

Church of God Sunday School

THE PRESENTATION IN THE TEMPLE

Luke 2:22-40

Many years ago, Mary and Joseph were given a very special baby to care for. This baby's name was Jesus. He was the Messiah (the looked-for Savior). The people of Israel had been looking for the Messiah for hundreds of years. Few people knew that the Messiah had finally come.

When Baby Jesus was forty days old, in obedience to the Law of Moses (Leviticus 12:2-8), Mary and Joseph brought Him to the temple in Jerusalem. There they were to present their firstborn Son to the Lord in one of the courts of the temple. Also, Mary was to offer a sacrifice, according to "the law of the Lord." Because Mary and Joseph were poor, she brought either "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons."

There was a man living in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. He was a "just and devout" man. He was very careful to live as God wanted him to.

Simeon was patiently waiting and watching for the Messiah. He had been promised by the Holy Spirit that he would see the "Lord's Christ" before he died. (The "Lord's Christ" means the Messiah promised, sent, and provided by the Lord.) What an exciting promise that must have been!

On this special day, the Holy Spirit led Simeon to visit the temple. God was keeping His promise to Simeon. When Simeon saw Mary and Joseph with Baby Jesus, he knew this was the Promised One. (How did Simeon know this Baby was the Messiah? Do you think the Holy Spirit told him?)

Simeon took Baby Jesus in his arms, blessed God, and said: "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel."

Simeon would not have to wait any longer! The Salvation of Israel (Jesus) had come, and Simeon had seen Him with his own eyes. Simeon felt that he could die in peace.

What do you think Mary and Joseph thought of all this? The Bible says that they "marvelled at those things which were spoken of him." Then Simeon blessed them and began to prophesy that some people



would accept Jesus and some people would not. Simeon told Mary that "a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also." Being the mother of Jesus was not going to be easy.

What do you think the people close by thought of all this? At the same time Simeon was praising God and prophesying, a very old woman named Anna came into the temple. Anna had been a widow for eighty-four years. She was a prophetess who "served God with fastings and prayers night and day."

When Anna saw what was going on, she began to give thanks unto the Lord. She spoke "of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem." She began to tell people that the long-awaited Messiah had come!

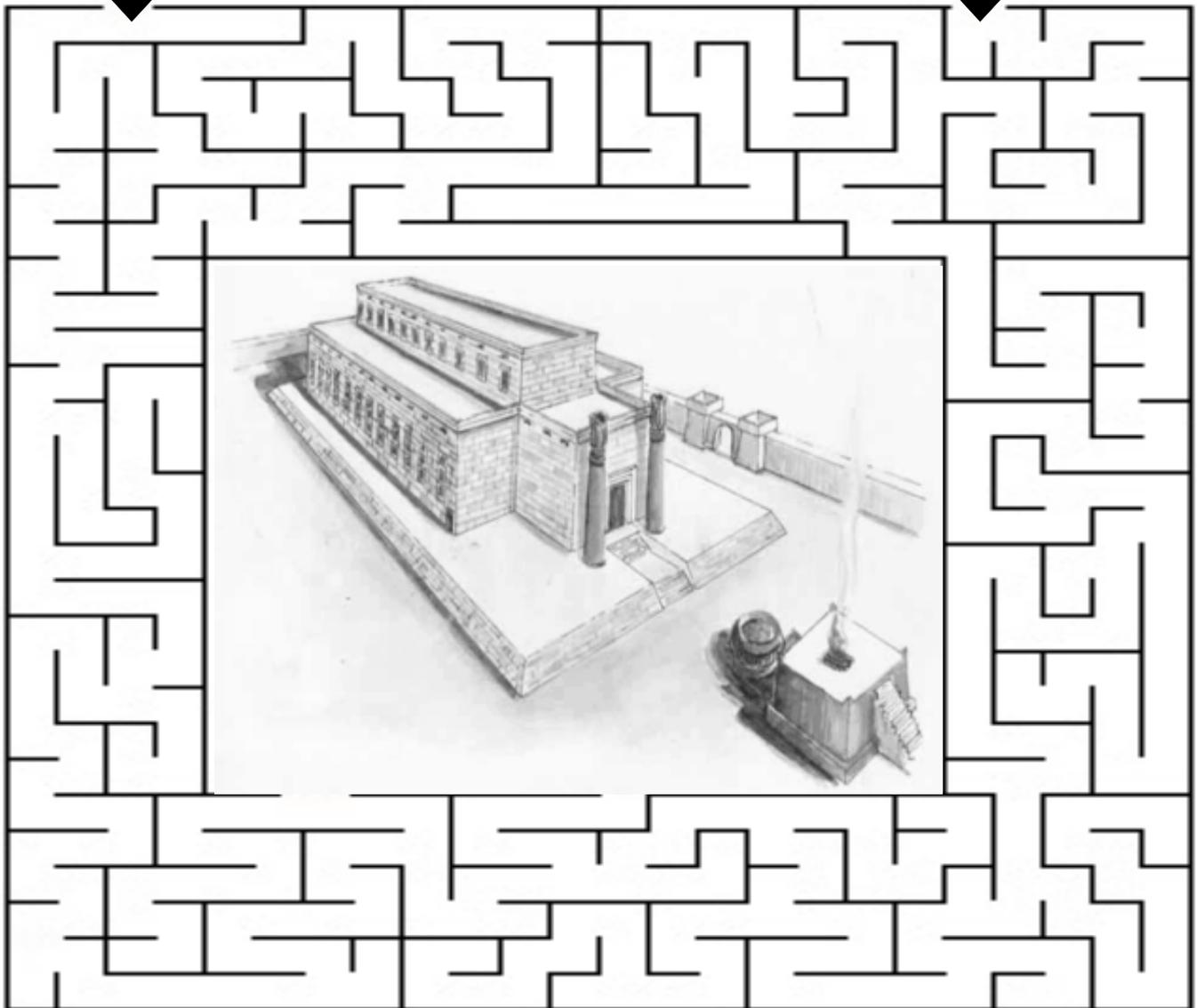
Simeon and Anna were excited and thankful that the Messiah had finally arrived. When you hear the beautiful story of how Jesus came to earth and gave His life for you, how do you feel? Are you thankful that He was willing to die so that you could be saved?

