like Anna?

Will I praise God with my voice for Christ's coming?

Will I speak of Christ to others this week? (*Perhaps set a goal of how many people you would like to speak to about Christ this week.*)



Remember to grab  
Christmas invites and tracts  
to give out this week!



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