Maitland, Guysboro' st, Digby, Aylesford and Bear River. On is health failed. After returned to his loved ester, but his term of hed his active work. supernumerary in St. hese circuits he had ry, in Guysboro, Walrticularly. The Wales giving to the church other spheres of userned the doctrines of o gave some faithful successful ministers. he revival in Digby day in persons now ensable in the church. ardon in Christ. From the St. John fire he e. This last trial of prived of his comforthe had hoped to enjoy borne as by one whose ouched. When syma friend, he replied in te hymn.

Redeemer's love, tabric stands. bath in October in the preached his last serwhose truth had been

above,

mortal hands.

f his life, "This is a nd worthy of all acrist Jesus came into re sinners, of whom was but permitted to g part in the marriage son, when quietly the summon to the faith-A short time before her who so anxiously

"I have no fear of he Lord's hand wait-Vithout any other inend than growing it may most literally u Christo obdormivit. h flown eulogy would life so retiring, would im as unnecessary to his works follow him." vn voice, the characough half a century. peached, faithful and k of life, warmly atchurch, a lover of its udent of its theolomest sympathies for Lord Jesus Christ urs." Surveying in the finished life, we fresh determination when our life's day to hear the Master good and faithful sereen faithful over a few

NATIONAL LESSONS.

ake thee ruler over

r thou into the joy of

STUDIES IN LUKE'S

BIRTH OF CHRIST THE Glad Tidings. Luke

COUNTRY. The word d more precisely exfor it refers to the Bethlehem. Shepherds. r of receiving the first st event in earth's hisot eminent priests, or rs, or noble princes, secular life; workers,

on. Thus does God There is an ancient ne saints who vainly elf-torture, and acts of ved a revelation from aged_in weaving the nt. (1) Good comes to Us of life. Abiding in al countries shepherds ocks at night upon the eping and watching by tch. "Watching by their flock from robists, and to keep them

LORD. (2) The king his earthly humiliation dants. An angel had his coming: angels is temptation at the bestry; and in his agony el rolled away the stone e, and a host of angels ome to the skies. Came den appearance; literthem." Glory of the diance, such as appeary manifestations from lation of St. John. (8) he be, whose servants 1? Sore afraid. (14) r when heavenly beings ed to them. No human ght face to face with the not tremble as its cur-

a pattern for all hearers."—Van Oosterzee. Fear not. He who has excited their fear now llays it by his assuring words. (5) The Gospel message first comes to alarm men, and then to bring peace to troubled souls. Good tidings of great joy. No more glad news can break upon mortal ears than that the Son of God has come to save men; the chains of sin are broken; the kingdom of God is established among men. (6) Let us bear the message to others with radiant faces and joyous words, not with sad countenances. To all people. Literally. "to all the people." The Jewish race is here intended. Not until afterward was the message broadened out to mebrace all the world.

11. UNTO YOU. What the shepherds received as to them, we may take to ourselves. (7) Every man now may hear the voice "to you." Even a sinner can say, "He is the Saviour of all;" but none save the saint can say, "a Saviour of me." [Teacher, urge an individual appropriation of Christ and his salvation.] Born this day. They had looked centuries long for a king, and now comes the strange announcement of him as a new-born babe! City of David. A term applied to the village of Bethlehem, as the birthplace of the greatest among Israel's kings. David's greater son begins his earthly career in his ancestor's home. Seven hundred Messiah's birth at Bethlehem. (Mic. 5, 2.) (8) God watches over h.s world, and in the fulness of time sends his Redeemer; and he watches over his word, and surely brings it to pass. A Saviour. The best and most precious title of our Lord is that which announces his mission "to seek and save that which was lost." Christ the Lord. "Christ" is the Greek word, equivalent to "the Anointed One."

12. A sign. Not a sign to strengthen their faith, for none was asked or needed; but a token whereby they could distinguish the Saviour from other infants. The babe. " 'A babe." The son of God and Saviour of men a helpless infant! Nothing could more thoroughly prove his humanity, his humility and his sympathy with us in every state and every stage of our being Wrapped in swaddling clothes. Not garments, but bands folded around his little body. Lying in a manger, A lowly place for one so noble; far more fitting would seem a royal couch in a palace. But God reveals his son as one who not only shares our nature, but its lowest estate, so that the humblest and poorest may freely seek him. The birth of Christ foretokened his after treatment. He lay in the manger because there was no room for him in the inn. Crowded out of the highest place, which is his by royal right, he has ever since been compelled to take whatever is left for him by human selfishness. (9) Even yet the hearts of men have scarcely found room for Jesus. "The great world is very much like that inn at Bethlehem, preoccupied, crowded full in every part, so that, as the mother of Jesus looked up wistfully to the guest chambers that cold night, drawing her holy thing to her bosom, in like manner Jesus himself stands at the door of these multitudes, knocking vainly, till his head is filled with dew, and his locks are wet with the drops of the night."—Bushnell.

