

GOSPEL PEARLS

Not from an earthly perspective

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And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and

became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favour of God was upon him. (Luke 2: 36-40)

Prophets not only foresee the future, but above all they speak in the name of God. By allowing themselves to be gently inspired by the Holy Spirit, their view of reality is not of this earth, like most other men, but goes beyond earthly realms. Unlike the other children of Israel, the prophetess Anna heralds a offering to God for our protection, as Jesus would be offered as a sacrifice to the Father for our Salvation. Let us thank Jesus who, from a very tender age, offered up himself for our Redemption.