

#389- December 10, 2017

[video- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SswGxaRo3dw>- The Presentation in the Temple]

Simeon & Anna- Waiting For or Looking For God's Kingdom

Luke 2:38- "...gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem."

("The Line"- BC/AD- the Incarnation makes all the difference!) Big idea- Jesus' presence is recognized and experienced by those who are truly looking for Him. "You will seek me, and find me if you seek me with all your heart." (**Jeremiah 29:13**) We will look at the stories of two people today- Simeon & Anna- ^{who spoke with Mary & Joseph about Jesus} shortly after His birth, when He was being presented at the temple.

First, Simeon. Simeon was a man who waited on the Lord who, when he saw the fulfillment of what he was waiting for, said he could finally die in peace. I wonder if all of us can say the same thing. Can we say that we are so filled with the sense of God's presence and the fulfillment of what He has promised that we can finally die in peace? What does it take to achieve such a peace?

Luke 2:22-38- "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 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord'), 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.'

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. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 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, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: 'Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.'

The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. 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, 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."

There is a great difference between those who are "waiting for something significant to happen" and those who are "looking for something to happen." When it comes to your faith in the Lord Jesus

