

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Afternoon

Carol Service

Date 18th December 2022

Preacher Rev Philip Knowles Ps/ Hymns 80, 82, 78, 87 -at Anne, Read: Luke Text Luke 1:1-2 Luke 1:26-37, 39-56 Luke 2:36-38.

Title: Three Wise Woman

In considering the birth of Jesus Christ, the only Saviour of the world, scripture identifies three women, who were saved by the grace of God, and feature either before, during and after the birth of Christ.

The three women in view are Elizabeth, Mary the Mother of Christ and Anna.

Details are given between Luke 1 & 2.

While scripture does not place this woman in a group of three, yet some have called these woman the three wise woman, due to the words and action regarding the promise of the coming of Jesus Christ into the world.

All three were expecting the promised Messiah to come.

All three recognized Christ the Saviour by their knowledge of scripture which at that the time in view was the Old Testament prophecies.

All three were different in age.

Elizabeth according to Luke 1:7, was well stricken in age, so certainly an older woman. Elizabeth was Mary's cousin, She married to Zacharias and became mother of John the Baptist.

Mary the mother of the Saviour, it is held by many that Mary was young lady, probably in late teens. She was not married, but was engaged to Joseph.

Anna Luke 2:36 was of great age, married for 7 years years then widowed for 84 years, that would mean Anna would be over 100 years of age.

So, 3 women from different age groups, one not married, one married and one a widow. But three feature regarding Christ's birth.

All 3 stand out as being very wise women

I FIRST THEY REVERENCED CHRIST THE SAVIOUR

All three women show the evident marks of a person who feared or revered the Lord. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom

ELIZABETH REVERENCED CHRIST IN HER WALK Luke 1:6

Along with her husband Zacharias, they were **righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.**

Elizabeth was wise, she revered the Sovereign Lord. Elizabeth walked in the ways of the Lord.

MARY REVERENCED CHRIST IN HER WORSHIP Luke 1:50

Mary sang about the fear of the Lord, ***His mercy is on them that fear Him.***

She displayed a proper reverence for the Lord in her **submission** to Him in His dealings with her.

Luke 1:38 When told the announcement that she would have a child, ***Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.***

The handmaid was a servant, a lowly position. Mary **handmaid** a lowly servant. Mary willingly obeyed the Lord.

That is a mark true reverence for the Lord. Mary humbled herself in submission before the Sovereign God. Mary showed a willing heart and mind to do His will.

She revered the Lord by her Song.

v46 ***My soul doth magnify the Lord.*** from **verses 46-55**
Mary's song, references 15 quotes from the OT Scriptures.

These passages are from Genesis, 1 Samuel, Psalms, and Micah.

Mary hid the Word of God in her heart and mind.

ANNA REVERENCED CHRIST IN HER WORK

in **Luke 2:38** *departed not from the temple, but **SERVED** God with fastings and prayers night and day.*

Anna had reverence for God for she praised Him, prayed to Him and served Him in her great age. Anna was a widow yet served God.

At this time in Luke 2, the Temple had the sacrificial system in operation.

Anna worshipped Christ as her sinless and substitutional Saviour. She worshipped God through a sacrifice accepted by God.

These three women reverence the Lord. The fear, reverence or honour of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

They obeyed the Lord, they worshipped and exalted Him. They trusted in His word, they depended upon God's promise of a Saviour. They believed on Christ as their only Saviour.

The Palmist said in **Psalm 112:1** *Blessed is the man/person that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments.*

It was said of the wise men in Matthew 2, that wise people are they who seek the Lord when shown where to find Him.

It is still wise people who seek the Lord while He may be found and call upon Him while He is near.

It is still wise people who walk with, worship towards and work for Christ

Will you be wise today, and come and receive Christ into life, and reverence Him as the Saviour of your soul, the Lord of your life, and the King of your heart.

Will you leave all to Walk with, Worship towards and Work for Christ all the days of your life.

