

## Lesson I.

## THE SHEPHERDS FIND JESUS

January 7, 1906

Luke 2 : 1-20. Commit to memory vs. 13, 14.\* Read Matthew 1 : 1-25; Luke 1 : 1-80.

GOLDEN TEXT—For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.—Luke 2 : 11.

1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Cæsar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

2 (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judæa, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehém; (because he was of the house and lineage of David.)

5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid.

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

Revised Version.—Now; <sup>2</sup>Omit that; <sup>3</sup>enrolled; <sup>4</sup>enrol themselves; <sup>5</sup>to; <sup>6</sup>family; <sup>7</sup>enrol himself; <sup>8</sup>who filled; <sup>9</sup>an angel of the Lord stood by them; <sup>10</sup>Be not afraid; <sup>11</sup>the; <sup>12</sup>is the sign; <sup>13</sup>a; <sup>14</sup>among men in whom he is well pleased; <sup>15</sup>when the angels went away; <sup>16</sup>both; <sup>17</sup>saw it; <sup>18</sup>concerning the saying which was spoken to them about this child; <sup>19</sup>Omit they; <sup>20</sup>the; <sup>21</sup>spoken unto them; <sup>22</sup>sayings, pondering them; <sup>23</sup>even as.

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying:

14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehém, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

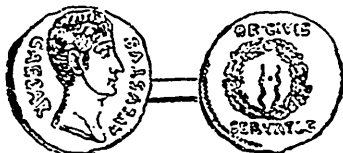
20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

\*This was the first enrolment made when Quirinius was betrothed to him; it came to pass, while; fulfilled; the; is the sign; a; among men in whom he is well pleased; when the angels went away; both; saw it; concerning the saying which was spoken to them about this child; Omit they; the; spoken unto them; sayings, pondering them; even as.

## THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Time and Place—Perhaps in the year B.C. 5, or about 4 years before our Christian era; Bethlehem, six miles south of Jerusalem.

Connection—Lessons XII. (Mal. 3 : 1-12) and XIII. (Isa. 9 : 1-7), Fourth Quarter, 1905, pointed



A Coin of the Emperor Augustus

forward to the coming Saviour. During this year we are to study in the first three Gospels, His Words and Works while He lived on earth. The present Lesson is from the third Gospel, written by Luke, a physician and close friend of the apostle Paul, Col. 4 : 14. Luke learned about Jesus' life from Jesus' friends, and probably heard the story of His birth and early life from Mary, His mother.

I. THE BABE.—1-3. In those days. Ch. 1 tells how, in the days of King Herod, John the Baptist was born and Mary was told of the coming birth of Jesus. A decree (a proclamation) from Cæsar Augustus; the first Roman emperor. All the world; the whole known world, which was then, including Palestine, under Roman rule. Should be enrolled (Rev.

Ver.); names and residences written down, as in our census, probably in order that taxes might be levied. Cyrenius (Quirinius) . . (Roman) governor of Syria; the Roman Province to which Palestine belonged.

4-7. Joseph; the husband of Mary, Matt. 1 : 24. From Galilee; the most northerly of the three provinces of Palestine. Out of . . Nazareth; a town in Galilee hidden amid lofty hills, yet near the main roads along which travelers were continually passing to Jerusalem, to Egypt and to Damascus. Here the birth of Jesus had been announced, ch. 1 : 26, etc. Into Judæa; the southernmost province, the middle one being Samaria. City of David; Israel's famous king, who was born and brought up here, 1 Sam. 16 : 1-13. It was now to witness the birth of a greater King, whom David himself called Lord, Ps. 110 : 1; Matt. 22 : 43, 44. Her firstborn son; a real, human child, with a body and soul like ours, sin excepted. In swaddling clothes; long strips of cloth, 3 or 4 inches wide, in which new-born infants in the East are wrapped. In a manger . . no room . . in the inn. The "inn" was crammed with the crowds who had come to be "taxed."

II. THE ANGELS.—8-14. Shepherds . . in the field; guarding their sheep from robbers and wild beasts. Eastern shepherds to this day spend the night in the fields with the flocks, even in winter. And, lo. Something wonderful is to follow. The angel of the Lord; perhaps Gabriel, who had

\*The Scripture Memory Passages of the Supplemental Lessons are recommended as a substitute for those here given Sabbath by Sabbath. They will be found in the Supplemental Lesson Leaflet.