

~ANNA (36)

(An'na) [from Hebrew, meaning Favor, Grace]

- **A prophetess, daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Asher. Her name is the Greek form of Hannah.**
- **Anna had become a widow after just seven years of married life and, at the time of the child Jesus presentation at the temple, was 84 years of age. Nevertheless, she was constant in her attendance at the temple, evidently from the time of the morning service until the evening service and, as a result, was privileged to see the young child Jesus and bear witness about him. Her fastings and supplications indicate a mourning attitude and an earnest longing on her part.**
- **The centuries-long period of Jewish subjection, coupled with the deteriorating religious conditions that reached even to the temple and its priesthood, could well explain this. At any rate, though she might not have expected to be alive when the child became grown, she now joyfully witnessed to others of the liberation due to be effected through this coming Messiah.**
- **Now there was Anna a prophetess, Phanuel's daughter, of Asher's tribe, this woman was well along in years, and had lived with a husband for seven years from her virginity. (Luke 2:36)**
- **And she was a widow now eighty-four years old, who was never missing from the temple, rendering sacred service night and day with fastings and supplications. (Luke 2:37)**
- **And in that very hour she came near and began returning thanks to God and speaking about the child to all those waiting for Jerusalem's deliverance. (Luke 2:38)**