

Your
Kingdom
Come





Who is this child?

What is this child going to do?



Jesus Presented in the Temple

Luke 2:21-38 Page 1027 in SRC Bibles

22 When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”),

24 and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him.

26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required,



28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

29 “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

30 For my eyes have seen your salvation,



**31 which you have prepared in the sight of
all nations:**

**32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel.”**



33 The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, 35 so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four.



She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.





Simeon's Prophecy to Mary (1628)

**This is one of Rembrandt's
earliest known works**





Anna

Temple based—

worshipped,

fasting and praying.

What is the measure of a life well lived?

Useful – Busy;

Adventurous/Exciting –Romance,

Luxuries and Fame.

Happiness?



Anna – a life well spent?

Her Priorities

Worship

Warfare (spiritually)

Waiting

Witness



Anna's Posture

Open and attentive – leaning in.

Eager to learn and grow.

Hard life – long time widow



God's Plan and Promise

The redemption of Jerusalem

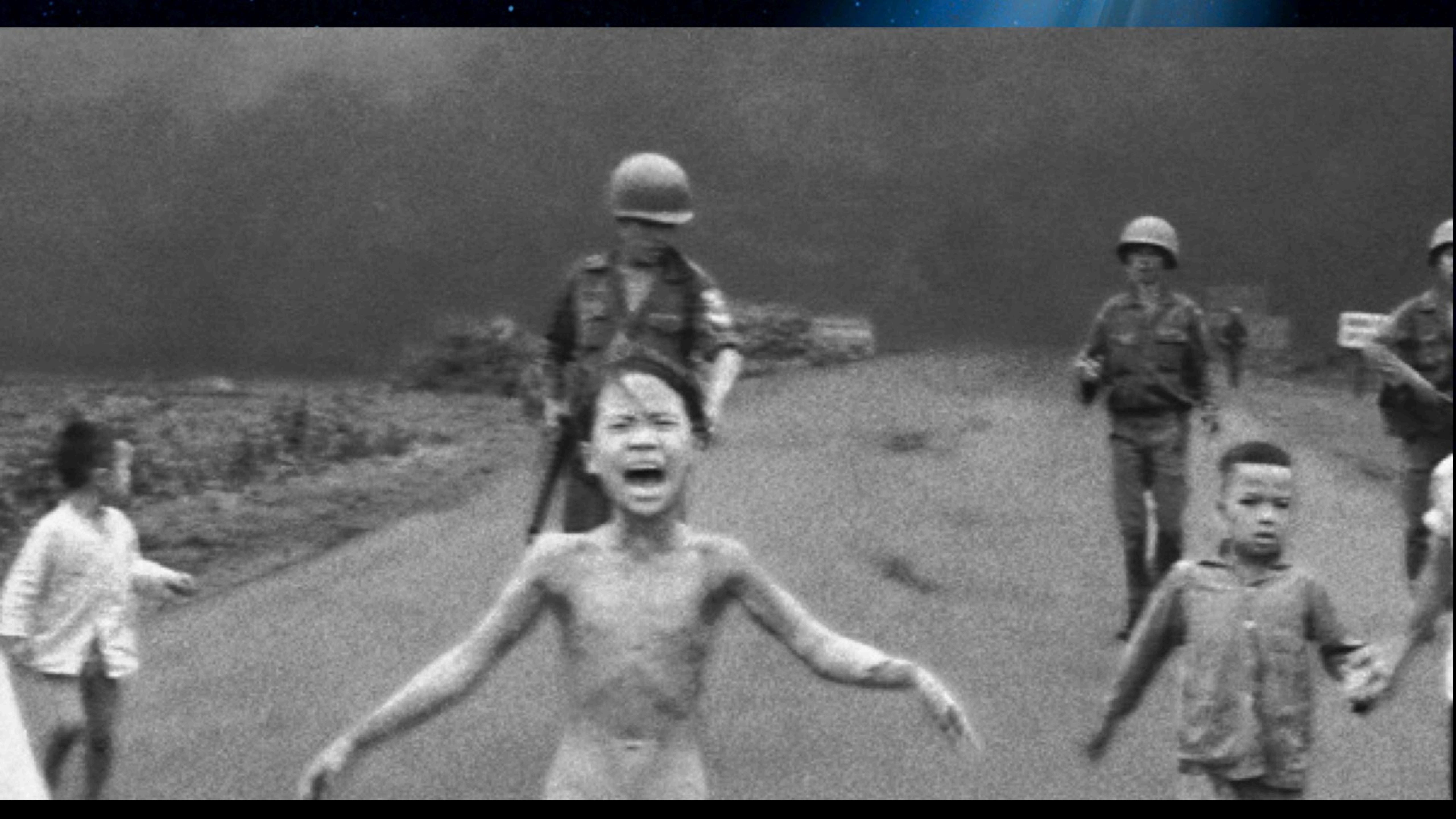


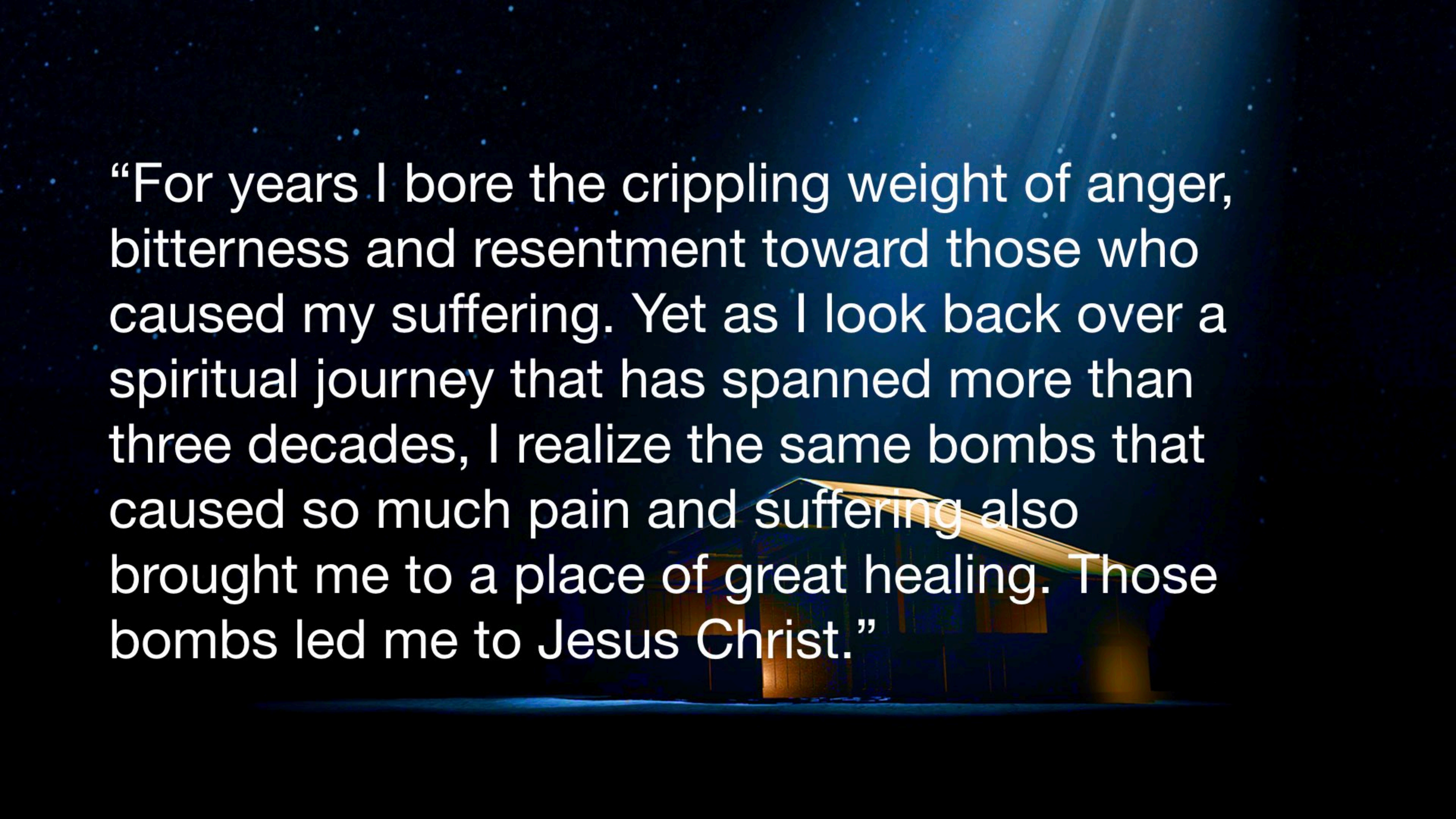
“The Salvation of Napalm Girl”

