

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON 1.—JAN. 3, 1909.

## The Ascension of Our Lord.—Acts 1:1-14.

Commentary.—I. Jesus alive from the dead (vs. 1-3). 1. The former treatise.—The former "history"—the gospel written by Luke. Luke was also the author of the Acts. Theophilus.—Nothing is known of this person, but he was no doubt a person of rank and perhaps a Roman officer who had been converted to Christianity (compare Luke 1:3). 2. What Luke had written concerning Jesus was an account of the beginning of Christ's work up to the time of the ascension; this treatise would relate what Jesus continued to do after the ascension. To do and teach.—He did first, then he taught. 2. Until the day.—The fortieth day after his resurrection, through the Holy Spirit (R. V.).—Jesus spoke by the power of the Holy Spirit, had given commandment (R. V.).—This is understood by Meyer, Hackett and others to refer to the great commission as recorded in Matt. 28:18 and Mark 16:15, 16, which from its memorable character, Luke assumed to be familiar to his readers. apostles.—The twelve generally called disciples in the gospels are in the Acts spoken of as apostles, or "those sent forth." 3. Passion.—Sufferings on the cross, infallible proofs.—The single Greek word, translated "infallible proofs," denotes the strongest proofs of which a subject is capable, an irresistible proof.—Schaff, being seen of them.—The disciples saw Jesus repeatedly after his resurrection. He walked and talked and ate with them. forty days.—This was the time between the resurrection and ascension, and during this time there were ten or eleven appearances of Jesus to his disciples. This expression has several significations, but here, as in Mark 1:4, it includes the whole Christian dispensation, its message, progress and economy.—Cam. Bib. Jesus instructed them concerning the organization and establishment of his church.

II. The promise of power (vs. 4-8). 4. being assembled.—With the disciples, quite probably on Ascension Day, commanded them.—The last commandment given by the Lord to the apostles directed them to await the gift of the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem, not depart from Jerusalem. The coming of the Spirit was to be at the next great feast after the crucifixion. Jerusalem was the centre of Jewish influence and at that time strangers would be reached from all parts of the world. They were not qualified to go until after the Spirit came upon them. wait.—Many run too soon. Carry at the promise till God meets you there.—D. L. Moody. 5. The Father.—Through the prophets the gift of the Spirit had been promised by the Father (see Isa. 44:3; Joel 2:28, 29; compare Acts 2:17, 18). heard of me.—This promise is found in John 14:16; 15:26. Reference is also made to it in Luke 24:49. The Holy Spirit was promised to the church through Christ.

6. John.—The Baptist, the forerunner of Christ. With water.—John's baptism was, 1. A baptism unto repentance. 2. A type of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. John pointed to Christ who should baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Shall be baptized.—This was the promise of the Father; it could not fail. "The gift of the Spirit is here termed a baptism, and is thus characterized as a submersion in a purifying and life-giving element."—Lange. 7. The Holy Spirit.—The Holy Spirit was about to be given them in greater fulness than ever before. At this time their heart would be cleansed and they would be filled with love. Not many days.—About ten days hence.

8. Were come together.—At the Mount of Olives (see Luke 24, 50). Doubt thou at this time, etc. (R. V.).—Is this the hour when the Roman yoke is to be broken from our necks and the kingdom of the Messiah established? "In consequence of Christ's resurrection, a great blessing was waiting for them, they unitedly inquire whether the restoration of national sovereignty to Israel is included in it. Unenlightened as yet by the Pentecostal illumination, they speak more in the spirit of Jewish patriotism than of heavenly faith."—Lange. 9. Not for you to know.—Christ always avoided giving his disciples a direct answer to questions which could only satisfy their curiosity and be of no particular benefit. In His own proper "Authority."—R. V. The word rendered power here is not the same as the one so rendered in the next verse. It should be noted that Jesus did not disapprove of the question asked in verse 6, but, as Lange says, "He rather confirmed it by declaring that the Father had fixed the time." Lange adds: "Jesus withheld from them, but did not leave the fact itself involved in doubt. The Old and New Testaments establish the truth that Israel will look forward to a future condition which is full of promise."

