

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. SELLERS, Acting Director of the Sunday School Course of the Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.)
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LESSON FOR DECEMBER 23

THE STORY OF THE FIRST CHRISTMAS.

LESSON TEXT—Matthew 2:1-12.
GOLDEN TEXT—There is born to you this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.—Luke 2:11.

The story of the birth of Jesus is recorded in three of the four Gospels, Matthew, Luke and John, each of which contributes some feature essential to complete the picture. No one should teach this lesson who does not have a good "harmony of the Gospels." Every year for the 45 years of the International Sunday School Lessons, we have had the Christmas lesson taken from these three Gospels one at a time. This year in closing the present series, we unite all three Gospels in one complete story, "The Story of the First Christmas."

The order of events should clearly be kept in mind as follows: "The angelic announcement to Zacharias, the priest, while in the exercise of his ministerial office. The angelic announcement to Mary, the mother of Jesus, and to Joseph, her espoused husband. Mary's visit to her cousin, Elizabeth, and the birth of John the Baptist. The birth of Jesus and his circumcision on the eighth day (Luke 2:21). His redemption some 31 days later, introducing Simon the priest (Luke 2:22), and the purification of the mother.

The coming of Jesus was at the most opportune time in all the history of the world, for Palestine was the central region of the Roman empire. The whole civilized world was subject to Roman domination. He was born while the entire world was at peace, for once in its history. Travel was at its best, for the Roman military roads all centered in Rome and extended throughout the empire. The Greek language was spoken everywhere, along with native languages, so that the Gospel could readily be heard in all parts of the empire. The Old Testament was translated into Greek. The Jews were scattered throughout all lands, carrying this Old Testament with them, and had established their synagogues in nearly every city and town. There was also a wide-spread intellectual and moral awakening, and there was wide-spread religious unrest and a hungering for something better.

I. The Search. Notice that he who was born on this first Christmas, was the "only begotten of God." This divine being became flesh, a strange and seemingly impossible union, but only such a union of the human and divine could draw man to God. If Jesus had not been identified with the divine nature of God, all the love, honor and devotion which we give to him, would lead us into idolatry. (1) Wisdom seeking (vv. 1, 2). See also Acts 13:6. Who these men were, we do not know, they were evidently students of the stars, and perhaps came from Persia whither Balaam went. (Numbers 23:7; Numbers 24:17-19.) They may have known of Daniel's prophecy. They came because they had seen a star. A little light, only a small star, and we may have the sun. (John 8:12.) The highest wisdom is to know God. (Prov. 9:10.) We do not have to seek far to find him. The highest wisdom is also teachable: "Where is he that is born?" These wise men were not the first ones to seek him, for the humble shepherds who had heard the angelic host (Luke 2:15, 16), immediately went to Jerusalem to make sure that the good news was true. Tradition only gives us the names of these men. They typify the world, the first Gentiles who came to seek Jesus. (2) Wickedness Seeking (v. 3-8). It is interesting to note the alarm of Herod, his suspicion and jealousy. Why? Note the carefulness of Herod's search. First the chief priests, who were the theologians; then the scribes and lawyers, who were the historians; then the common people who were familiar with the traditions; and, finally, the wise men (v. 7).

II. Wisdom Rewarded (vv. 9-11). Persistent obedient searching after God always brings wisdom. Notice the steps of the wise men. They sought, they found, they rejoiced, they worshiped and they gave gifts. The stable of Christ's birth is evidently an exchange for a house (v. 11 and Luke 2:7). The gifts they presented have a threefold significance: Gold, for royalty, indicating divine glory; Frankincense for deity, the aroma of his life; Myrrh, signifying death, his death and its value to mankind. Notice that they did not worship Mary.

III. Wickedness Foiled (vv. 12-16). God intervened (v. 12). Notice the impotent rage of the enemy (v. 16). Christ was delivered, Herod was dismayed, and the people were desolate. Suggestions: The cry "where" of the human heart is here answered, God answers all honest searching. God himself gave his best gift (John 3:16). God also desires our best gift. We must worship Jesus as king. Religion is not for the Magi alone, nor for the common people; it is for all. We have not far to go to seek the Christ. He is even more than near, "For behold I stand at the door and knock."

