

JAN 2ND 2005: LUKE 2:21-52 Simeon and Anna

Jude and I were talking.....how quickly Christmas is over
 I'm not thinking so much of the Christmas break.....but the excitement of the Day
 You tend to plan and prepare for it so long.....then in a flash it passes & u move on(357)

It may well be that Mary and Joseph.....similar thoughts

For 9 months preparing...birth of this incredible baby
 They had lived each day with the memories.....angels visits...awesome announcements
 running thro their minds

They had watched with awe the growth of the baby in...sharing a secret...known only by
 That Mary....despite being married.....was still a virgin...and would be till after....

A decision that Joseph had made.....

Then the day of the birth of Jesus arrived

And it probably began as the worst day of young Mary's life

As she realised that the birth was imminent....also recognised that delivery room—Stable
 That her first exp of giving birth.....be w/out a
 midwife...mother...aunt...girlfriend→just Joseph

But the baby was safely born.....and that night the small family had their first visitors
 Excited shepherds bearing news of angels and heavenly messengers :::::
 Absolutely flabbergast by the sight of a baby in a manger...wrapped in.....Just as the angel

And altho Mary anddidn't themselves see.....It brought back all the wonder
 Of their angelic experiences some 9 months b4.

But then the Shepherds left

Mary and Joseph found a house to rent in Bethlehem.....the town of David
 Life return to normality

8 days after.....circumcised ::::they named Him Jesus....
 the name the angel had given...b4 conceived.....And that would have been thrilling

But in reality....after the initial excitement of the birth.....they had a baby....just like
 And they knew He was so special.....**But sometimes I guess**.....easy to forget

THAT'S WHY GOD GAVE THEM HIS OWN SPECIAL REMINDERS....

about 6weeks later.....temple....& then about 18 months later....visit of the wise men.

It's the six weeks later reminder.....concerned with today

And it happened because of their faithfulness to God's law

Luke 2:22-24 says.....

Dedicated believers in God.....doing what was required of them
Presenting the offering of the poor.....yet doing with glad hearts

And God blessed them thro two of His most loyal.....yet nearly anonymous servants

Simeon and Anna

Anna called a prophetess....from the tribe of Asher....one of the ten lost

Simeon....shown as a Prophet by his words.....Empowered, infilled, directed by the H.S.

Both available to be used by God.....because both were waiting and looking for God to work....**They wanted God to** work out His salvation in their embattered land of Israel

And as I looked anew at their story.....It made me wonder what we are longing for....

As far as God's working is concerned

Are we waiting and looking and longing....God to move....in our land....our children....
Our neighbours...friends...workmates

Its people with such longings....such a prayer life....That God delights to use

Simeon especially is shown...as a man in tune with God

The Holy Spirit had somehow told him.....would not die until he had seen Lord's Christ
And the way he zoned in on Joseph &.....

And took the baby in his arms and praised God for His gift of the Messiah

Mary and Joseph must have been ecstatic with joy:::::What a wonderful reminder....

And to share the excitement of Simeon as he prayed to God and said ...v29....

But Simeon's message was more than just a reminder

It also gave additional information about the messiah

He expanded on what the Angel had said....by emphasising that this tiny baby was indeed God's means of Salvation..... not just for the Jews....Gentiles too
Indeed.....the non-Jews are mentioned first v30-32.....

And then...turning to Mary.....he speaks of deeper things
→ v34-35....

The falling and rising...talks about division in Israel because of Jesus
Some would fall into eternal judgment.....because of their reaction to HIM
Others would rise to Eternal Life

He will be a clear sign to all.....that God has acted in this world.....and from now on
There can be no neutral position

He will also be spoken against by many.....
And the reality will be that many will not accept Him

Through His life hearts will be challenged....& the thoughts of every person about Him
Will one day be revealed before Almighty God.....**And what**...has thought of Jesus
Will decide their eternal future

All this will not come easy...either for the child become man

Or for His mother

When Simeon prophesises that a sword will pierce her soul.....broad sword

All the words Simeon uttered...over that 6 week old baby....have since come to pass
Consequently we do not look on a baby today.....but on our conquering Lord
Who even now prepares to return

When He does He will know those who have chosen Him...who belong to Him
For on that day the thoughts of all will be revealed
How will He look upon you.