10. Shall receive power.—The word power comes from the Greek word "dynamis," which is translated by the word "dynamite." It is not the power of logic or eloquence, but "the power of a living union with a living God." "This power has its source outside the church and human life altogether. It is to be received as a gift; not generated from within; not attained by straining present powers or enlarging present capacities."—Bib. illus. They were given power. 1. To become the sons of God (John 1:12). 2. To overcome the world. 3. To work miracles for the purpose of proving their divine mission and establishing the truth they preached. 4. To lead men to Christ. 5. To overcome all their enemies. 6. Knowledge and understanding. 7. Faith. 8. Holiness. 9. A spirit of prayer. 10. Courage. 11. Steadfastness. 12. Zeal. Shall be witnesses. They shall not merely bear witness, but be witnesses in their own persons.—Lange. They were to be witnesses to a crucified, a risen, and a living Christ. In Jerusalem, etc.—Jews were to begin at home, with the glorious gospel, and reach the whole human race.

III. The ascension (vs. 9-11). 9. Had spoken.—From Luke 24:15 we learn that he was blessing them. While they beheld.—The disciples did not see him rise out of the grave, because his resurrection could be easily proved by their seeing him return to heaven, as there would be no other way to prove it. Taken up.—The ascension was not an imaginary, a visionary affair, but a real passing of the risen Jesus from earth to the unseen world. Stephen, Paul and John all saw Jesus after his ascension. A cloud.—Perhaps it was like the fiery, cloudy pillar, the symbol of God, that led the Israelites through the wilderness, or Elijah's storm chariot; or the bright cloud of glory that overshadowed Christ on the Mount of Transfiguration. 10. The promise of Christ's return (vs. 10-14).

10. Were looking (R. V.).—Wondering what it all meant. Two men.—Angels in the form of men. White apparel.—See Matt. 28:3. The white garments were an emblem of purity. 11. Shall no come.—The second or final coming. This will not be in obscurity like his first coming, but He will come in power and glory, in the clouds, and with His holy angels (Matt. 24:30, 31; 25, 64). 12. Olivet.—Frequently called the Mount of Olives. Sabbath day's journey.—About three-fourths of an English mile. 13. Come in.—That is, into the city from the country. Into the upper chamber (R. V.).—Probably the upper room which had been used by our Lord and His disciples for the passover feast.—Cam. Bib. Where abode.—"Where they were abiding."—R. V. "This does not mean that this was their present habitation, but that they remained there for the descent of the Holy Spirit."—Barnes. 14. Continued.—During the ten days they waited. With one accord.—With one mind. There were no schisms, no divided interests, no discordant purposes. Steadfast in prayer (R. V.).—Their prayers were earnest and persistent. With the women.—This probably refers to the women who followed him from Galilee, but it may mean merely that women were present. Mary.—This is the last mention in Scripture of the mother of Jesus. His brethren.—The brothers of Jesus at first rejected Him (John 7:5), but now they believe in Him and are present at the Pentecostal outpouring.

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS.  
Christ's Ascension and Return.  
To the disciples Jesus said, "Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you, I go to the Father."—John 14:12, 13. He sends "to His Father's right hand" to receive the Kingdom; to enter on His work of intercession; to send the Holy Spirit for the gathering and forming of His church; and to await the hour when His feet shall stand again upon the Mount, and His enemies shall be under His footstool, and the rejected and crucified One shall be King over all the earth.

The ascension. "He was taken up" (v. 2). "Christ's return to the Father was the ending of his visible work among men; of his doing and teaching on earth, but not of his operations in the midst of his redeemed people." He ascended, and is now at the right hand of God as our Advocate, Priest, Jesus was "taken out of their sight" (v. 9), but not out of reach of their faith; not away from their love, not beyond their hearing, not where he could not be touched with the feeling of their infirmities (Heb. 4:15). He was still in sight of their sight, but they were still in a boarding school, where the rules permitted her to visit him once in two weeks. This could not satisfy her longing love, so all unknown to her, she looked the school. Often she sat in that upper room and watched him as he played in the yard or studied in the school room. He thought her miles away, but he would have come quickly to comfort him. This is a faint picture of the watchful, unceasing love and care of our great High Priest, who guards our every interest.

