

September ' 20 Sunday school Lesson

Looking for the Messiah:Let's read aloud Luke 2:25-38

(Story of Simeon, an old priest and Anna, a blind prophetess).

At the time Jesus was born in Bethlehem, **few people were looking for the Messiah. Few people knew the time had come for Him to be born.**

The Shepherds, who were peasants, the poorest of people, were the first who saw the Newborn King. They were told by the Angels that night to go and see the Baby and that they would find him lying in a manger, wrapped in swaddling cloth. They took off immediately to go to Bethlehem. Later they gladly spread the news abroad to others.

Elizabeth and Zechariah (John's Parents) knew that the Christ would be born soon. (When **Mary** after the Angel's visitation to her, **visited** Elizabeth, she told her that the Baby she was carrying, would be Christ, the Lord.)

Now when **Jesus was eight days old**, he was circumcised and **named Jesus** (as the Angel had foretold his name to Mary, when He was yet unborn\ in his mother's womb.)

Then Jesus was taken to the Temple (church). Whilst his parents were standing and waiting in line with the other mothers, a remarkable thing happened.

There was in the temple, an old priest, **Simeon, who had testified to all Judea that he was looking for the Promised Messiah; "Because", said he," The Lord had revealed to me that I would not die till I had seen the Lord's Christ"**. Many in that day didn't believe Him and made fun of this old man.

Simeon was busy in the temple at the time the mothers were making ready to offer up their sacrifices and to present their babies to the priest. Mary and Joseph were also standing in the line, waiting their turn. They had with them two turtle doves for their offering. Some rich parents could afford a little lamb, but their offering was 2 doves.

Simeon arose from his priestly task and **led by the Spirit of the Lord**, come to stop directly where Mary and Joseph were standing with their Baby. He took Jesus up in his arms and said," And now Lord let thy servant (referring to himself) depart in peace for mine eyes have seen the Salvation of the Lord". He also prophesied and foretold of Mary's heart-piercing sorrows which were to come.... and that Jesus would be a Light for revelation for the Gentiles.

Anna, an old blind prophetess, who was in the temple fasting and praying day and night, **moved by the Holy Ghost**, also came at the same time to bless the Baby.

So **Simeon and Blind Anna** was some of the few that looked for and were expecting the Messiah at that time.