13, 14. A MULTITUDE. "An angel in the gallery of the firmament."—Whedon. Glory to God in the highest. Meaning 1. Glory of the highest degree. 2. Glory from the highest order of creation. 3. Glory to God, the highest over all. (10) The most glorious gem in the crown of God's attributes is his love to fallen man. On earth peace. Far down the ages these choristers behold the results of the Gospel: between God and man the peace of reconciliation and pardon; between man and man, the peace of a common love to Christ binding hearts in unity. As a beautiful illustration of God's providence, it was noted that Christ was born during that brief time in the centuries of Roman history while the temple of Janus, in the imperial city, was closed, as a token that peace reigned throughout all the world-God stilled the din of arms long enough for the Prince of peace to appear. Goodwill to men. Our God is not the Hindu deity Kali, delighting in the blood of men; nor Buddha, in eternal sleep, careless of the world; nor Jupiter, rioting in leasts on Olympus, while the nations war on the earth; but he is a loving Father, with benign regard for the happiness of his children. The Latin version of this clause reads, "peace to men of good will," that is, to those who are willing to have peace with God.

15. ANGELS WERE GONE. The brightest visions must soon fade away, and leave us DIAN REMEDIES.—A wholesale iron merwith the rugged realities of duty. (11) Our life is to be spent not on transfigured heights, but wrestling and witnessing for lately got his ankle sprained and knowing God among men. Let us now go. The latter part of the verse shows that this is not the utterance of doubt, desiring to test to a friend suffering from the same comthe truth of the celestial message, but of plaint who found similar results from its ardent faith, eager not only to hear but to use.

is a model for all preachers, the shepherds see. (12) Let us follow these shepherds in the determination to enjoy to the highest our privilege of knowing, as well as learning about Jesus. Bethlehem. "House of bread." One of the oldest villages in Palestine, known as Ephrath or Ephratah during the life-time of Jacob, and long afterward occasionally called by the same name. (Micah 5, 2.) It is situated in the tribe of Judah, six miles south of Jerusalem. Though a small town, it was famous in Old Testament history as the residence of Naomi, Boaz, and Ruth, and the birthplace of King David For eighteen centuries the interest of the earth has centered in it as the place near or in which Christ was born. A cave, presumed by many to be the spot of the Incarnation, is still shown near its wall. It is now Beitlahm, a town of three thousand inhabitants, all Greek Christians, and in aspect to comfort and cleanliness far superior to most Oriental villages.

16. CAME IN HASTE. "Those that left their beds to tend their flocks, leave their flocks to find their Saviour. (13) No earthly thing is too dear to be forsaken for Christ."-Bishop Hall. Mary. The mother of Jesus. She was a descendent of King David, and lived in humble circumstances at Nazareth, in Galilee, While a maiden, betrothed to Joseph, a carpenter, she received a divine intimation that of her should be born the Saviour of the world. years before the prophet had predicted The prophecy was accomplished while she was at Bethlehem, having journeyed thither with her husband for enrollment in the census of the Roman empire. After the flight to Egypt and return to Nazareth few details of her history are known. Twice she appears incidentally in the life of Jesus, and as a witness of his death when she was intrusted to the care of the apostle John. The last mention of her "Messiah" in Hebrew, and meaning name occurs previous to the transactions of the day of Pentecost. It is probable that she died at Jerusalem, or possibly at Ephesus, after the apostle's removal to that city, Joseph. The husband of Mary, and reputed father of Jesus. None of the events of his life are positively known, except those briefly recorded in the opening chapters of Matthew and Luke. It is supposed that he died before Christ's publie ministry began. Manger. This may refer to that part of the khan or inn usually given to the cattle; the guest-chambers being full on account of the influx of strangers for enrollment. Or it may mean an outhouse attached to the home of some peasant near by. Often in the Orient the quarters for cattle are found under the same roof with the family-rooms, though separated by a stone partition. Mangers in the East are built of stone and mortar, and even now furnish comfortable cribs for children in the warm nights of sum-

17, 18. MADE KNOWN. (14) Those who have heard the glad tidings of salvation, and tasted its sweetness, cannot refrain from carrying the news to others. [Teacher, recommend your class to be messagebearers for Jesus.] Wondered. The shepherds believed, the hearers wondered; but wonder and admiration will never

19, 20. MARY KEPT ALL THESE THINGS. A true mother, she treasured up all these significant events concerning her child: silently weighing them, and dreaming of great results in the coming years. (15) Thoughtful, careful mothers have much to do with the destiny of sons. Returned, Their mission was accomplished. They could serve God among the sheep better than elsewhere. (16) Secular life, as well as sacred, has its privileges of holiness, and opportunities for doing good.

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

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION: The humanity

The next lesson is Luke 2, 40-52.

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