The ascension of our Lord directs our thoughts. "1. To the work which he finished, the blessings of which we are to extend to others. 2. To heaven, into which he was taken up, and where he has prepared a place for us. 3. To his second coming, which we are to await with a devout and submissive spirit." We look toward our ascended Lord, "1. By diligently searching his word. 2. By earnestly seeking those things which are above. 3. By having a strong desire that he should draw us to himself." Christ said at his departure, "I am with you always" (Matt. 28:20). "He is with us, 1. In the scriptures. 2. In the holy affections of our souls. 3. In the persons of those who bear his image."

II. The return. The angels said, "This same Jesus shall so come, as ye have seen him go" (v. 11). "He will come 'in like manner' as he went into heaven; his glorified wounds, the marks of his humiliation, will shine forth on that day in the sight of his people and of the world; there will be people and comforted, seeing that their Savior has 'obtained eternal redemption' (Heb. 9:12) for them; but unbelievers and all the enemies of the cross shall be filled with terror; they shall look upon him whom they have pierced, and he shall mourn" (Zech. 12:10). Jesus is coming again, coming literally, visibly, personally, certainly. The same Jesus who said, "I go," said also, "I will come again" (John 14:1, 3). He went away promising power (v. 8); he will come with power (Matt. 24:30). He went away in "a cloud" (v. 9); he is coming again in "a cloud" (Luke 21:27). He went away into heaven" (v. 11; Luke 24:51); he is coming again from heaven" (1 Thess. 4:16). He went "from the mount called Olivet" (v. 12); he is coming to the "mount of Olives" (Zech. 14:4). The last prayer in the Bible is, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Rev. 22:20). A. C. M.

Another Year.  
JOHN W. CHADWICK.  
Another year of setting suns,  
Of stars by night revealed,  
Of springing grass, of tender bud  
By winter's snow concealed.  
Another year of summer's glow,  
Of autumn's gold and brown,  
Of waving fields and ruddy fruit,  
The branches weighing down.  
Another year of happy work  
That better is than play;  
Of simple care, and love that grows  
More sweet from day to day.  
Another year to follow hard  
After better souls have fled;  
Another year of "I'm so glad,"  
Another year of "I'm so sad."

# MARKET REPORTS

## TORONTO MARKETS.

### TORONTO LIVE STOCK.

Receipts of live stock at the City Yards were 36 carloads, composed of 282 cattle, 423 hogs, 704 sheep and lambs and 38 calves.  
Not many good cattle were on sale. As there was a light run, business was active and all offerings were taken at about steady prices.  
Exporters.—One load of exporters was reported at \$5.15 per cwt.; bulls at \$3.25 to \$4.50 per cwt.  
Butchers.—George Rowntree bought 65 butchers, as follows: Cows at \$1.50 to \$4.40; medium cattle at \$4 to \$4.30; good to choice, heavy cattle, at \$4.70 to \$5.12 per cwt.  
Milkers and Springers.—A few milkers and springers sold at \$30 to \$55 each.  
Veal Calves.—About 40 veal calves sold at \$30 to \$6.75 per cwt.  
Sheep and Lambs.—Lambs are firmer, at \$5.25 to \$5.85; sheep, \$3.25 to \$3.40; rams, \$2 to \$2.50 per cwt.  
Hogs.—Mr. Harris quotes the market steady at \$6 for select and \$5.75 for lights.