Or could it be that you are ashamed to let people know that you love Jesus? Simeon and Anna were not ashamed to declare their feelings for God, even with many people all around them. God wants everyone to know that Jesus has come. Will you help Him by telling others about Jesus?

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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before . . . all people." —Luke 2:30-31*  
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Guide Simeon and Anna to the Temple

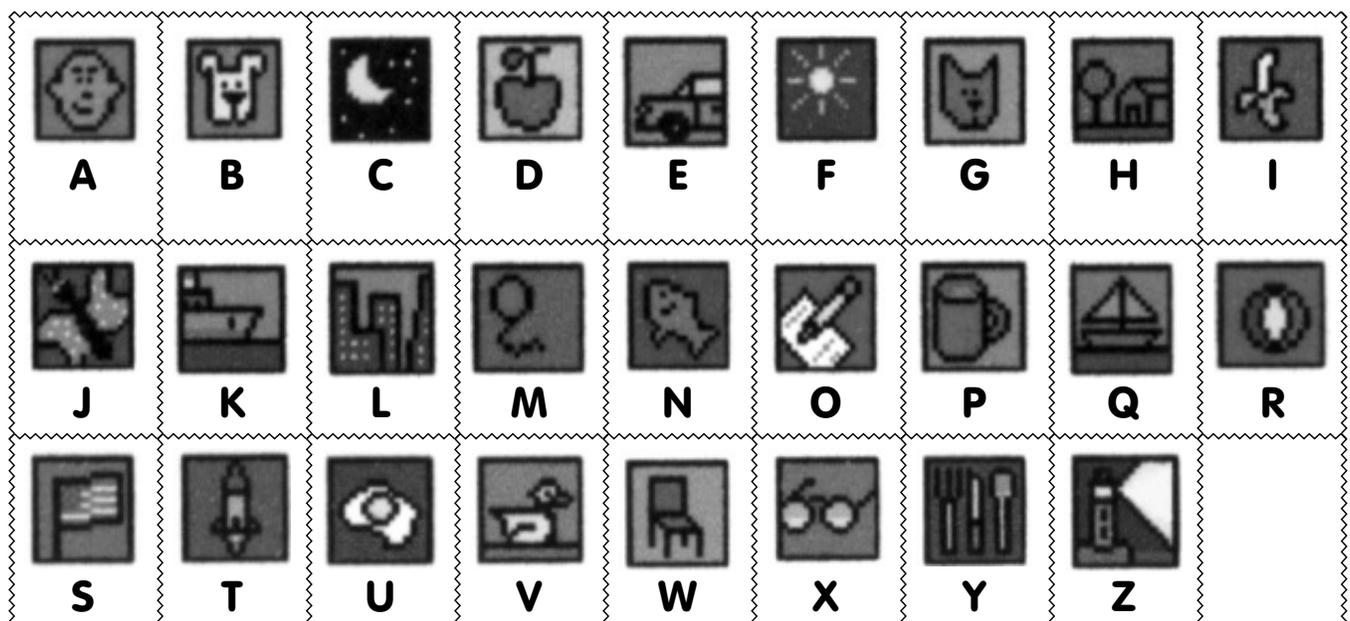




Where did Mary and Joseph take Baby Jesus?



KEY





Simeon Sees the Promised Child