

Lesson I.

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

January 7, 1900

Luke 2 : 1-16—Memory Verses, 8-11

Golden Text—Thou shalt call his name Jesus : for he shall save his people from their sins.—Matt. 1 : 21.

1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Cae'sar August'us that all the world should be taxed.

2 (*And this taxing was first made when Cyren'ius was governor of Syr'ia.*)

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

4 And Jo'seph also went up from Gal'ilee, out of the city of Naz'areth, into Judæ'a, unto the city of Da'vid, which is called Beth'lehem ; (because he was of the house and lineage of Da'vid :)

5 To be taxed with Ma'ry 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.

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 Ma'ry, and Jo'seph, and the babe lying in a manger.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Mary and Joseph lived at Nazareth. They were good people and were related to King David, who had been born long before at Bethlehem and had lived there when a boy.

One day Mary and Joseph got a message to go up to Bethlehem and pay some tax money. So Joseph left his carpenter shop and took Mary and the money and started out. It was a long and tiresome journey.

It was quite dark when they got to Bethlehem, and they found themselves too late to get a place in the inn for the night. They were tired and poor and had no friends to stay with. What could they do? "You may have the stable if you like," said the man at the inn. So Mary and Joseph thanked him and went in where the asses and cattle were.

In the stable God sent Mary the little baby, Jesus, that had been promised her. She knew that He was the Son of God.

Mary wrapped the baby in some cloth and then, because she had no cradle, she

