

# Sunday School Lesson

For Sunday, January 7  
By Dr. Paul Caudill

The Jews, that the long-awaited Messiah is Jesus. In order to establish this fact, according to Jewish law, it must be shown that the legal father of Jesus was a descendant of David" (Broadus), and this Matthew does, going even beyond David to Abraham, the father of the Jewish race, and with whose "seed" God had made his "everlasting covenant" (Gen. 17:7; Gal. 3:16). Luke, who likewise gives the genealogy of Christ, but who did not appear to write especially with reference to the Jews, carries the genealogy back to Adam, "the father of all men".

**BORN OF A VIRGIN—**  
The starting point in our record of the historical Jesus is His incarnation. His advent into the world in which we live. How did he come into the world? Was his birth miraculous, or was it as that of Abraham and Isaac, and the prophets? Matthew tells us that his birth was miraculous, that he was born of a virgin, even as the ancient prophet had promised (Isa. 7:14). "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (Matt. 1:23).

It would be difficult for anyone with even a slight knowledge of the original language, in which the New Testament was written, to fail to get Matthew's point with reference to the birth of Jesus, namely, that it was miraculous. In the eighth verse of the first chapter he says, "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise; When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found with child of the Holy Spirit". Now the phrase "of the Holy Spirit" means, more literally, "out of the Holy Spirit". The preposition "of" is used to translate the Greek preposition "ek" which is always used with the ablative case and which never varies from the original meaning "out of", and implies a "previous position" within a given boundary (Robertson). In other words, Jesus was begotten of the Holy Spirit. His genesis is not of "fleshly" origin. He has no earthly father. The Holy Spirit was

"the source or cause of his condition" (Broadus). Accordingly, in verse 18, the angel of the Lord said to Joseph, "Behold, thou shalt have a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for so shall he be called: for he shall be born of the Holy Spirit, and of the virgin Mary, and he shall be called the Son of God: and he shall reign with Christ forever and ever." Here, as in verse 18 the preposition "ek", meaning "out of", with the ablative case (implying source) is used.

And all this was in keeping with the words of the prophet Isaiah: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (Matt. 1:23).

There are some, of course, and the number is in no wise small, who would rake out the supernatural element with regard to the birth of Jesus. They would not have his birth to be miraculous in that he was born "of a virgin", and in that he was conceived "of the Holy Ghost". But the record remains, and all the events of his life corroborate Matthew's account of his birth.

**A HOLY MISSION—**  
What was Jesus' mission in coming into the world? Why did he come? Can the answer to such a question be succinctly stated? It can. Matthew tells us that he came into the world to "save his people from their sins": "And she shall bring forth a son; and thou shalt call his name Jesus; for it is he that shall save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21).

Paul, likewise, in his letter to Timothy, sets forth the mission of Jesus in similar terms. Says he, "Faithful is the saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief" (I Tim. 1:15).

One cannot understand the character and life of Jesus apart from this basic interpretation of his Saviorhood. He came into the world to "save" sinners. He came for this purpose and for this alone. Wherever he went, throughout all the days of his public ministry, he was engaged in this "saving business". He was forever busy with the matter of lifting up the fallen and restoring to society those who had become social and moral outcasts. He told his disciples that they were to carry on his mission in his absence, and to spend and be spent in the conservation of his worldwide redemptive enterprise. They were to go "to all the world in their attempt to give the Gospel unto 'every creature'". All mankind must have the opportunity of laying hold of his redemptive love, by faith. He held up to them the "world" as the "field" (Matt. 13:28).

It is so easy for churches and for Sunday schools and Sunday school workers to lose sight of this basic mission of Jesus. It is so easy for moral and spiritual energies to be "dissipated" in dealing with secondary matters. As we engage in our "Centennial Crusade", as Southern Baptists, let us above all things strive to be used by Christ in his "saving" mission. Let us seek to become soul-winners!

**THE EVIL WORLD—**  
The world into which Jesus was born was an evil world. That is why Jesus was born into it. It needed to be "saved". Paul, a contemporary of Jesus, in speaking of it in his letter to the Philippians reminded his fellow-Christians that they were living in the midst of a generation crooked and perverse" and for that reason they must shine "as spiritual stars".

There were millions of slaves in the Roman Empire during the days of Jesus. To the Romans, their empire was the world! All roads lead, so far as they were concerned, to Rome! Throughout the far-flung provinces of the mighty empire, tough rulers enforced the decrees of Caesar Augustus (B.C.-A.D. 14) backed by his formidable army of perhaps three hundred and fifty thousand men. In Judea was to be found Herod the Great, a pretty provincial kind who was kept in power by the strong arm of the Roman Emperor. It was indeed a dark and uninviting picture—the world into which Jesus was born, and his pathway was to be one of suffering and shame. But that was all the more reason for his coming. His mission was a "saving" one, and no thought of self, not even the sufferings of death, could deflect him from his holy enterprise.

**THE HAND OF GOD—**  
Throughout Matthew's account of the coming of Jesus into the world, one is able to see in bold outline the mighty hand of God. Event upon event is shaped by him as the way is prepared for his Son to begin his public ministry.

It was "an angel of the Lord" that appeared to Joseph, persuading him that Mary was of child by the Holy Spirit, and convincing him that he should proceed with his marriage as previously planned.

It was God who warned the Wise-men, "in a dream" not to return to Herod, but to depart into their own country another way, to the end that the Christ-child might be spared destruction at the hands of evil Herod.

