

hem, 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.

Acts 4. 20: For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

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.

the home of Boaz and Ruth, and the birthplace of David. It is now Bethlehem, a town of three thousand inhabitants, mostly Greek Christians. A cave, traditionally supposed to be the place of Christ's birth, is shown near the wall.

16. **They came with haste.** Showing their faith by the eagerness of their works, and willing to leave their flocks to look upon their Saviour. 11. No earthly object is too dear to be forsaken for Christ. **Found Mary.** See notes, Lesson 11. **Joseph.** The husband of Mary, and the reputed father of Jesus. As his name is not mentioned after Christ was twelve years old, he is presumed to have died before the public ministry of our Lord began.

17, 18. **Made known abroad.** Probably they related the wonderful events only in their own circle of acquaintance, and to Joseph and Mary, as there is no indication that the news reached the court or the capital. 12. Those who have seen Christ should be his message-bearers to others. **The saying.** That is, the words of the angel, and the song of the celestial company. **Heard it wondered.** There was a vast difference between the faith of the shepherds and the wonder of the hearers; one led them to Christ, the other probably soon faded away into doubt or forgetfulness. 13. Heart-trust is better than emotional excitement.

19, 20. **Kept all these things.** Treasured in her heart all these significant events, the angelic predictions, the heavenly song, and the midnight visit. **Pondered.** "Weighed them," thought of their importance, and the destiny of her child. 14. How much thoughtful mothers may influence the lives of their children. **Returned.** They had accomplished their mission, and could serve God among their sheep better than in a more public life. Perhaps some of them lived long enough in after years to recall these events and become disciples of Christ.

Connecting Links.—1. The vision of Joseph. Matt. 1. 18-25. 2. The birth of Jesus. Luke 2. 1-7. **Time.**—B. C. 6, according to the incorrect common chronology, Augustus Caesar, emperor of the Roman world. Herod the Great, king of Judea. **Place.**—Bethlehem, six miles from Jerusalem.

OLDEN TEXT.
Glorify to God in the highest and on earth peace, good-will toward men.—Luke 2. 14.

LESSON HYMNS.

No. 143, *New Hymn Book.* 88 & 78.

Hark! what mean those holy voices,
Sweetly sounding, through the skies?
Lo! the angel host rejoices;
Heavenly hallelujahs rise.

Listen to the wondrous story,
Which they chant in hymns of joy:
"Glory in the highest, glory,"
"Glory be to God most high!"

Christ is born, the great Anointed;
Heaven and earth his praises sing;
O receive whom God appointed,
For your Prophet, Priest, and King.

No. 145, *New Hymn Book.* 8, 7, 8, 4, 7.

Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth;

Come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.
Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,

God with man is now residing;
Yonder shines the infant light;
Come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

No. 142, *New Hymn Book.* 78.

Hark! the herald-angels sing
"Glory to the new-born King,
Peace on earth, and mercy mild;
God and sinners reconciled."

Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

HOME READINGS.

M. The birth of Jesus. Luke 2. 8-20.

Tu. The promise to Mary. Luke 1. 26-35.

We. The prophecy of Jacob. Gen. 49. 8-28.

Th. The prophecy of Moses. Deut. 18. 15-22.

F. The prophecy of David. Psa. 2. 1-12.

S. The prophecy of Isaiah. Isa. 42. 1-11.

Sa. The prophecy of Daniel. Dan. 9. 20-27.

QUESTIONS ON THE OUTLINE.

- The Night Watch, v. 8-12.**
At what time did this event take place?
What was the condition of the world at that time?
What led Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem?
What were the circumstances of Christ's birth?
Who received the first news of the Saviour's birth?
Why were such people chosen for this honour?
How was the event made known to them?
What is the effect of angelic appearances upon men, and why were these "good tidings"? (why?)
What is the meaning of the word "Christ"? (why?)
Why was a "sign" needed?
- The Night Song, v. 13, 14.**
Who appeared with the angel?
How did this illustrate Dan. 7. 10?
What was the song of the heavenly host? Golden Text.
How did Christ's birth glorify God?
What did it bring to men, and how?
How is this song illustrated by Rev. 5. 13, and Col. 1. 19, 20?
Has Christ's coming brought peace among the nations? How does it bring good-will? (of men?)
- The Night Vigil, v. 15-20.**
What was the resolve of the shepherds?

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