### FARMERS' MARKET.

Receipts of grain to-day were small. Wheat is unchanged, with sales of 300 bushels of fall at 93c. Barley firmer, 400 bushels selling at 50 to 55c. Oats unchanged, with sales of 400 bushels at 42c.  
Poultry in active demand, with turkeys bringing 18 to 20c per lb.  
Hay is unchanged, with sales of 25 loads at \$12 to \$13.50 a ton for No. 1, and at \$7 to \$10 for mixed. Straw sold at \$13 a ton for a load of bundled.  
Dressed hogs are steady at \$8 to \$8.25 for heavy and at \$8.50 for light.  
Wheat, fall, bush, . . . \$0.93 8 00 00  
Oats, bush, . . . . . 0.42 0 00  
Rye, bush, . . . . . 0.48 0 53  
Barley, bush, . . . . . 0.70 3 72  
Feas, bush, . . . . . 0.87 0 00  
Hay, per ton, . . . . . 12.00 13 50  
Do, No. 2, . . . . . 7.00 10 00  
Straw, per ton, . . . . . 12.00 14 00  
Dressed hogs, . . . . . 8.00 8 50  
Butter, dairy, . . . . . 0.28 0 30  
Eggs, new laid, . . . . . 0.45 0 50  
Do, creamery, . . . . . 0.30 0 33  
Chickens, dressed, lb., . . . . 0.12 0 14  
Ducks, spring, lb., . . . . . 0.11 0 13  
Geese, lb., . . . . . 0.18 0 20  
Turkeys, lb., . . . . . 0.30 0 50  
Cabbage, per dozen, . . . . . 0.30 0 50  
Celery, dozen, . . . . . 0.30 0 40  
Apples, bag, . . . . . 0.80 0 90  
Potatoes, barrel, . . . . . 0.65 0 75  
Beef, hindquarter, . . . . . 2.50 3 50  
Do, forequarter, . . . . . 2.00 3 00  
Do, choice, carcass, . . . . . 7.50 7 75  
Do, medium, carcass, . . . . . 5.00 5 50  
Mutton, per cwt., . . . . . 6.50 8 00  
Veal, prime, per cwt., . . . . . 8.00 10 00  
Lamb, per cwt., . . . . . 8.50 9 50

### GRAIN.

Prices at country points:  
Alaska—Extra fancy lots, \$7.40; No. 1, \$6.75 to \$7; No. 2, \$6 to \$6.25; No. 3, \$5.75 to \$6 per bushel.  
Timothy.—Prices are from \$1.60 to \$2.10 per bushel, according to quality.  
Red clover—\$4.25 to \$6.25 per bushel.  
Fancy lots a little higher.  
London.—Calfsteed, December, 46s per 412 lb.

### BALED HAY AND STRAW.

Prices in car lots on track, Toronto, are:  
Hay.—No. 1 timothy, \$11; inferior, \$8 to \$10.  
Straw.—Range is from \$7 to \$7.50, according to quality.

### PROVISIONS.

Pork.—Short cut, \$22.50 to \$23 per barrel; mess, \$19 to \$19.50.  
Lard.—Merces, 12c; tubs, 12½c; pails, 12½c.

Smoked and Dry Salted Meats.—Long cased bacon, 10½c to 11c, tons and cases, hams, large, 12½c to 13c, small, 13½c to 14c; backs, 16c to 16½c; shoulders, 16c to 16½c; rolls, 10½c to 11c; breakfast bacon, 14½c to 15c; green meats out of pickle, 1c less than smoked.

### GROCERIES.

Local quotations are: Montreal granulated sugar, per cwt., in barrels, \$4.60; yellow, \$4.20; in bags prices are 5c less; Arabian, in barrels or bags, \$4.50; Jordan beet, in barrels or bags, \$4.50; No. 2 granulated, in bags, \$4.30.

### OTHER MARKETS.

NEW YORK SUGAR MARKET.  
Sugar.—Raw nominal; fair refining, 3.20c to 3.25c; centrifugal, 96 test, 3.70c to 3.75c; molasses sugar, \$2.95 to \$2.98; refined quiet.

BRITISH CATTLE MARKETS.  
London cable: London cables for cattle are steady at 12½c to 14½c per lb., dressed weight; refrigerator beef is quoted at 10½c to 10¾c per lb.

WINNIPEG WHEAT MARKET.  
Wheat.—July \$1.03½ bid, December 98½c bid, May \$1.01½.  
Oats.—December 30½c bid, May 41c bid.

