

Lesson III.

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

January 21, 1912

Luke 2 : 8-20. Study Luke 2 : 1-20—Memory Verses, 10, 11.

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



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.

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of Da'vid 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 Beth'lehem, 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 Mar'y, and Jo'seph, 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 Mar'y 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.

THE LESSON RETOLD

One night, in the country near the little town of Bethlehem, some shepherds lay out on the hillside, watching their sheep lest wild beasts should come near them. Suddenly, down out of the starry sky, there came a beautiful angel, and round about him and the shepherds there shone a great light—the light of the glory of the Lord.

This was such a strange sight that the shepherds were filled with fear. But the angel said, "Do not fear; for I bring good news of great joy to you and all the people of Israel. For this day in Bethlehem there is born a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. This is how you shall know Him,—you shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly with the angel messenger there appeared many, many

other beautiful angels, till the whole sky was filled with their light and their music, for they were all singing the sweetest hymns the world has ever heard,—“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

After the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds, full of joy and eagerness, hurried into the little town of Bethlehem to seek the Saviour of the world whom the angel said had been born that night. And there, in a stable outside of an inn, they found the little Baby, Jesus. He was lying in a manger, and he was wrapped round and round in soft pieces of cloth,—swaddling clothes. So the shepherds knew He was the King and Saviour for whom God's people had waited so long, because the