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MEDITATION

"There are two classes always of the broken-hearted. There are those who are crushed by affliction. Both these classes came to Christ. Sinners came, and found in Him not a stern, censorious Judge, but a tender, compassionate Saviour. The afflicted came and found true comfort. He loved all men and sympathized with them, and was able to help them. Then He also brought deliverance to sin's captives, setting them, free breaking their chains. He opened blind eyes; not only the natural eyes to see the beautiful things of this world, but the spiritual eyes as well, to behold the things of heaven and everlasting life. Then He lifted the yoke of the crushed or oppressed, inviting all the weary to Himself to find rest to their souls. Thus His whole life was simply the filling up of this outline sketch.

Christmas Is People

- Christmas is tiny people, lying awake in the night, hearing the hoofbeats of Santa's reindeer.
- Christmas is two people, kissing beneath the mistletoe.
- Christmas is old people, sitting by the fire—remembering the warmth of youth.
- Christmas is solemn people, bending their heads in reverent prayer.
- Christmas is merry people, lustily singing carols in the frosty night.
- Christmas is your people, family and friends, gathering in the parlor to exchange their Christmas greetings.
- Christmas is our people, doing their stardust best to serve you as a community institution.
- Christmas is all people—those in our town, our land, and throughout the world—who believe in—who live—and who hold sacred the Christmas Spirit.

Kissing Under The Mistletoe

Baldur, the Apollo of Scandinavian mythology, was killed by a mistletoe arrow given to the blind Hoder, by Loki, the god of mischief and potentate of our earth. Baldur was restored to life, but the mistletoe was placed in future under the care of Friga, and was never again to be an instrument of evil till it touched the earth, the empire of Loki. It is always suspended from ceilings, and when persons of opposite sexes pass under it, they give each other the kiss of peace and love in the full assurance that the epiphyte is no longer an instrument of mischief.

A correspondent in Notes and Queries suggests that the Romans dedicated the holly to Saturn, whose festival was in December, and that the early Christians decked their houses with the Saturnian emblems to deceive the Romans and escape persecution.

AN OPERATOR'S CONFESSION

It's flash, flash, flash from morn til nite,
Until I wonder if I'm right bright.
It's operator this and operator that,
Give me the time; do this, do that,
Operator, why don't you get on the ball?
I can't wait all day for one little call.
You don't have a circuit? Why don't you die?
It would be better than to tell a lie.
Give me Mr. Smith; you know the one.
Oh, you don't? I'm a son of a gun.
He's the one you know where;
Oh, you don't? Well, I'll swear!
Give me the supervisor or the manager one.
I'll see if I can get some calling done.
Hello, supervisor or manager-you!
I've got a call that's got to go thru.
Those operators, they are just no good.
They can get it thru if they just would.
I'm sorry, sir, you feel this way,
They will get your call thru some time today.
They are working hard to do their part,
To help you out, right from the start.
If you don't know what operators go thru
Come right up and get a head set, too.
After a flashing from morn til nite,
You'll wonder if you are feeling right bright

—By Jo Bennett & Elsie Harris
Bennettsville, S. C.
In Echo

OUR DEMOCRACY—by Mat

Christmas

Sleighbells, the singing of carols,
a lighted tree, yule logs burning...
the symbols of Christmas are many...



But throughout the world the spirit of
Christmas is the same—a spirit of
peace, of fellowship and of good will.

GOD'S ETERNAL RULE

HIGHLIGHTS ON THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By NEWMAN CAMPBELL
(The International Uniform Lesson on the above topic for December 28 is Matthew 2; Jude 24-25; Revelation 16-22, the Memory Verse being Psalm 96:8, "Ascribe unto Jehovah the glory due unto His name: Bring an offering, and come into His courts.")

WE FINISH the book of Revelation in this lesson—and a glorious ending it is to this series of lessons. We can only touch on it briefly, more's the pity, mentioning the terrible things that happen before the world is cleansed of sin and the "new earth" established.

The fearful spectacle of the angels pouring out vials of different kinds on the earth and sea and the terrible effects. The "woman" who is identified as the city of Babylon (a wicked city) is destroyed by fire; Satan is chained in the bottomless pit where he was to remain a thousand years, then loosed (not released) and at last cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, after the great Battle of Armageddon, where Christ's forces were absolute victors against the wicked.

And then, "I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away, and there was no more sea."

"And I John saw the holy, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."

"And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, "Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God."

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away."

John's description of the new Jerusalem to which he was transported, is marvelous, and should be read aloud if there is time in class. "And I saw no temple therein; for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb were the temple of it."

"And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof."

"And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there." All the saved shall walk in the light of this new earth, and no evil will enter into it.

The Wise Men
Now we go back to the story of the beginning of the earthly life of the King who reigneth over this New Jerusalem, Jesus. In Matthew 2 we find the story, about the coming of the wise men. The three came from the east to Jerusalem, asking everyone they met, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen His star in the east and are come to worship Him."