### MONTREAL LIVE STOCK.

Montreal.—About 500 head of butchers' cattle, 25 milk cows and springers, 50 calves, 250 sheep and lambs and 550 fat hogs were offered for sale to-day at the East End Abattoir. There were several loads of good Northwest cattle on the market, but there was very little demand for any kind of stock, and the prices were nearly as many springers as there were milk cows, and the prices ranged from \$25 to \$50 each. Calves sold at from 3c to 4½c per lb. Sheep sold at about 4c and the lambs at about 6c per lb. Good lots of fat hogs sold at from 10c to 10½c per lb.

### BRADSTREET'S TRADE REVIEW

Montreal: Retail trade generally seems to be moving quite briskly. It would now look as though the volume of holiday business were going to be ahead of what was indicated by conditions earlier in the month. At that time trade was quiet, but it has opened up well during the past week, and a good average turn over seems to be assured. Wholesale business is necessarily quiet and many houses are stockpiling. Toronto: Business in staple lines holds up fairly well, and that in holiday goods is exceedingly brisk. Money seems to be plentiful, and the demand for novel-

ties and fancy goods is as heavy as it has ever been. Retail jewelers also report better buying. Wholesale business is naturally quiet at the present moment, and most of the houses are stockpiling. Travellers will soon be in for the holidays. So far they report excellent indications for business during the rest of the winter and the coming spring. Paper is being well met, and collections are mostly satisfactory.

Winnipeg: The holiday retail rush is now on, and the volume of business done promises to be large.

Vancouver and Victoria: Trade along the coast keeps fairly brisk.

Quebec: Climatic conditions are favorable to trade; the latter has been especially good amongst the retailers; the latter report sales as good as this time a year ago, although the demand is largely for cheaper lines.

Hamilton: The movement of holiday goods is now brisk, while staple lines are moving only moderately well. Wholesale business is quiet with them, and they are stockpiling. Travellers report good prospects for spring. Collections are generally satisfactory.

London: Retail trade is brisk with the holiday business, and it is expected the turn-over will be large.

Ottawa: The movement of retail trade is brisk.

## FIELD CROPS OF 1908

(Ontario Department of Agriculture.)  
The following gives the areas and yields of the principal field crops of Ontario for 1908. The areas have been compiled from individual returns of farmers and the yields by a special staff of correspondents in each township:

Fall Wheat—419,642 acres yielded 16,430,476 bushels, or 24.3 bushels per acre, as compared with 15,545,491 and 23.0 in 1907.

Spring Wheat—142,124 acres yielded 2,197,716 bushels, or 15.5 bushels per acre, as compared with 2,473,951 and 17.1 in 1907.

Barley—734,020 acres yielded 20,838,569 bushels, or 28.5 bushels per acre, as compared with 21,718,332 and 29.3 in 1907.

Oats—2,774,250 acres yielded 96,026,419 bushels, or 34.3 bushels per acre, as compared with 83,224,301 and 29.5 in 1907. The average yield for 26 years is 14.88 bushels per acre.

Rye—57,000 acres yielded 1,433,616 bushels, or 25.1 bushels per acre, as compared with 1,039,321 and 15.5 in 1907.

Buckwheat—140,605 acres yielded 3,253,668 bushels, or 23.6 bushels per acre, as compared with 2,540,468 and 22.5 in 1907.

Peas—396,642 acres yielded 7,401,336 bushels, or 18.7 bushels per acre, as compared with 7,365,930 and 21.6 in 1907.

Beans—46,385 acres yielded 783,757 bushels, or 16.9 bushels per acre, as compared with 790,289 and 16.6 in 1907.

Potatoes—166,972 acres yielded 18,517,642 bushels, or 111 bushels per acre, as compared with 20,057,675 and 113 in 1907.

Mangelworts—63,685 acres yielded 29,870,960 bushels, or 455 per acre.

Carrots—4,400 acres yielded 1,129,145 bushels, or 275 per acre.

Sugar Beets—17,453 acres yielded 7,004,748 bushels, or 401 per acre.

Turnips—120,920 acres yielded 41,210,180 bushels, or 341 bushels per acre, as compared with 48,203,605 and 392 in 1907.

