

July 9

Simeon and Anna

I will also give you for a light to the nations, that you may be my salvation to the end of the earth. – Isaiah 49:6

[Luke 2:21-38, the Temple in Jerusalem]
When eight days were fulfilled for the circumcision of the child, his name was called Jesus, which was given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

When the days of their purification according to the law of Moses were fulfilled, they brought him up to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord” [Exodus 13:2]), and to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, “A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” [Leviticus 5:11]

Behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. He came in the Spirit into the temple. When the parents brought in the child, Jesus, that they might do concerning him according to the custom of the law, then he received him into his arms, and blessed God, and said,

“Now you are releasing your servant,
Master,

according to your word, in peace;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared
before the face of all
peoples;

‘a light’ for revelation ‘to the nations’ [Isaiah 49:6],

and the glory of your people Israel.”

Joseph and his mother were marveling at the things which were spoken concerning him, and Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary, his mother, “Behold, this child is set for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which is spoken against. Yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”

There was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher (she was of a great age, having lived with a husband seven years from her virginity, and she had been a widow for about eighty-four years), who didn’t depart from the temple, worshipping with fastings and petitions night and day. Coming up at that very hour, she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of him to all those who were looking for redemption in Jerusalem.

1. How would it feel to be Simeon, to hold baby Jesus knowing you won’t see his adult life?
2. Imagine being Mary. How would you feel hearing that a sword would pierce your soul?
3. Jesus, I live in a time when so much has been fulfilled, yet so much will still happen...