Then, too, it was at the behest of the Lord that Joseph took Mary and the babe and fled into Egypt for safety, and at the word of the

**Mrs. Nettie A. Nance Is Claimed By Death**  
Mrs. Nettie A. Nance, 72 years, 5 months and 21 days, died Saturday morning, December 21, at 5:30, at the St. Charles Hospital, Bend, Oregon. Mrs. Nance had been in declining health for the past year and spent the past four months in the hospital. She was born and reared in Wilkes county, a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Marlow. Leaving Wilkes county in March, 1924, she went to Grandview, Oregon, to live with her oldest son, Zonie Nance, and helped him rear his family of six, he having lost his wife a few months prior to that time. She returned to Wilkes only once during her stay in Oregon. In July, 1941, she and her grandson, Frits Nance, and granddaughter, Pearl Nance, came back on a visit.

She has a host of nieces and nephews in Wilkes, also many friends to mourn their loss. She was loved by all who knew her and was "Grandma Nance" to all. She was a member of the Baptist church at Gilreath. She was preceded in death by her husband, Willie Nance, by several years. Her two sisters, Jane Edsel and Cornelia Hayes, both preceded her in death and also her only brother, Monroe Marlow.

She is survived by three sons, Zonie Nance, Madras, Oregon; Mancel Nance, route one Madras, Oregon, and Sabe Nance, of Bend, Oregon. Four daughters, Mrs. Hattie Lowe, Castlewood, Virginia; Mrs. Alma Barnett, Oakwoods; Mrs. Topsy Moore, Wilkesboro; and Mrs. Mazie Akins, Bend, Oregon. She is also survived by 30 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. Five children preceded her in death.

Funeral services were held in the Chapel of the Niswonger and Winslow Funeral home in Bend, Oregon, Tuesday, afternoon, Dec. 25, with Rev. Kenneth Tobias officiating. Burial followed in the Greenwood cemetery in Bend.

Active pallbearers were Elvie Crowley, Vernon Hart, Eddie Hart and three grandsons: Jack Crowley, Keith McDonald and Albert Nance.

Many beautiful flowers attested to the esteem in which the life of Mrs. Nance was held by many friends and acquaintances.—Reported.

February 1 is the final date for filing requests for "new grower" tobacco allotments for 1945, say AAA officials.

Lord that they return to Nareth. Wherever one turns in his study of Jesus, he sees the hand of God.

# January SPECIAL SAVINGS

IN OUR BARGAIN BASEMENT

**Ladies' Full Fashion Rayon**  
**—HOSE—**  
(THIRDS)  
Reg. Price 45c  
Special—  
**At 10¢ Pr.**  
(LIMIT 2 PAIRS)

**Gold Bond**  
**—PRINTS—**  
Fast Colors  
Pretty Patterns  
**25¢ Yd.**  
Limited Quantity

**BARGAINS IN REMNANTS!**  
Wool and Rayon Remnants  
Values to 29c  
Special At  
**15¢ Ea.**  
SEE THESE SURE!

**Boys' Winter UNDERWEAR**  
Long Sleeves and Ankle Length  
Sizes 6 to 16  
**\$1.00 Suit**  
Boys' Knit Midway Shorts and Shirts To Match, each 49c

**32-Piece Dinner Sets**  
Hand-Painted Under Glaze  
Special **\$5.95**  
SET

**Ladies' Cotton Vest 79¢ Ea**  
Ladies' Knit Union Suits **\$1.39 Ea.**

**Pure white cotton Quilt Batts 79¢**  
Stitched

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"Always Dependable Merchandise"

# AN... APPRECIATION

At the beginning of the New Year we wish to use this space to tell, our customers and friends, how much we appreciate your patronage and good will extended since we started operation of the Wilkes Service Station.

We hope to merit your continued patronage and goodwill, and we will ever strive to give you the very best service possible under war conditions.

**COME TO SEE US... AND OFTEN DURING 1945**  
**WILKES SERVICE STATION**  
J. L. Bumgarner, Prop.  
Near Courthouse • Wilkesboro, N. C.

# An Important Message TO CAR AND TRUCK OWNERS

We wish to announce to car and truck owners in this section that after January 10 we will have with us **MR. WALTER ELLER** who is an expert Welder and Mechanic. We also have ready to serve you: **Messrs. Charlie Colvard, Felix Glass, Charlie Bishop**

See Us For All Kinds Of **BODY WORK, RADIATOR AND GENERAL REPAIRS ON CARS AND TRUCKS**  
**McNeill Pontiac Co.**  
M. B. McNeill, Proprietor  
Phone 39-F-31 3 Miles West on No. 421

# Strange Women!

A Mind Full of Suspicion and Hate... Her Twisted Mind Led to Her Own Undoing...!



**THE DYNAMIC DRAMA OF A SINISTER SCHEMER!**  
**TODAY — and — FRIDAY**

**LIBERTY**  
Hunt Stromberg's Unusual Drama

**"Guest In the House"**  
with **RALPH BELLAMY, Anne BAXTER, ALINE MacMAHON RUTH WARRICK**

**PLEASE NOTE TIME OF SHOWS:**  
NEWS 1:00 - 3:30  
FEATURE 1:30 - 4:00  
LAST FEATURE AT 9:00  
6:00 - 8:30  
6:30 - 9:00

To All Our Customers We Say: **"Thank You"**

For Your Generous Patronage During 1944

Our Wish For You: That 1945 Bring Victory So That Our Fighting Men and Women May Return to Their Loved Ones As Soon As Possible!

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