

The Shepherds Find Jesus

II

Lesson I.

THE SHEPHERDS FIND JESUS

January 7, 1906

Luke 2 : 1-20. Commit to memory vs. 13, 14.* Read Matthew 1 : 1-25; Luke 1 : 1-80.

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

1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Cæsar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

2 (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

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

4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judæa, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehém; (because he was of the house and lineage of David.)

5 To be taxed with Mary 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, watching 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.

Revised Version— Now; Omit that; enrolled; This was the first enrolment made when Quirinius; enrol themselves; to; family; enrol himself; who was betrothed to him; it came to pass, while; fulfilled; an angel of the Lord stood by them; Be not afraid; the; is the sign; a; among men in whom he is well pleased; when the angels went away; both; saw it; concerning the saying which was spoken to them about this child; Omit they; the; spoken unto them; sayings, pondering them; even as.

LESSON PLAN

I. The Babe, 1-7.

II. The Angels, 8-14.

III. The Shepherds, 15-20.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association)

M.—Counsel for New Year, Prov. 3 : 13-26. T.—The shepherds find Jesus, Luke 2 : 1-20. W.—Isaiah's prophecy, Isa. 9 : 1-7. Th.—Christ is Lord, Phil. 2 : 1-11. F.—Worship by angels, Heb. 1 : 1-8. S.—Made flesh, John 1 : 1-14. S.—Sent to save, 1 John 4 : 4-14.

EXPOSITION

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Time and Place—Perhaps late in the year 5 B.C., or even earlier. It is impossible to say definitely in what year Jesus was born. Bethlehem, a small village about six miles south of Jerusalem.

Connecting Links—Luke, the writer of the Third Gospel and of the Acts of the Apostles, was a physician, and a close friend of the apostle Paul, Col. 4 : 14. For the facts about His life Luke had very accurate information (Luke 1 : 3), perhaps having heard the story of the Saviour's birth and early life from Mary, His mother. In the Lesson chapter are shown the political, social and religious

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David 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 Bethlehém, 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.

18 And all that 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.

Shorter Catechism— Ques. 1. What is the chief end of man? A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

The Question on Missions (First Quarter, HOME MISSIONS AND ARGUMENTATION IN THE MARITIME PROVINCES—5 Questions; AND IN QUEBEC AND ONTARIO—6 Questions). 1. Where were the first Home Mission fields of our church? In the Province of Nova Scotia; where, from the year 1764 onward, ministers from Scotland and the United States labored among the early settlers.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, Ps. Sel. 114 (Supplemental Lesson); 26; 30; 88 (Ps. Sel.); 520 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 457.

conditions in the midst of which Jesus was born and spent His boyhood and youth.

I. The Babe, 1-7.

Vs. 1-3. Decree; an imperial edict from Cæsar Augustus, the first and greatest of the emperors of Rome. In a remote corner of the universal Roman empire, at its prime, was born in a manger the King whose empire is eternal. All the world; for practically all the then known world was either directly or indirectly under Roman sway. Enrolled (Rev. Ver.); have their names placed upon the public register, probably for the purposes of taxation. First enrolment (Rev. Ver.). For

*The Scripture Memory Passages of the Supplemental Lessons are recommended as a substitute for those here given Sabbath by Sabbath. They will be found in the Supplemental Lesson Leaflet.