Notice for Publication. Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office at Alliance, Nebraska, Nov. 7, 1917.
Notice is hereby given that John G. Hennings, of Hemingford, Nebraska, who, on December 8, 1914, made Homestead Entry, Serial No. 017053, for L. 4, Sec. 2, lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, S. 2, NE. 1/4, S. 2, NW. 1/4, N. 2, SE. 1/4 and N. 2, SW. 1/4 of Section 3, Township 23 North Range 50 West, Sixth Principal Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make final three-year proof to establish claim to the land above described, before the Register and Receiver of the United States Land Office at Alliance, Nebraska, on the 19th day of January, 1918.
Claimant names as witnesses: Charles C. Coker, George H. Haganman, R. R. Reddish and A. G. Underwood, all of Alliance, Nebraska.
T. J. O'KEEFE, Register.
50-91-862-8820.

Notice for Publication—Isolated Tract. Public Land Sale. Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office at Alliance, Nebraska, Nov. 6, 1917.
Notice is hereby given that, as directed by the Commissioner of the General Land Office, under provisions of Sec. 3455, R. S., pursuant to the application of Earl C. Barker, of Alliance, Nebr., Serial No. 018157, we will offer at public sale, to the highest bidder, but at not less than \$3.00 per acre, at 10 o'clock A. M., on the 8th day of January, next, at this office, the following tract of land: SE. 1/4 NW. 1/4, Section 25, Township 25 North Range 50 West, Sixth Principal Meridian.
The sale will not be kept open, but will be declared closed when those present at the hour named have ceased bidding. The person making the highest bid will be required to immediately pay to the Receiver the amount thereof.
Any persons claiming adversely the above-described land are advised to file their claims, or objections, on or before the time designated for sale.
T. J. O'KEEFE, Register.
J. C. MORROW, Receiver.
49-8819-861-81 Serial No. 018157. Serial No. 017053.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the County Court of Box Butte County, Nebraska.
In the matter of the Estate of Hiram Bentley Hoppock, Deceased.
Notice to all persons interested in said estate is hereby given that Mattie Hoppock, administratrix of said estate, will meet the creditors of said estate at the county court room in the city of Alliance, Box Butte county, Nebraska, on the 29th day of March, 1918, at the hour of 9 o'clock a. m. for the purpose of hearing, adjustment and allowance of claims against said estate. All persons having claims or demands against said estate must file the same in the said court on or before the 20th day of March, 1918, or all claims will be forever barred.
Dated this 17th day of November, 1917.
IRA E. TASH, County Judge.
Lee Basye, Attorney.
51-51-865-8823.

