

# THURSDAY, AUGUST 26TH

DAILY READING ASSIGNMENT: **Luke 1-4**

## "Finally"

**SCRIPTURE** Luke 2:25-40

### **OBSERVATION**

The gist of this passage is two prophets – Simeon, whose age is not mentioned, and Anna, whose age is mentioned at our near 84 (I thought it wasn't polite to mention a woman's age?). In any case, a prophet and a prophetess both have an encounter with baby Jesus in the temple that changed their lives.

How so? If you read the Old Testament there is a theme that emerges over and over – in the psalms and the prophets. It goes something like this: "How long, O Lord? How long until you save us, deliver us, restore us and send us the long awaited Messiah?"

After waiting for hundreds of years God says, "The wait is over. Here I am in all my glory."

To say that a baby born in a manger isn't quite what the people of Israel expected would be a gross understatement. No glorious king. No fanfare from heaven. No conquering hero exacting vengeance on the Roman army. Just a baby – freshly circumcised – and his very ordinary mom and dad.

What a strange way to enter...and save the world. But Simeon and Anna's faithfulness and diligence are rewarded. The Holy Spirit reveals who this is, and they become the first heralds (at least in Jerusalem) to announce that the wait is over...FINALLY.

### **APPLICATION**

Waiting is hard. Hope tends to fade over time. Chicago Cub fans have been waiting for what seems like forever for a World Series Championship (they'll have to wait at least another year).

But God's promises are not only true, they are right on time – even when His timetable is radically different from ours.

There may be some things you are waiting for...something from UPS, or word back on a job application, or the birth of child, or your future husband or wife. As Tom Petty once said, "The waiting is the hardest part."

But one thing you don't have to wait for is spiritual deliverance. God sent Jesus – our deliverer – so that we could know and be known by God. Among all the things we still wait for, that wait is over!

### **PRAYER**

Lord, I would have loved to be in the temple that day--to see the expressions of joy and elation and relief in Simeon and Anna. Thank you that while we continue to wait for a great many things, we don't have to wait for you. You came. You loved. You sacrificed. You died. You rose again. You sent your Holy Spirit.

Help us to be renewed in our strength as we wait upon you (Isaiah 40:31) to work in and through our lives. In Jesus' name. Amen.

*S.O.A.P. Entry Author: Nick Twomey*