

The background of the image is a deep blue night sky filled with numerous small, white stars. A bright star in the upper left quadrant emits a thick, white beam of light that extends downwards, illuminating a range of dark, silhouetted mountains at the bottom of the frame. The mountains are layered, with some peaks appearing more prominent than others. The overall mood is serene and hopeful.

# <sup>a</sup>thrill hope<sup>of</sup>



# 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!

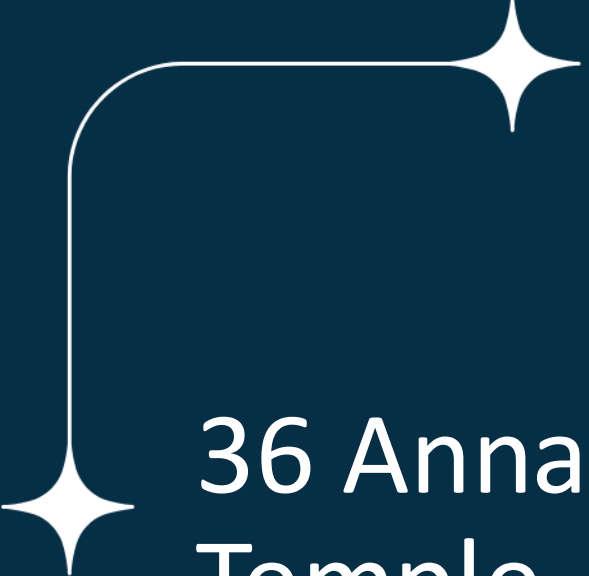





*"Now faith is the assurance of things  
hoped for, the conviction  
of things not seen."*



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?



The background of the image is a deep blue night sky filled with numerous small, white stars. A single, much larger and brighter star is positioned in the upper left quadrant, from which a thick, white beam of light descends vertically towards the bottom of the frame. At the base of this beam, the silhouettes of dark, layered mountain ranges are visible against the lighter sky. The overall mood is serene and hopeful.

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