

A Short Teaching on the Presentation of the Lord
by Deacon Gerry Palermo

Greetings on this the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord!

Much has been written and said about the Presentation of the Lord. For my female friends, today we will focus on the prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher.

Anna, of the tribe of Asher, prefigures several Messianic themes through the King Hezekiah:

- (1) the return to Jerusalem;
- (2) the cleansing of the Temple,
- (3) the restoration of the Temple,
- (4) the consolidation into one Temple/Altar,
- (5) the renewed celebration of the Passover
- (6) the renewed celebration of the Feast of Unleaven Bread
- (7) and the extended celebration: 7 days and 7 days!

Anna, advanced in WISDOM (age), lived 7 covenant years with her husband and 77 years (pre/post) as a woman consecrated to Gd. Anna, is our reminder of the perpetual worship as she 'never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer.'

Anna, daughter of Phanuel, the Face of the People!

She makes real for us the prayer of Hezekiah: (2 Chr 30:18-20)

Nevertheless they ate the Passover, contrary to the prescription; for Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, "May the LORD, who is good, grant pardon to everyone who has resolved to seek God, the LORD, the God of his fathers, though he be not clean as holiness requires."

The LORD heard Hezekiah and spared the people.

The LORD heard Anna and invites us to the celebration.

Peace be with you.

Deacon Gerry