



a
thrill
of
hope

Hope for the Faithful

Luke 2:25-38

*'Simeon and Anna
in the Temple'*
Rembrandt - 1628



*Anna
Simeon
Joseph
Mary
Jesus*

"Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe."

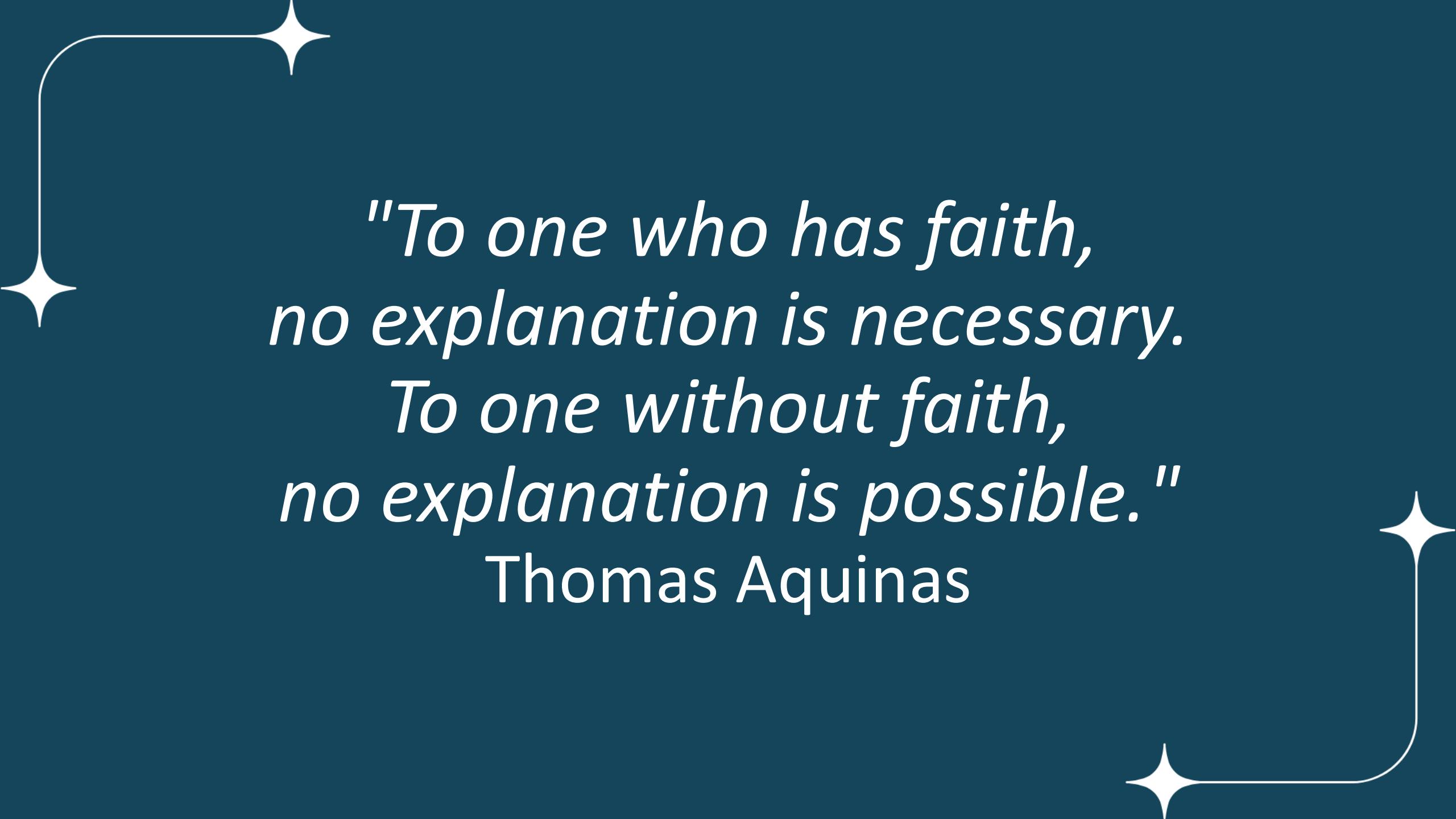
Augustine

25 And there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

Unfazed 25,26

- ‘just and devout’
- Simeon
- ‘looking for the Consolation of Israel’
- Holy Spirit was upon him – godly man!
- Isaiah 61



