



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Anna's Testimony

JANUARY 09, 2013

Tom McCullough / PO Box 503, Granville, OH. 43023/ tom.mccullough@capitolcom.org / www.capitolcom.org.

In the Gospel According to Luke (AD 60-61), Luke is writing to Theophilus so the he would know the exact truth and record regarding the things he had been taught about Jesus the Messiah. Luke communicates eyewitness accounts and carefully researches all that has been taught and handed down about Jesus (1:1-4). Luke shares that when eight days had passed from Jesus' birth, Mary and Joseph brought Him to be circumcised and in subsequent days, to present Him to the Lord and offered a sacrifice for Mary in order to fulfill the Law of the LORD (2:21-38). While at the temple, Mary and Joseph met a woman and her name was Anna. God used Anna, a common woman that believed in God, to communicate a special testimony and message to Mary and Joseph. This testimony was then subsequently passed to Theophilus and the world through Luke's Holy Spirit inspired writing.

“And there was a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years and had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers. At that very moment she came up and began giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth. The Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.” (Luke 2:36-40 NASB)

Who was Anna? Anna (or Hannah) was a prophetess; a teacher of the OT and God gave her insight to recognized Jesus, the Savior and Messiah. Anna was one of several prophetesses mentioned in scripture including; Miriam, Deborah, Hulduh, Noadiah, the wife of Isaiah, and Philip's daughters. Anna was the daughter of Phanuel and of tribe of Asher (the eighth son of Jacob), one of the twelve tribes of Israel. Anna was old. She had been married to only one man for 7 years and then as a widow to the age of 84. Given that Jewish girls married in their early teens, Anna was likely over 100 years old.

The temple was Anna's home. Anna never left the temple, the temple community provided for her care (1 Tim 5:9). She served God day and night, 24/7, with fasting and prayer. Anna was thankful to God and always spoke of Him, to all who were looking for the redeemer and messiah. Anna, like Simeon (2: 25-35), was faithful and was looking for the Messiah, “redemption of Jerusalem”. Both were a remnant, a small group of believing Jews, waiting for their Redeemer and Messiah. Anna and Simeon, as creditable witnesses, both provided a declaration to Joseph and Mary that Jesus was the Savior and Messiah.

Jesus grew. While the Gospel of Matthew shares Jesus as the King of the Jews, includes the visit of the Magi and subsequently the flight to Egypt (Mt 2:1-18), Luke focus is on Jesus the Perfect Man and Redeemer. What did Jesus do? He grew, became strong, and increased in wisdom. Jesus grew physically, mentally and spiritually because the Grace of God was upon Him. Jesus was fully God and fully man.

For Your Consideration:

- Anna and Simeon were creditable witnesses. Are you a creditable witness for what Christ has done in your life?
- Believers are blessed by the Grace of God. Are you growing spiritually closer to God? Do you pray and ponder His Word daily?
- Do you live each day for Christ? If not, what could you do today that would serve and glorify Him?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44