

ADVENT

Lessons



G O D W I T H U S

B R I N G S

H O P E

"Advent"

Hope In Hopeless Times



What is Hope?

Hope=

Expectation, a thing longed for, Expecting God to Do Something

For Abe...

Hope was Ram Caught in the Thicket

In the Midst of a Broken World...

it was a Cross Covered Red in the Blood of Jesus

Those Facing Tragedy and Loss

Its an Empty Tomb

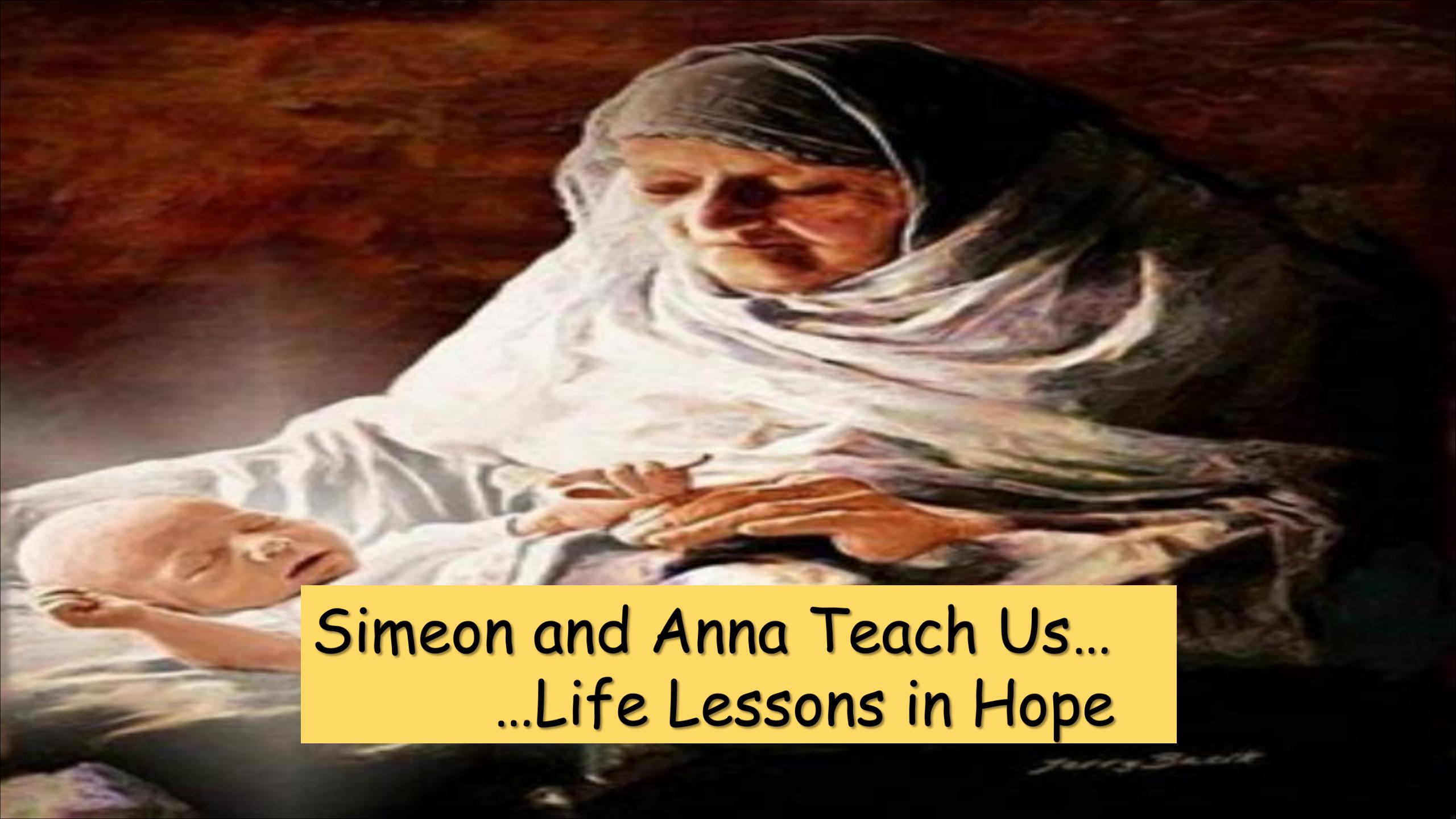
But It All Points to a Baby in a Manger



25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

29 "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. 30 For my eyes have seen your salvation, 31 which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