II SECOND THEY RECOGNISED CHRIST THE SAVIOUR

In taking the meeting between Elizabeth and Mary, we learn in Luke 1:41 Elizabeth recognises that Mary is expecting a child, but Elizabeth also recognised the child Mary carries is the Saviour, as she said in **verse 43** ***the mother of my Lord should come to me.***

Elizabeth then said to Mary in **Luke 1:42-43** ***Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?***

Did you notice the words, ***My Lord***. Elizabeth recognised that unborn baby in Mary's womb was Almighty God.

Elizabeth recognised this babe soon to be born is God manifest in the flesh. She recognised the two nature nature's of Christ person.

She recognised His deity, ***my Lord***

And she recognised His humanity- the seed of the woman, ***blessed is the fruit of thy womb***

This was the reason why Mary was chosen and blessed among woman, it was because of Christ who He is.

Elizabeth recognised what many fail to recognise today, which is Mary was blessed by and because of Christ the Saviour. Christ is the only one to receive all worship.

MARY

Mary recognised the one she would give birth to is the sinless Saviour, the Son of God. **Luke 1:35** *The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.*

ANNA in **Luke 2** came into the Temple and saw Jesus at 40 days old and she recognised Him as the Promised Redeemer, notice **verse 38** *“she coming in that instant give thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of Him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.*

There were priests, scribes, religious leaders, crowds there but none of them recognised the Saviour. Christ was not their focus.

But these three woman recognised Christ the Lord, as God manifest in the flesh. The eternal word made flesh and dwelt among us.

They recognised He is Emmanuel God with us, who had come to reconcile men and woman who has gone stray by sin, back to God.

By listening to the songs of praise in worship to His majesty and to hear Christ the Saviour preached,

Believer, at this season, never lose sight of the Saviour. He is the reason for the Season.

Do you recognise Him as your Lord and Saviour?

Unsaved you must recognise Him as the only one who can give you everlasting peace with God?

Will you seek Christ,
*O holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in; Be born in us today.*

Salvation is, 'Christ in you the hope of glory.'
Receive the Saviour as your own and only Saviour.

III THIRD THEY REJOICED IN CHRIST THE SAVIOUR.

To use Paul's words to Timothy in **2 Timothy 3:13** they were made **wise unto salvation.**

ELIZABETH.

Luke 1:42-44 *she spake out with a loud voice, and said blessed art thou among woman, and blessed is the fruit of thy woman, and when is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? for lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears the babe leaped in my womb for joy.*

MARY bursts into song, in **Luke 1:47** *My spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.* The phrases in her song indicate aspects of salvation. **Verse 49** *He that is mighty hath done to me great things.* **v52** *He hath exalted them of low degree.* **v53** *He hath filled the empty with good things.*

ANNA

Luke 2:38 *“And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord and spake of Him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.”*

Anna gave thanks for Christ her Saviour. Her lips, language and life was full of praise to God from whom all blessings flow.

Anna rejoices so much so that she must tell others like her who were waiting and looking for coming of Christ the promised redeemer.

The word **redemption** means **to purchase, to buy back, to pay the price.**

Anna rejoice knew that believers like her rejoice in redemption but also she knew that sinners must be redeemed, purchased from the sin's prison.

Set free from the bondage, and burden of sin, the curse and condemnation of the law which is eternal death.

Anna desired that others would be encouraged by the news of the redeemer's birth, but also there was the hope and joy of Redemption in the Redeemer and the joy of His salvation.

She spread the message abroad, that the Saviour has come and there is redemption in Him.

All three woman, rejoiced in the Saviour, because His Birth sealed His death. His birth gave hope.

As the prophecy concerning Christ's birth was fulfilled so the prophecy concerning His death would be fulfilled.

They rejoiced in Christ the perfect sacrifice, who would put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself, in His once offering for sin.

These woman could rejoice in their redeemer.

Unsaved one salvation is accomplished through the life and death of Christ, and accepted by His resurrection.

You must apply this great gift of salvation to your life today.

Have you any of these marks of wisdom.

Do you REVERENCE CHRIST THE SAVIOUR

Do you RECOGNISE CHRIST THE SAVIOUR

And are REJOICING IN CHRIST THE SAVIOUR