Wall Street Journal

December 22, 2017





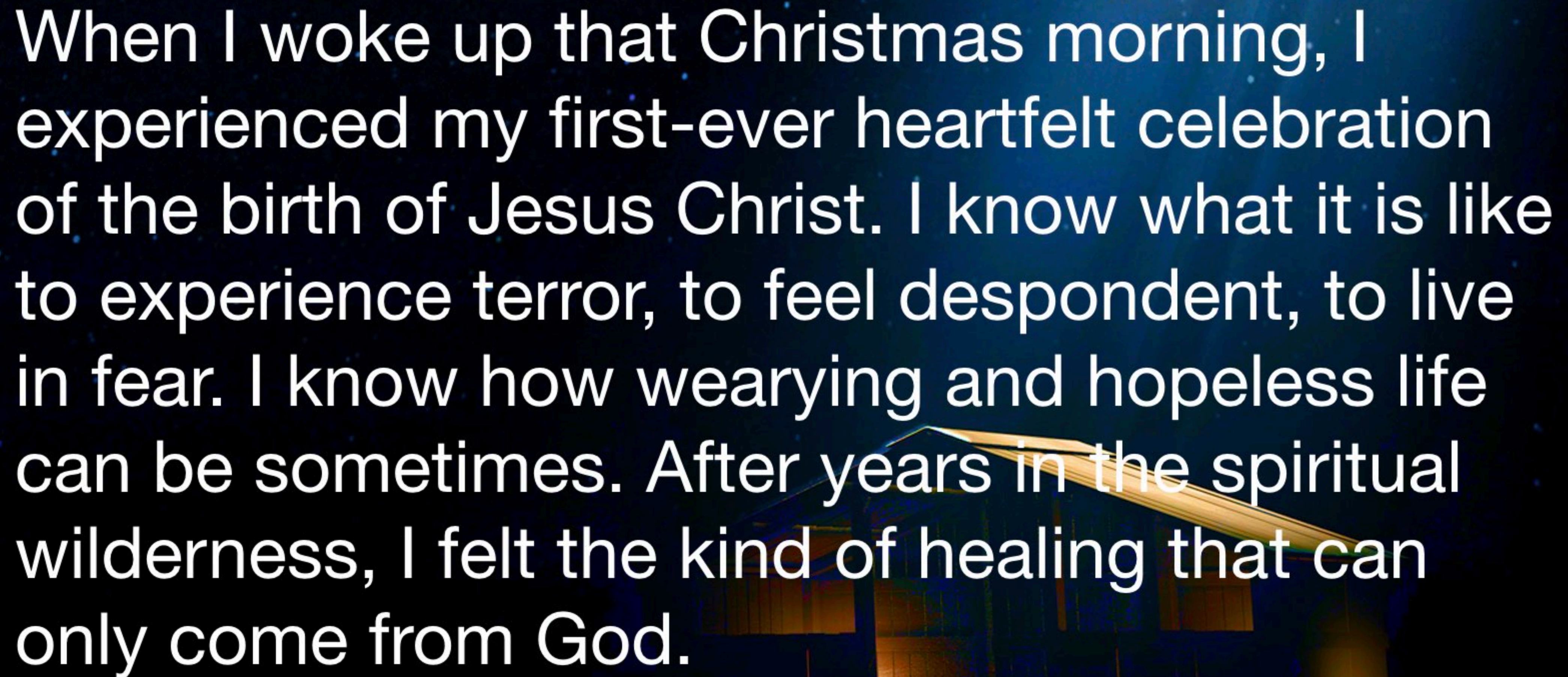


“For years I bore the crippling weight of anger, bitterness and resentment toward those who caused my suffering. Yet as I look back over a spiritual journey that has spanned more than three decades, I realize the same bombs that caused so much pain and suffering also brought me to a place of great healing. Those bombs led me to Jesus Christ.”

My salvation experience occurred on Christmas Eve. It was 1982. I was attending a special worship service at a small church in Vietnam. The pastor, Ho Hieu Ha, delivered a message many Christians would find familiar: Christmas is not about the gifts we carefully wrap and place under a tree. Rather, it is about the gift of Jesus Christ, who was wrapped in human flesh and given to us by God.

When Pastor Ho finished speaking, I stood up, stepped out into the aisle, and made my way to the front of the sanctuary to say “yes” to Jesus Christ.





When I woke up that Christmas morning, I experienced my first-ever heartfelt celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. I know what it is like to experience terror, to feel despondent, to live in fear. I know how wearying and hopeless life can be sometimes. After years in the spiritual wilderness, I felt the kind of healing that can only come from God.



**Kim Phuc Phan Thi
today at 54 years
of age**

**Anna – the woman of
God, not tied to her
past but dreaming of
a better future – Christ
our Savior**



This Christmas Eve

Don't miss your Savior

He is near and waiting for you

Live a life of freedom in Christ.



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