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 34 And Symeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his   
 simi mother, Behold, this child is set for the \* fall and rising   
 ik Bs again of many in Israel ; and for a “sign which shall be   
 Re ber. spoken against ; 85 yea, a sword shall pierce through thy   
   
 i, own soul also; that ™ the thoughts of many hearts may be   
 pPexute, revealed. 86 And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the   
   
 daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was "ofa   
 great age, and had lived with an husband seven years   
 from her virginity ; 87 and she was a widow of about   
   
 fourscore and four years, which departed not from the   
 temple, but served [° God] with fastings and prayers   
 cactexri-7. © night and day. 88 And she P coming in that instant gave   
 thanks likewise unto 4 the Lord, and spake of him to all   
 a mark xv, them that ¢ looked for redemption in Jerusalem.   
   
 xaly. 9 And when they had performed all things according   
   
 ™ render, reasonings out of many hearts.   
 4 literally, advanced in many days.   
 © omit : not in the original.   
 P render, coming in at the same hour. 4 read, God.   
   
 Himself would not speak of him thus, see sorrow for sin must pierce her also   
 ver. 49; but in the simplicity the nar- (ef. esp. ii. and the general end   
 rative we may read his parents, and such llows; that reasonings out of many   
 expressions, without any danger of for- hearts may be revealed; that they who   
 etting the momentous history of the receive the Lord Jesus may be manifest,   
 Eoncestion and Nativity. 34.] fall, and they who reject Him : see ix. 89.   
 stone of stumbling and rock of offence We may find moreover, in traces of   
 (eve references), at which a, should eee with our Lord in the Evangelic   
 ll throngh unbelief. ing again, his tory, the piercing dividing of her   
 —or, rising up—in the sent of soul, and in last notice her in Acts   
 snd sag and holiness; or, the fall the triumph of her faith after the   
 up may refer to the per- sion. 87. fastings and prayers] Not   
 sons; a8 it is said our Lord, ‘ He merely in the ordinary hours of at   
 humbleth himself shall be exalted.’ I nine, and three, or the ordinary fasts   
 this last, as cohering Monday and Thursday, but in an ascetic-   
 best with the next verse: see note on it. devotional method of life. night is   
 35.] This prophecy I do believe said to be put first, fasta were   
 to have its chief reference to the deep reckoned from one evening to another. Is   
 sorrows of the mother.of our Lord on it not rather the greater   
 beholding His sufferings, much less her and emphasis rests on religious   
 fature death by ; least of all by night ? 88.] It was possibly at   
 to the Crucifixion, by shedding the the hour of prayer; as she spoke of Hi   
 blood of her Son, would also pierce her to numbers, who would at such a time be   
 heart and drain it of its life-blood flocking to the   
 make it childless. of these 39, 40.] ro NazaneTH.   
 tations eatisfy for the words stan: $9.] Certainly the obvious inference   
 a totally different and one far this verse is, that Joseph and Mary re-   
 worthier of the honour of that holy turned from Jerusalem to Nazareth direct.   
 woman, and of the spiritual character But it is only an inference, not the   
 Symeon’s prophecy: that prophecy is, of assertion of the text. This part of the   
 the straggle of many in Israel through Gospel History is one where the Harmo-   
 repentance to faith this Saviour ; nista, their arbitrary reconcilements   
 which number even His mother herself the two Evangelistic accounts, given   
 was to be included. The sharp pangs of great advantage to the enemies the