

DAY 8: Time to be hopeful – Simeon and Anna received the reward of their perseverance

“Simeon took him in his arms and praised God saying: ‘Sovereign Lord as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace’” Luke 2:28–29

The thrill of hope Simeon must have felt! Luke tells us he was a righteous and devout man, whose hope was seeing the Lord’s Christ before he died. Moved by the Spirit he goes to the temple courts where Mary and Joseph were to present Jesus according to the law. Simeon’s response was praise, a declaration of his faith, a testimony of the hope that drove his life, a needed blessing for Joseph and Mary.

Simeon’s message also included words of warning. He said Jesus would be “a sign that would be spoken against so that the thoughts of many hearts would be revealed” (2:34–35). It included prophetic words to Mary that a sword would pierce her heart. God’s message of salvation brings hope but also warns of future judgment.

Luke also tells us of Anna’s hope (2:36). She was known to be a prophetess who after becoming a widow, spent her days in the temple worshiping, fasting and praying. Like Simeon, when she encountered Jesus, she also shared the message of redemption to those that were around.

Can you identify with Simeon and Anna? Their hope gave direction and purpose to their lives. Is your hope in Christ? Are there people around you that need to know there is everlasting hope in Jesus?

Hope is knowing the today we are living is not the end. In Christ Jesus we will always have a brighter tomorrow, new mercies every morning, a path to walk one day at a time.

Having Christ helps us to keep moving forth to the God given path even when we are crossing valleys of adversity. His company gives us strength to persevere. His love sustains us with hope and peace.

Christmas starts with Christ and thus, is always time to rejoice. Sing today’s carol with joy and gratitude for the hope we have in Jesus. May you persevere in your faith until the savior’s return.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O COME, O come Immanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice, Rejoice!
Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O Come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai’s height,
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe:

O come, Thou rod of Jesus, free
Thine own from Satan’s tyranny;
From depths of Hell Thy people save
And give them victory o’er the grave:

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death’s dark shadows put to flight:

O come, Thou key of David, come
And open wide our heavenly Home;
Make safe the way that leads on high
And close the path to misery.