*"To one who has faith,
no explanation is necessary.
To one without faith,
no explanation is possible."*

Thomas Aquinas

27 That day the Spirit led him to the Temple. So when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law required,

28 Simeon was there. He took the child in his arms and praised God, saying,

29 “Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die
in peace, as you have promised.
30,31 I have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared for all people.

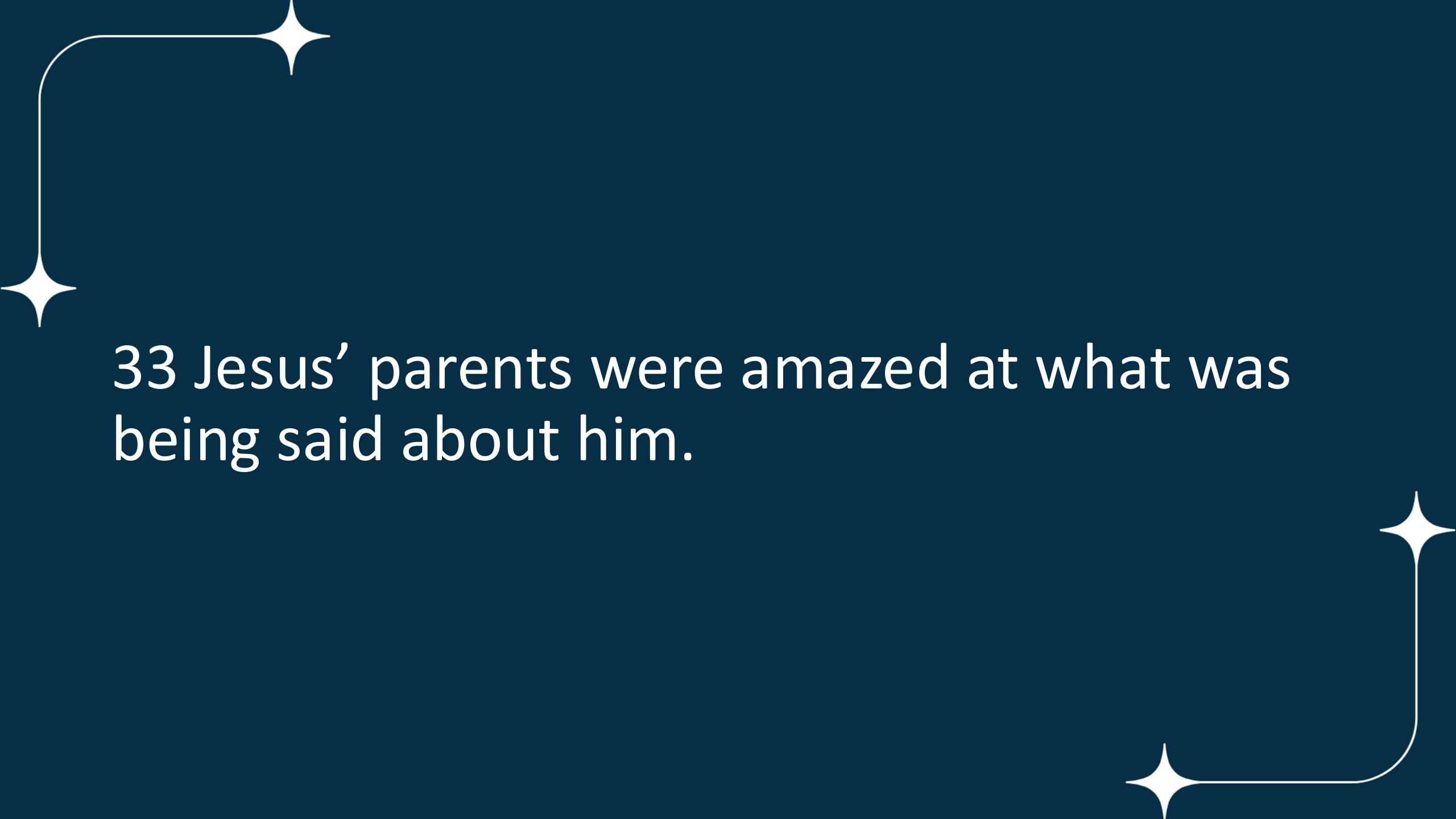
32 He is a light to reveal God to the nations,
and he is the glory of your people Israel!"