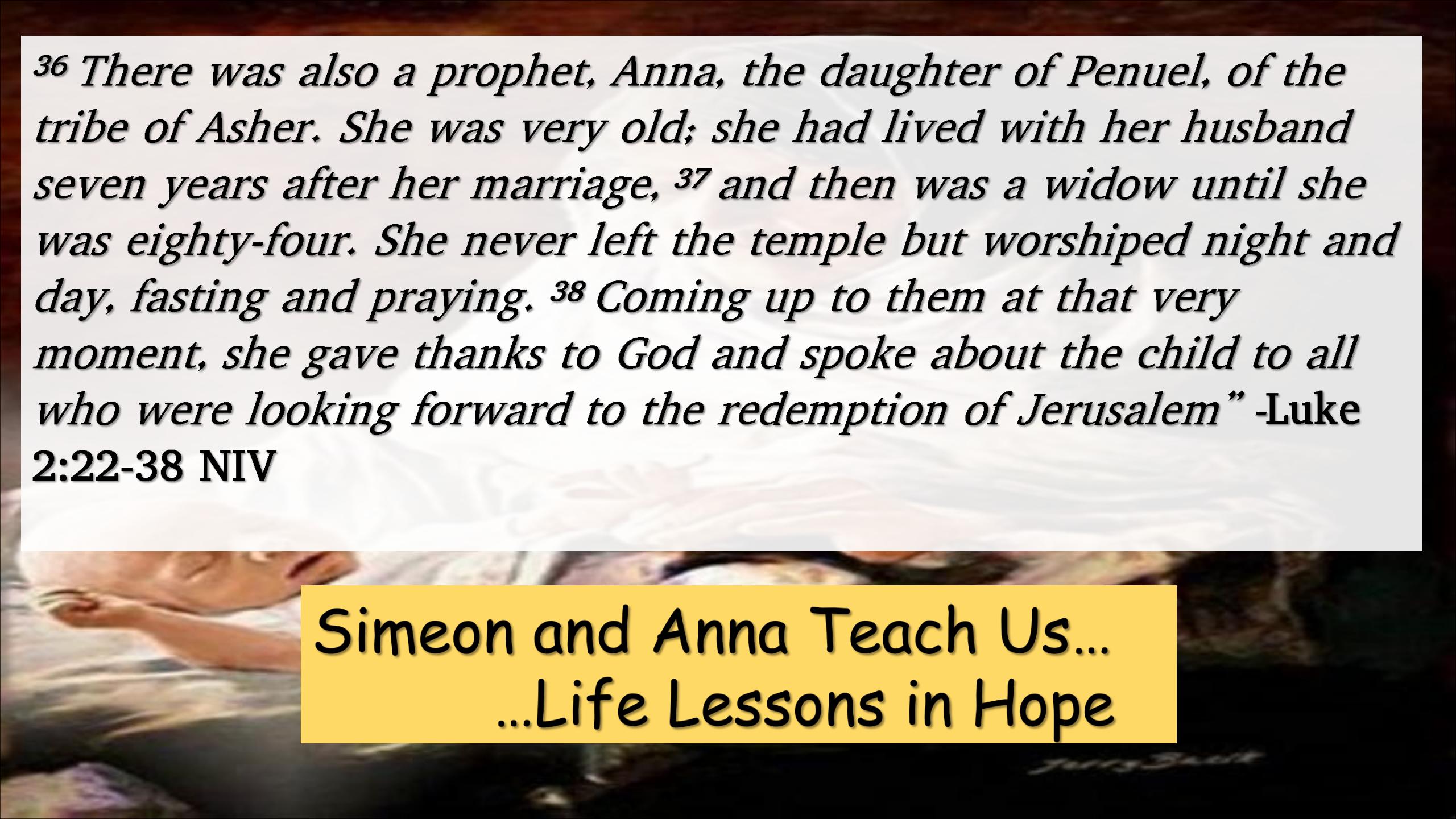
33 The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, 35 so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."