Mixed Grains—456,049 acres yielded 15,354,350 bushels, or 33.7 bushels per acre, as compared with 14,202,511 and 30.7 in 1907.

Corn Husking—299,690 acres yielded 23,801,122 bushels (in the ear), or 78.3 bushels per acre, as compared with 21,899,466 and 64.7 in 1907.

Corn for Silo—233,753 acres yielded 9,279,565 tons (green) or 11.68 tons per acre, as compared with 2,029,457 and 10.13 in 1907.

Hay and Clover—3,253,141 acres yielded 4,635,287 tons, or 1.42 tons per acre, as compared with 3,891,863 and 1.18 in 1907. The average of 26 years was 1.47 tons per acre.

There are 3,336,169 acres of cleared land devoted to pasture, 326,650 acres in orchard and small fruits, and 11,675 acres in vineyard.

### STATISTICS OF LIVE STOCK.

The number of live stock on hand on July 1, 1908, were as follows:  
Horses—726,471, against 725,668 in 1907.  
Milk Cows—1,113,374, against 1,152,071 in 1907.  
Cattle—1,711,485, against 1,774,163 in 1907.  
Sheep and Lambs—1,142,898, against 1,106,083 in 1907.  
Swine—1,818,763, against 2,049,696 in 1907.

Poultry—12,285,613, against 13,428,676 in 1907.  
The numbers of live stock sold or slaughtered in the year ending June 30, 1908, were as follows:  
Horses, 71,214; cattle, 758,062; sheep, 545,320; swine, 2,129,944; poultry, 4,107,750.

Wool.—The clip of wool was 4,150,510 pounds, from 635,528 fleeces, or 6.53 pounds per fleece.  
Bees.—Apiaries on Ontario farms are valued at \$1,028,599, there being 179,938 hives.

To My Old Calendar.  
No friend has proved more faithful than  
an old year's calendar;  
You've been so loyal, and staunch, and true,  
My plain old calendar!

January comes raring with its year of snow,  
February gleamed with its mantle of white,  
The March winds blowed the snow away;  
Did they, old calendar?

More days you have given of joy than pain,  
Good old year's calendar;  
Would you care to live them over again?  
The "Would you, old calendar?"  
April failed not with its gentle showers,  
May followed blushing with buds and flowers,  
Then June's dreamy days and sunny hours,  
O kind old calendar!

You've been a true and trusty guide  
All the year, calendar;  
'Tis with a pang I lay you aside,  
Dear old year's calendar!

July came with buds and drowsy dews,  
August bore thoughts of comfort and ease,  
September the cool and refreshing breeze;  
Growing old calendar!

A new year is coming with steady tread,  
Poor old year's calendar;  
Your hours, and days, and seasons have  
Gone, old calendar!

Farewell, old calendar;  
October's days were tinted with gold,  
November's blessings were manifold,  
December a happy ending to the year;  
Good-bye, old calendar!

# New Year's at the Wilson's

(By Jessie Crum, in N. Y. Scottish American.)

With a sad, weary expression on her delicate-leukin' face, Mrs. Wilson stood at her kitchen table on New Year's Eve, looking at her grey cassimer dress and her old, worn-out shoes. "It's ma last bit decent gown, but it'll hae to be gane; the bairns maun hae a new one, and we cannae dae without a new one, though the demand is largely for cheaper lines."

Hamilton: The movement of holiday goods is now brisk, while staple lines are moving only moderately well. Wholesale business is quiet with them, and they are stockpiling. Travellers report good prospects for spring. Collections are generally satisfactory.

London: Retail trade is brisk with the holiday business, and it is expected the turn-over will be large.

Ottawa: The movement of retail trade is brisk.

Winnipeg: The holiday retail rush is now on, and the volume of business done promises to be large.

Vancouver and Victoria: Trade along the coast keeps fairly brisk.

Quebec: Climatic conditions are favorable to trade; the latter has been especially good amongst the retailers; the latter report sales as good as this time a year ago, although the demand is largely for cheaper lines.

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