SHERIFF'S SALE Notice is hereby given that by virtue of an order of sale issued by the Clerk of the District Court of the 16th Judicial District of Nebraska, within and for Box Butte County, in an action wherein The Alliance Building & Loan Association of Alliance, Nebraska, is Plaintiff and George H. Miller, et al., are Defendants, I will at 2 o'clock p. m. on the 19th day of December, A. D. 1917, at the West Door of the Court House in the City of Alliance, Box Butte County, Nebraska, offer for sale at public auction the following described lands and tenements to-wit: The N. 1/4 of the S. 1/4 of Lot 1, Block 9, second County addition to Alliance, Box Butte County, Nebraska, being a tract of land 50 ft. wide North and South and 140 ft. long, East and West, described as follows: Commencing at a point on the East line of said lot, 100 ft. South of its NE corner; thence South on the East line of said lot 50 ft.; thence West parallel with the North line of said lot 140 ft.; thence North parallel with the East line of said lot 50 ft.; thence East parallel with the North line of said lot 140 ft. to the point of beginning.
Given under my hand this 10th day of November, 1917.
C. M. COX, Sheriff.
Burton & Reddish, Attorneys.
50-51-863-8821.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS State of Nebraska, Box Butte County ss.
In the Matter of the Estate of Ferdinand Trenkle, Deceased.
I, Ira E. Tash, County Judge of Box Butte County, Nebraska, hereby notify all persons having claims and demands against the estate of Ferdinand Trenkle that I have appointed the 28th day of March, 1918, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, at the County Court room in Alliance, for the examination of all claims against the estate of said decedent with a view to their allowance and payment.
All persons interested as creditors of the said estate will present their claims to me at said time, or show cause for not so doing, and in case any claims are not so presented by said time they shall be forever barred.
This notice shall be served by publication thereof for four consecutive weeks in The Alliance Herald, a newspaper published in Alliance, prior to the day of hearing.
Given under my hand and the seal of said court this 21st day of November, 1917.
IRA E. TASH, County Judge.
Burton & Reddish, Attorneys.
54-41-866-8824.
Don't send out of town for your typewriter, paper, ribbons, carbon paper and other office supplies. The Herald carries a good stock of fresh goods at all times.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the District Court of the United States for the District of Nebraska, Chadron Division.
In the Matter of the Alliance Auto Supply Company, bankrupt.
Case No. 42, in Bankruptcy. Voluntary Petition.
At Chadron, Dawes county, Nebraska, in said District, before Frederick A. Crites, referee in bankruptcy, December 6th, 1917.
To the Creditors of the Alliance Auto Supply Company, a corporation, bankrupt:
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the 12th day of October, 1917, the said Alliance Auto Supply Company was duly adjudicated bankrupt, and that the first meeting of the creditors of said bankrupt corporation will be held in the offices of Boyd & Metz, in the city of Alliance, Box Butte county, Nebraska, on the 17th day of December, A. D. 1917, at 2 o'clock p. m., at which time and place said creditors may attend, prove their claims, appoint a trustee, examine the bankrupt, and transact such other business as may properly come before said meeting.
WITNESS my hand this 6th day of December, A. D. 1917.
FREDERICK A. CRITES, Referee in Bankruptcy.
1-11-869-8827

NOTICE TO DAIRYMEN. Ordinance No. 219. Section 21, calling for the tubercular test of all milk cows, of which their milk is sold in Alliance, must be complied with at once or such action as necessary will be taken.
J. E. HUGHES, Deputy Milk Inspector.
51-1-8864

SECURITY LEAGUE WAGING GREAT WAR CAMPAIGN

Movement to Awaken Patriotism Through Education Spreading to All States.

The greatest patriotic educational campaign this country has ever seen is being conducted by the National Security League, which has a membership of 105,000 loyal Americans divided in 280 branches in all parts of the Union. The object of the campaign is to arouse the people of the nation to a realization of what the war means to them and what their patriotic duty is.

The movement has already been extended by the League into 24 states and will, within a short time, be actively under way in all of the 48 states. The principal part of the League's plan is the organization of a system of addresses on patriotic and war topics by means of which trained speakers will carry into every city, town, and hamlet in the country the following message: The causes of the war, the reason for the entrance of this country into the conflict, what the United States must do to carry out its part, and the knowledge that not only the existence of democracy in the abstract, but also the very life of this nation itself, depends upon victory over Germany.

The campaign is being conducted under the direction of Dr. Robert M. McElroy, who succeeded President Wilson as head of the Department of History and Politics in Princeton University, and who recently was granted a year's leave of absence so that he could devote his entire time to this work. He is being assisted by a committee consisting of—Prof. Albert Bushnell Hart, of Harvard; Arthur E. Bestor, President of Chautauque Institution; Thomas F. Moran, Professor of History and Economics in Purdue University; Calvin W. Rice, Secretary of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers; Henry J. Allen, editor of the Wichita (Kan.) "Beacon"; S. Stanwood Menken, President of the National Security League; Dr. Shailer Mathews, Dean of the Divinity School of Chicago University, and Mrs. Philip North Moore, of St. Louis, President of the National Council of Women.