Simeon and Anna Teach Us...
...Life Lessons in Hope

Jerry Sack

36 There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem” -Luke 2:22-38 NIV



Simeon and Anna Teach Us...
...Life Lessons in Hope

No Matter How Bad Things Are...

...Never Give Up Hope

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No Matter How Bad Things Are...
...Never Give Up Hope

What A Year It Has Been

- A Year Filled With Uncertainty
 - Politically
 - Spiritually
 - Socially

Stress, Worry, Anxiety Have Hit High
Levels





ADVENT
SEASON OF HOPE

- If There's Ever a Year We Need to Rediscover Christmas,
...This Is The Year.
- If There's Ever a Year We Need to Hear And Rediscover Hope
...It Is Now, Today
- If There's Ever a Year The World Needs to Hear The Hope of
Christ

...It Is Now!

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This is the “Season of Hope”





Simeon and Anna were Sparks of Hope in Israel.

- **More Than That, They Were Torches Of Hope,**
- **Expecting God to Fulfill What He Had Promised.**
- **They Believed It And...**

...They Were Waiting for the Promised Child!

They Were Ready to See God Act and Do Great Things.

What About You?

- Day after day, year after year...
- Simeon and Anna Served God Faithfully,
- inspired by Hope that God was at Work.
 - Even if they couldn't see it, they believed / Remained Hopeful.
 - Even when surrounded by hardship.
 - Even as they grew older and older.
 - Simeon and Anna Still Held Onto Hope.



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HOPE SEES BEYOND the PRESENT

Hope Is The Fuel Of Faith, Dreams And Possibilities

- **It's the Spark that ignites a Blazing Fire**
- **Undying Ember That Speaks Life Ready to Give Up
No Matter How Bad Things Have Been...**
 - ...Struggles You Are Facing
 - ...Season of Darkness and Pain

Be Encouraged—You Are Not Alone

God is at work. There is Hope

Allow hope to Be Alive Even In Your Deepest Pain / Hopelessness

Hope Chases Away the Darkness and Uncertainty

HOPE SEESES BEYOND the PRESENT

A painting of a family with a newborn baby. On the left, an elderly woman with white hair and a brown shawl looks towards the center with a joyful expression. In the center, a man with a long, white, bushy beard and a brown shawl holds a newborn baby wrapped in a yellow blanket. To the right, a woman with a white headscarf and a green dress looks down at the baby. Another man with a beard and a green shawl stands to the right, looking towards the center. The background is dark with a bright yellow glow on the left side.

HOPE SEESE BEYOND THE PRESENT

“For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. ²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God” -Romans 8:24-27

Hope Exists Before Reality Comes To Pass

Hope Precedes Reality

Hope, By Its Very Nature, Exists in the Uncertainty

Hope Is the Willingness and...

...Desire To Believe Beyond Your Present Conditions

HOPE SEESES BEYOND THE PRESENT

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HOPE BELIEVES GOD IS WITH US
HERE, NOW, AND ALWAYS



There is no uncertainty in Christ, He knows all you are going through.

- He knows your pain, challenges and struggles.
 - He was not taken by surprise by ...
Covid, Economy, Global Unrest
 - It is a real hope. Hope even in times of weakness.
 - Hope in your deepest pain, even when hope seems far away

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future -Jer 29:11

- We Are Not Alone, Even At Our Loneliest Or Darkest Moments.