Herod heard of them and was troubled, as was the whole city. He gathered his chief priests and scribes and asked them where Christ was to be born. They said, according to prophecy, in Bethlehem. Then Herod called the wise men to him and asked when the star appeared; and he sent them on to Bethlehem, telling them to search diligently and when they had found the child to bring him word that he, too, might worship Him.

Still following the star, the wise men went to Bethlehem, and when the star stopped over the manger, they went in and saw the Holy Babe with His mother. They fell down and worshipped Him, then presented Him with rich gifts, gold (for His kingly state); frankincense, choicest of odors, and myrrh, used in burial, and still prophesying not only His death, but His resurrection. Warned in a dream, they never returned to Jerusalem, but went home.

After they had gone, Joseph was warned in a dream to take the young child and His mother and flee into Egypt, so he did as the angel told him.

When Herod saw he was not going to get any information from the wise men, he was very angry, and in his rage he had all the children which were in Bethlehem, "from two years and under," killed, filling the land with mourning.

Herod died shortly, and Joseph, in Egypt, was again instructed by an angel who appeared in a dream, telling him to go back to the land of Israel, as those who had sought the Child's life were dead. This was the fulfillment of prophecy by the prophet, who said, "Out of Egypt have I called my Son."

So the three journeyed back to the homeland, but when Joseph heard that the son of Herod was reigning, in his father's stead, he was afraid to go farther and, "being warned of God in a dream," he went into Galilee, to a city called Nazareth, "that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene."

A SOLITARY CARPENTER

Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another obscure village. He worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty, and then for three years was an itinerant preacher. He never owned a house. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put his foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place he was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but himself.

While still a young man, the tide of public opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied him. He was turned over to his enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. His executioner's tumbled for the only piece of property he had on earth while he was dying, and that was his coat. When he was dead he was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone, and today he is the centerpiece of the human race and the leader of the column of progress.

We are far within the mark when we say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has the one Solitary Life! —Selected

ADORATION A CAROL

The carol of the angels
Is heard no more today,
The chorus of the heavenly hosts
Long since has died away.
Their anthem swells no longer,
Their hallelujah-hymn
No more shall rend the midnight
skies

O'er sleeping Bethlehem!
Long years have passed since
Judah

Resounded to the song
Poured forth upon the silent night
By the angelic throng;
And yet the joyous anthem
That flooded Judah's air
Is swelling in this heart of mine,
And rings and echoes there!

They sang the Saviour's praises,
And glorious was the song
Poured forth by countless heaven-ly hosts

Who knew no sin or wrong,
But e'en that holy anthem
With my song cannot vie,
For never angles knew such joy
In Jesus Christ as I!

URGES ALL TO GIVE THANKS

The 45,000 employees of the Southern Railway System that "Serves The South" were urged today by President Ernest E. Norris to "Give thanks for the precious gift of our American Way of Life and the many blessings we enjoy."

In his annual Christmas message to officers and employees of the system, published in the December issue of the Southern Railway Magazine "Ties," Mr. Norris said that during the "troubled year now coming to a close, I have found a never-failing source of inspiration and strength in your unswerving loyalty and devotion to duty."

"Once again, "Mr. Norris said, "... we hear His gentle voice teaching us ... to 'love one another.' Let us reaffirm our faith in those ideals of universal brotherhood that were given birth with Him whose birth we are commemorating."

"And let us pray that our gratitude may find expression in a compelling belief in the spirit of 'good will toward men,' so that the reality of our 'peace on earth' may be our laing heritage."

World Harmony

The thing mankind is seeking blindly for
After the devastation of mad war
Is harmony of nations, the white peace:
That miracle whose actions should increase
Goodwill among the peoples of the earth.
We have forgotten how the angels sang
Their clear hosannas, the triumphant words that rang
Above the fields that first far Christmas night.
Too long we have forgotten how the white
Stars echoed to the peace that was proclaimed,
To the goodwill chorus, and that Christ was named
The Ambassador from heaven to all men.
Oh, that the angels' song might ring again.
Oh, that mankind might see the dark clouds rift,
And accept with childlike faith God's perfect gift.
If the troubled earth would turn and kneel as one
In sincere reverence before God's Son,
Borders would fade, and dark suspicions cease—
There would be harmony, there would be peace.

—Grace Noll Crowell

"For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given."

Joniah 9:6



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God's Eternal Rule

ILLUSTRATED SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Scripture—Matthew 2; Jude 24-25; Revelation 16-22

By Alfred J. Buescher



When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, there came three wise men from the east to Jerusalem asking, "Where is He that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen His star in the east and are come to worship Him."



When Herod the king heard of this he was troubled; and he called the wise men and questioned them, asking what time the star appeared. He told them to search for the child and inform him that he too might worship Him.



The wise men followed the star until it stopped where the Child was, and they found the Babe and His mother and worshipped Him, and, opening their treasures they "presented unto Him gifts; gold, frankincense and myrrh."



The wise men left, but did not return to Jerusalem, and an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him to take the Babe and mother and flee to Egypt or Herod would kill the child. MEMORY VERSE—Psalm 96:8.