

# JESUS Is Coming To Town

## Living In The Tension

### Waiting in expectation...

Luke 2:36-38 NLT

36 Anna, a prophet, was also there in the Temple. She was the daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher, and she was very old. Her husband died when they had been married only seven years. 37 Then she lived as a widow to the age of eighty-four.

She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, worshipping God with fasting and prayer. 38 She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph, and she began praising God. She talked about the Child to everyone who had been **waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem.**

### Living in the Tension

Proverbs 13:12 NIV

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.

### What are your expectations?

- ✓ **Expectation for something bad.**

Luke 2:36 NLT

**Her husband died** when they had been married only seven years.

- ✓ **Expectation for something mediocre.**

Luke 2:37 NLT

Then **she lived as a widow to the age of eighty-four...**

- ✓ **Expectation for something good.**

Luke 2:38 NLT

...**She talked about the Child to everyone who had been waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem.**

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### Living with hope...in the Tension

1. **Pay attention to prophecy.**

2 Peter 1:19-21 NIV

19 And we **have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it,** as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2. **Stand on the promises of God.**

2 Peter 1:4 NLT

And because of His glory and excellence, **He has given us great and precious promises.** These are the promises that enable you to share His divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.

3. **Seek the presence of God.**

Ephesians 1:14 NLT

**The Spirit is God's guarantee** that He will give us the inheritance He promised and that He has purchased us to be His own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify Him.

4. **Remember how God rescued in the past.**

2 Corinthians 1:10 NLT

And **He did rescue us from mortal danger, and He will rescue us again.** We have placed our confidence in Him, and He will continue to rescue us.

5. **Be one of God's people of encouragement.**

2 Corinthians 1:19-20 NLT

19 For Jesus Christ, the Son of God, does not waver between "Yes" and "No." **He is the one whom Silas, Timothy, and I preached to you,** and as God's ultimate "Yes," **He always does what He says. 20 For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!"** And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for His glory.

6. **Look to the person of Jesus.**

1 Peter 1:3 NLT

**All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.** It is by His great mercy that we have been born again, because **God raised Jesus Christ from the dead...**

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