HOPE BELIEVES GOD IS WITH US
HERE, NOW, AND ALWAYS

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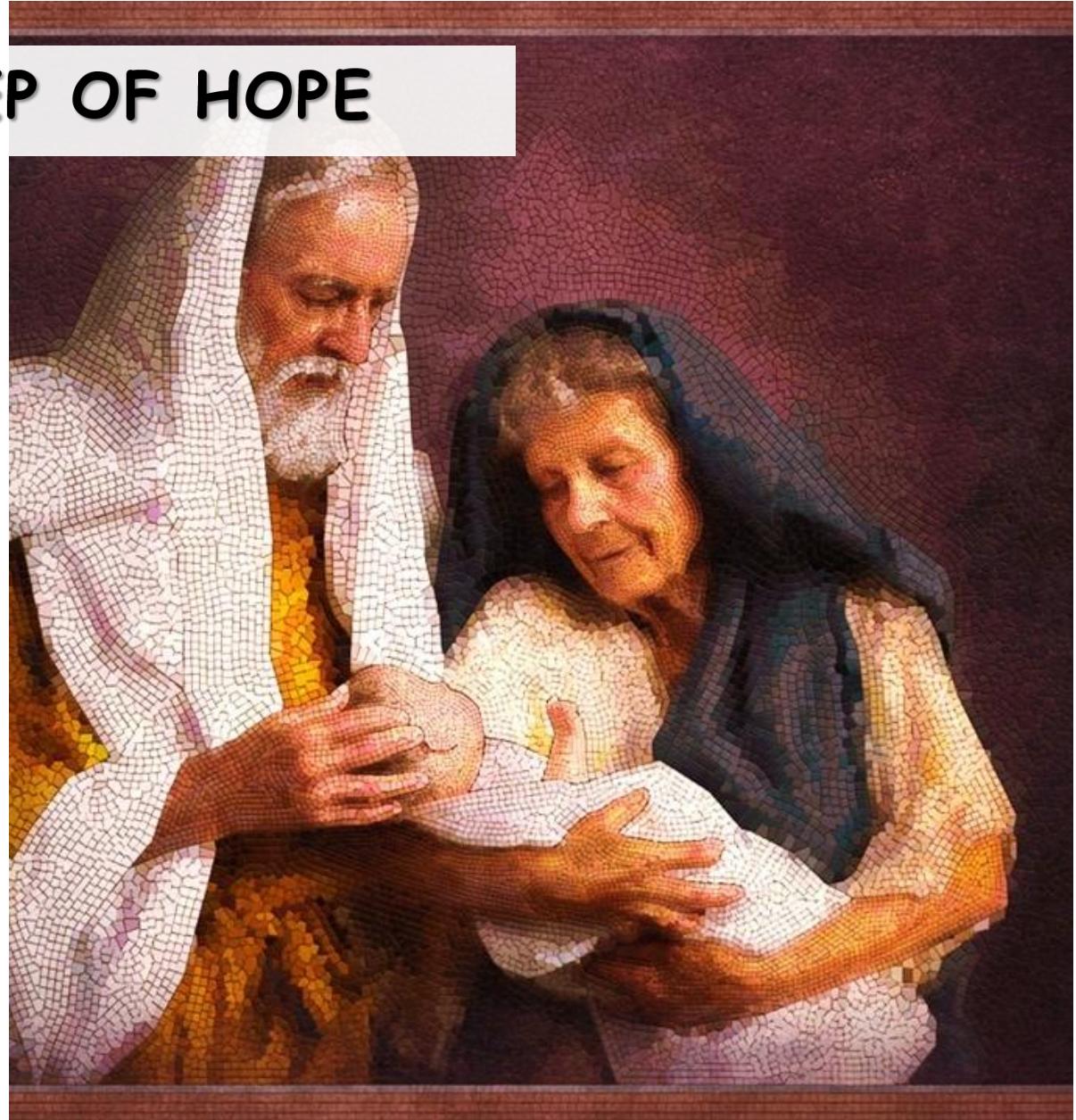
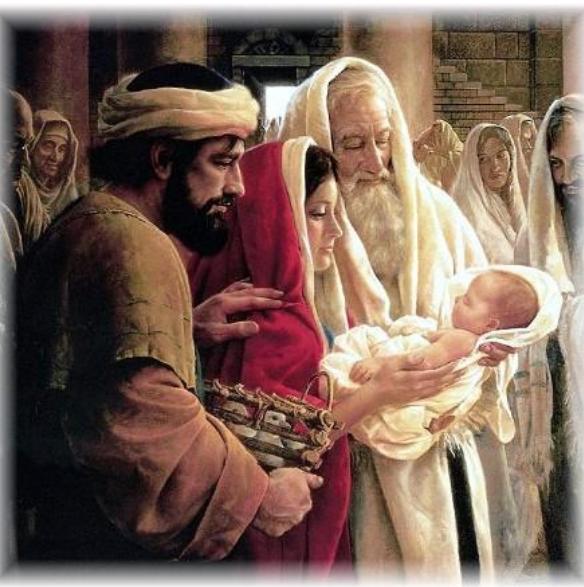
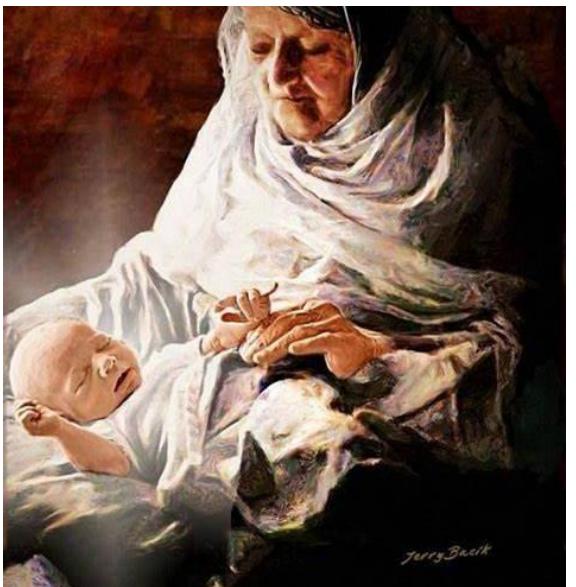
HOPE INSPIRES US to KEEP BELIEVING