Amazed 27-32

- Right Time – Right Place?
- Right Heart!
- Bethlehem to Jerusalem – 9K
- Isaiah 9:2 – ‘see a great light!’
- ADVENT - revealed to men

*"For nothing will be
impossible with God."*

Luke 1:37



33 Jesus' parents were amazed at what was being said about him.

Amazed 33

- Do we dare believe?
- Simeon seems to know
- Anna seems to know
- How much of the Covenant is about Him?
- God cannot lie!

*"True faith rests upon the character
of God and asks no further proof
than the moral perfections of the
One who cannot lie."*

A.W. Tozer

34 Then Simeon blessed them, and he said to Mary, the baby's mother, "This child is destined to cause many in Israel to fall, and many others to rise. He has been sent as a sign from God, but many will oppose him."

35 As a result, the deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your very soul.”

Praised 34,35

- Simeon gave FOUR prophecies:
 - ‘destined for the fall and rising of many’
 - ‘for a sign which will be spoken against’
 - ‘a sword will pierce your own soul’
 - ‘the thoughts of many hearts revealed’
- No greater recognition – nor rejection!

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

Heb 11:1

36 Anna, a prophet, was also there in the Temple. She was the daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher, and she was very old. Her husband died when they had been married only seven years.

37 Then she lived as a widow to the age of eighty-four.[c] She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, worshiping God with fasting and prayer.