"Loyalty Weeks." A favorite method of launching the campaign in the several states is through what the Security League calls "Loyalty Weeks." In New York State, nine teams of four speakers each, all men and women of national reputation, toured all the principal cities and towns of the State, speaking in a different place every afternoon and evening for an entire week. This plan is also being followed in New Jersey, Vermont, and Kentucky. Other states where the movement is being pushed by the League, through co-operation with the State Councils of Defense and State Departments of Education, are: Pennsylvania, Ohio, Iowa, Wisconsin, Kansas, Washington, Louisiana, Virginia, Indiana, Illinois, Delaware, Tennessee, Michigan, West Virginia, Maryland, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, North Dakota and Idaho.

Stomach Trouble and Constipation Those who are afflicted with stomach trouble and constipation should read the following: I have never found anything so good for stomach trouble and constipation as Chamberlain's Tablets. I have used them off and on now for the past two years. They not only regulate the action of the bowels but stimulate the liver and keep one's body in a healthy condition," writes Mrs. Benjamin Hooper, Auburn, N. Y.

MANY CONVERTS FOR UNIVERSAL MILITARY SERVICE

One Hundred and Fifty-Seven Representatives and Thirty-nine Senators Now Favor Training All Young Men.

One hundred and fifty-seven members of the House of Representatives and thirty-nine Senators favor the adoption of Universal Military Training as the permanent basis of the military system of the country, according to the present status of the National Security League's canvass. Only one opponent in Congress has been recorded by the League since its last announcement in May on this canvass. He is Carl Hayden, Congressman-at-large from Arizona, and makes a total of twelve opponents in the House who have definitely declared themselves. An interesting feature of the newly recorded advocates of Universal Military Training is that four had previously repudiated non-committal replies. These converts are Rainey, of Illinois; Moores, of Indiana; Bruckner, of New York, and Johnson, of South Dakota. Nine additional affirmative replies were received from Congressmen who had not previously been recorded. These additional advocates, making the grand total in the House in favor of Universal Military Training 157, are Wood, of Indiana; Cantrell, of Kentucky; Greene, of Massachusetts; Siegel, of New York; Robbins and Strong, of Pennsylvania; Blanton, of Texas, and Reed and Cooper, of West Virginia.

Senate Converts. The Security League's canvass shows three new advocates of Universal Training in the Senate—Newlands, of Nevada; France, of Maryland; and Tillman, of South Carolina, the last two being recent converts, having previously been recorded as non-committal. Senators Shafroth, of Colorado, and Hitchcock, of Nebraska, also repudiated non-committal replies. Only four Senators are definitely on record against Universal Military Training—Gronna, of North Dakota; Kirby, of Alabama; and Vardaman and Williams, of Mississippi.

Some of the letters received by the Security League from the Senators and Representatives, particularly those who are recent converts, are interesting. Senator Tillman writes, "I am in hearty sympathy with the idea and will vote for any reasonable scheme that may be put before the Senate."

"For some time past I have been in favor of Universal Military Training," writes Senator France, "and I think that it would be desirable to give further consideration to this most important subject. I believe that the educational value of such training is very great and that its value has already been demonstrated by the experiences of other nations."


Senator Pomerene, of Ohio: "I am sure that, if people generally understood the underlying principle of Universal Military Training, there would be little or no opposition save from the peace-at-any-price disciples."

Senator Hardwick, of Georgia: "Personally, I am inclined to the opinion that legislation of this character will be a matter of necessity under our present condition of international relations."

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Mrs. L. A. Patterson, 1399 Kentucky St., Memphis, Tennessee, writes:
"I have been a friend of Peruna for many years. I have used it and on for catarrhal complaint and found it a very excellent remedy. I have a small family of children. Times are hard with us, but I can scarcely afford to do without Peruna, especially during the season of the year when coughs and colds are prevalent. We always recommend Peruna to our neighbors, for the benefit it has done to us."

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by Randall Howard, tells of this hundred-mile wheatfield—run by tractors and managed by business men—where a thousand acres is a small farm.

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