“through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance;⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope.⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us” -Romans 5:2-5

- This hope we have in God will not let us down.
- It gives us new strength to see beyond the pain and confusion
- It can feel impossible to take first step toward hope when weighed down
- Receive the Promise of hope in God’s Word, we can find new strength.
 - Hope Inspires us. Hope Emboldens us.
- Keep Hoping, Keep Believing. Keep Putting One Foot In Front Of The Other

HOPE INSPIRES US to KEEP BELIEVING

IS YOUR NEXT STEP A STEP OF HOPE



IS YOUR NEXT STEP A STEP OF HOPE

This Advent Season, look for hope in the birth of Jesus.

- Draw hope from God's faithfulness in his long-awaited promises
- Focus on the hope of God's continued work in and all around you.
- Whatever life is throwing at you, you can experience the hope of God's Spirit within you, carrying you, strengthening you
- Start today, take a step toward hope in this Advent season.
- Hope is dawning. Christ is coming. Christ is returning soon.



This weeks Challenge

This Weeks Challenge

No Matter the Challenges You Face This Week..

- Instead of Reacting in Fear
 - Respond in Hope
 - Watch God Reveal Himself...

In Ways You May Have Never Seen Before

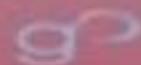
Watch the Effect on...

- Your Circumstances
- Those Around You



**EARTH IS
PREPARING FOR WAR**

**HEAVEN IS PREPARING
FOR A WEDDING**





Pray for ISRAEL

Father, show us Your glory.
When those in distress cry out to
You, answer them and save them.



Pray
for
Israel

And All of the Innocent Victims
on Both Sides



May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you! ² May he send you help from the sanctuary and give you support from Zion! ³ May he remember all your offerings and regard with favor your burnt sacrifices! *Selah* ⁴ May he grant you your heart's desire and fulfill all your plans! ⁵ May we shout for joy over your salvation, and in the name of our God set up our banners! May the LORD fulfill all your petitions! ⁶ Now I know that the LORD saves his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with the saving might of his right hand. ⁷ Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God. ⁸ They collapse and fall, but