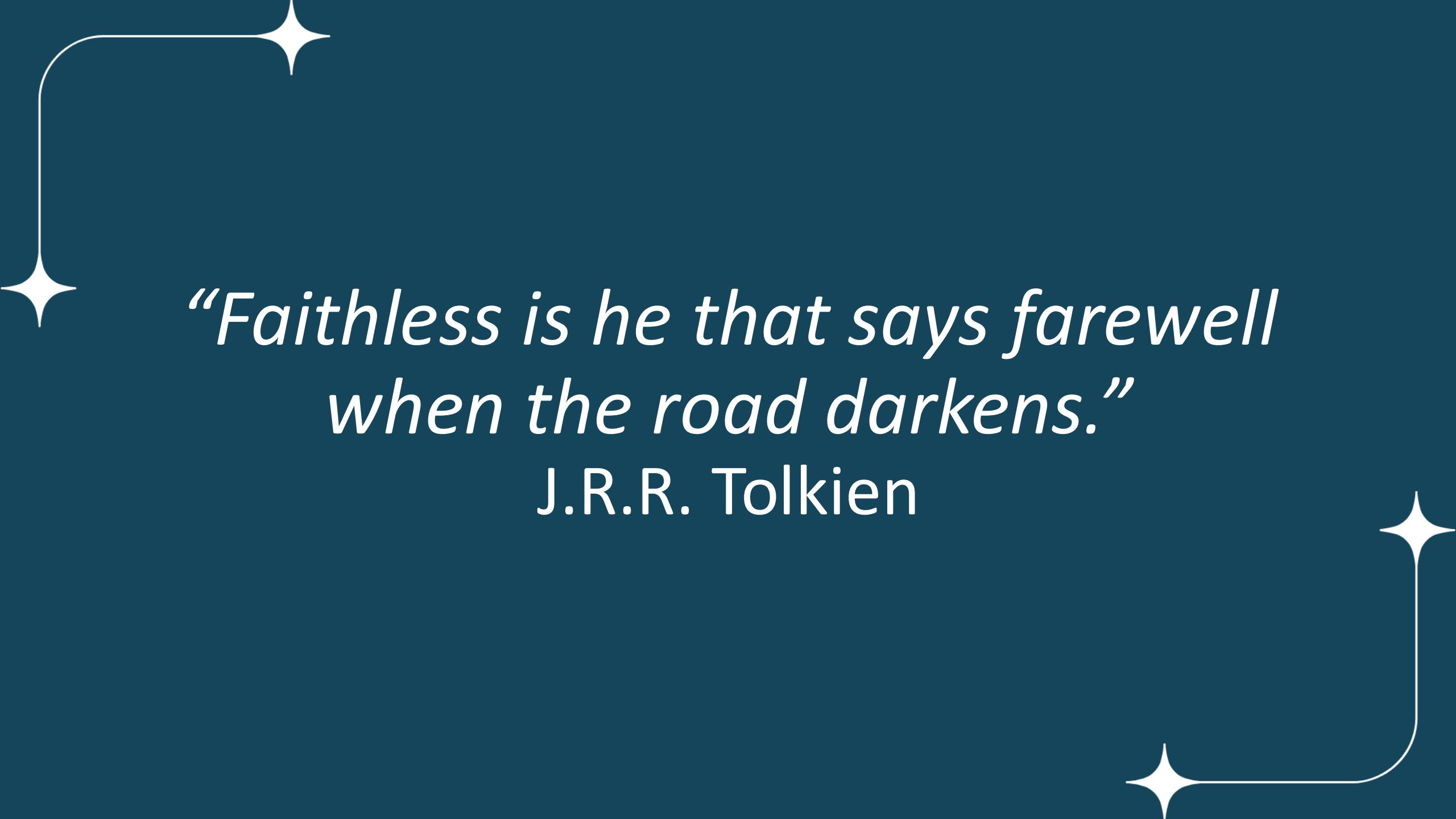
38 She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph, and she began praising God. She talked about the child to everyone who had been waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem.

Unfazed 36-38

- Anna
 - daughter of Phanuel
 - tribe of Asher
 - many years – 84 y.o.
 - widowed after 7 years
 - served in the Temple – fasting & prayers

Unfazed 36-38

- Anna
 - ‘prophetess’ – spoke for the LORD
 - without fear – rushed to give thanks
 - without loss of faith – shared to all who ‘looked’
- Her pain, loss, age, status – W/O DOUBTS!



*“Faithless is he that says farewell
when the road darkens.”*

J.R.R. Tolkien

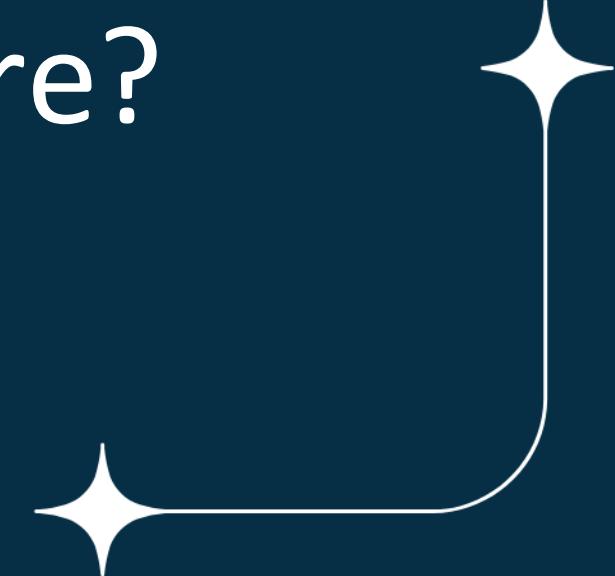
*"Faith is a living, daring confidence
in God's grace,
so sure and certain that a man could
stake his life on it
a thousand times."*

Martin Luther



What do you believe
with such conviction?

What do you know for sure?





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