

spoken to Mary, ch. 1 : 26. The glory of the Lord; a radiant brightness, symbol of God's presence (see Ex. 24 : 16; 1 Kgs. 8 : 10, 11; Acts 7 : 55). **Sore afraid**; no wonder, vs. 10, 11. **Fear not**; and for good reason—the best piece of news man was ever to hear. **Unto you**; you shepherds, and your nation, and the whole world. **Born . . . a Saviour . . . Christ the Lord**. Note Jesus' triple title: He is to save from sin; He is our anointed (Christ) Prophet, Priest and King; He is our Lord, with the right to rule over us. **A multitude**. Compare Rev. 5 : 11. All heaven is moved. **Glory to God**; who had sent this wonderful Saviour. **In the highest**; the highest places, that is, heaven, where God dwells. **On earth peace**, etc.; the peace Jesus brings into men's hearts, which, amongst other things, makes them at peace with one another.

III. THE SHEPHERDS.—15-20. Let us now go . . . and see. Something wonderful to be seen, surely, after what they had already beheld. **Came . . . found . . . when they had seen . . . made known**. It turned out all joyfully true; what could they do but tell it out? **All . . . wondered**; and would have marveled still more, had they realized what we know, that in very truth, God's Son had come to earth. **Mary kept . . . pondered**; kept thinking about the angel's words, (ch. 1 : 32, 33) and the wonderful promises of the Old Testament to which they pointed.

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.

Prove from Scripture—That Jesus brings joy.

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 AUGMENTATION 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.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Juniors—How many Gospels are there? Give the names of the writers. How did Luke likely learn about the words and works of Jesus?

1-3 What ruler is named here? What did he order? For what purpose?

4-7 Where did Joseph and Mary live? Whither did they go to be enrolled? Was Jesus born in a house? Where was He born? How was this?

8-14 Who were told about the birth of Jesus? Where? By whom? Repeat the angels' song.

15-20 How did the shepherds find Jesus? Whom did they tell about Him? With what effect?

Seniors and the Home Department—Mention some prophecies fulfilled in the coming of the Saviour. Give some account of Luke.

1-3 Where does Luke refer to another enrolment? (Acts 5 : 37, Rev. Ver.) Christ's teaching about paying taxes? (Matt. 22 : 21.) Paul's? (Rom. 13 : 6, 7.)

4-7 In what words does Paul describe the humility of Christ's earthly appearance? (Phil. 2 : 6-8.)

8-20 How are we saved? (Rom. 10 : 9.) What is the test of real faith? (Acts 16 : 15.) Our duty in regard to making the gospel known? (Isa. 6 : 8.)

THE LESSON IN LIFE

1. Caesar and Jesus—how mighty the emperor seemed and how insignificant the little Babel! But that Child has proved Himself infinitely more powerful than any earthly sovereign. And why? Because He is so much greater—the very King of Kings and Lord of Lords, because His kingdom is in the heart, and because His is the sway of love.

2. "Raise the stone, and there thou shalt find Me; cleave the wood and there am I!"—so runs a supposed saying of Jesus discovered at Oxyrhynchus in Egypt. It is when we are working faithfully in the "common round, the trivial task" of daily duty that our King comes to us and makes us glad with His presence.

3. God's world and God's Word are full of wonders. But only those see them, who are on the lookout with alert mind and keen vision. To see we must watch.

4. "Fear not!" The child of God can face life with a calm and cheerful courage. For this is his Father's world, and on his way through it no real harm can come to him.

5. Seek, see, spread—these three things the Glad Tidings requires of all who hear it.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. How had King David spoken of the coming Saviour?.....

2. Explain each of the titles given to Jesus by the angels.....

3. Show that the shepherds became the first gospel preachers.....

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