

Bnth of John The Baptist

Lesson 2, January 14, 1912.
Motto ext.—"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed the people." (Luke 1: 68.)
Lesson Passage. Luke 1: 57-80.
Passage for reading and opening exercises, Luke 1: 57-75.
Memory Verses, 67-69 or 76, 77.

Where and When.
The events of this lesson took place about a year after the last lesson, and six months before the birth of Jesus. We do not know the exact location of the home of Zacharias, all we know is that it was a city of Judah.
The Birth of a New Race.
Boys and girls hear much, and may hear more as they grow older, about evolution, but they must remember that Christianity is in no sense an evolution, but a revelation. Jesus came to make anew the very nature of man, and as the Creator to found an "elect race," as the Apostle Peter calls all believers, and ultimately to make "all things new." As we approach the birth of Jesus, the Son of God and Saviour of the world, we are reminded that—
"The race that long in darkness pined Have seen a glorious light."

Therefore so great an event was naturally accompanied by other unusual events and by miracles which were known not to the people at large, but only to devout souls who were looking for his coming. The birth of John the Baptist, who was to be the forerunner, was predicted by an angel who appeared to the father while he was ministering in the temple. Mary, the mother of Jesus, was visited by an angel who foretold the coming of her son. Joseph, who was betrothed to Mary, was also told in a vision of the coming of the King. This little group of people were acquainted with each other, and they talked over together the great event which had been foretold. Mary remained three months with Elizabeth, the mother of John, and perhaps she was told in a vision of the coming of the King. This little group of people represented the best of Israel. They were hard-working, humble people, with the best of blood in their veins, clean-minded and wholesome in their thinking. They show that their hearts are filled with Bible hopes as well as their minds with Bible knowledge.

The Birth of a Baby Boy.
Shortly after the events of our last lesson, the reproach of the old couple, Zacharias and Elizabeth, were taken away, and the baby boy was born. The Jews of their day had a false notion that to be without children was a mark of divines displeasure upon parents, yet, even the gossiping neighbors must have been glad when it turned out that after all they were mistaken and it was all so wonderful, you can easily imagine how the kinsfolk and friends who had any excuse, or could make one, came to see the parents and the child. It is not difficult, likewise, to imagine something of the joy and peace which rested on the face of the dumb old father when at last the child was born. And Elizabeth, who can tell her joy? Such an event in the East is always an occasion of joy, how much more this occasion! On the eighth day the priests came to perform the solemn ceremony which the law required, and also to name the child. Relatives wanted to call it after the father, but Elizabeth objected, and said: "Not so, but he shall be called John." She knew some things too sacred to tell. But the wonder of all came when, after the appeal was made to Zacharias, he called for a wax tablet and wrote, "His name is John," and while they were all set to guessing, suddenly the old man's speech came back to him, and he bent up his eyes of the Holy Ghost in him burst forth into song. No wonder that fell fell on all who were present, or that the news of these things was "noised throughout all the hill country of Judea," and people everywhere said: "What manner of child shall this be?"

The Benediction, or Song of Blessing.
The theme of Zacharias' song is that God has again visited the people. The special purpose for which God is again to visit his people is, first, the deliverance from their enemies, and, second, and most essential of all, redemption for his people. These things are to be brought about by raising up "horns of salvation." This is a reference to the strong and mighty word of the Messiah. All this was to be in fulfillment of the words of the prophets of olden days, and in keeping with God's holy covenant made in the oath which he swore unto Abraham. The great purpose of the deliverance was not to be political freedom, but that this delivered they should be able to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness" all their days. Zacharias prophesies that all this is to come with the Messiah, of whom his son was to be the forerunner.
He has seen also the mission of his son. He turns to the child, and speaking to him, says, "Thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Most High." He was to be a prophet in a new sense, and with a higher mission than any who had preceded him. He was to "go before the face of the Lord to prepare his way," and as a preacher he was to "give knowledge of salvation," not by proclaiming a political deliverance, but by preaching "the remission of their sins." He was to precede the coming of the dayspring from on high," or the Messiah, who because of God's ten-

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Fierce Battle

Berlin, Jan. 12.—A general election will be held throughout the German Empire Friday, Jan. 12, to choose members of the Reichstag. Rarely has election excited more interest since the founding of modern Germany and rarely has greater importance attached to the result.
The widespread dissatisfaction over the policy of the government in the Moroccan negotiations, a dissatisfaction which left it apparently without a single friend in the Reichstag, and the great increase in the cost of the necessities of life, which bears most heavily upon the wage-workers and all persons of small incomes, have created a situation in which the most acute political prophets find themselves at a loss to predict the probable result at the polls.
It seems to be conceded that the parties of the Left—the liberal groups and the Socialists—will make gains, but their probable extent is uncertain. The Reichstag just dissolved was elected in January, 1907, and sat for the five years term provided in the constitution. It was constituted, following the elections of 1907, as follows:
Right (Conservatives, Free Conservatives, Agrarian associations) 113
Center (Catholics, Poles) 129
Left (National Liberals, 55, Radicals 51) 106
Social Democrats (Socialists) 43
Scattering (particularistic parties) 6

Officers Destroy Many Distilleries

Special to The News.
Richmond, Jan. 12.—The revenue officers under the supervision of Revenue Agent R. B. Sams, with the head office in this city, had a busy month during December. During the month they destroyed 67 illicit distilleries in the fourth and fifth districts of North Carolina and the district in Virginia which is under the supervision of this office. Thirty-eight of these seizures were made in Virginia and 29 in this state. There were 68 prosecutions recommended as a result of the seizures and 20 arrests were made by the officers. There were also recommendations for the collection of about \$1,000 in special taxes.
The high record for any one man during the month was that established by Deputy Collector W. A. Hendrix, who made a raid in Franklin and Henry counties, Va., and during three days captured 17 illicit plants. He was accompanied by only two men and when the raid was started they had information concerning only three of those that were found. The raid turned out to be an endless chain affair as the officers would receive information about another plant while they were in the act of destroying one. They were cutting up one place and saw the smoke from another about two hundred yards away which they knew nothing of until then. They had caught the moonshiners napping and proceeded to make a haul. About 30,000 gallons of beer were destroyed and considerable new whiskey.
It was suggested that this abundance of illicit distilleries that were scattered over the country during December might be due in some part to the fact that the moonshiners were needing money, like other people, to buy Christmas presents. That might be true but the same activity among the revenue men has started again for January and some other excuse will have to be given for that. Surely, it is argued, the distillers have made New Year resolutions to increase the supply.
Most of the stills that have been seized this month have been in this section too. Deputy Collector R. F. Henry returned this week from a series of raids covering two days, in Cherokee county, and during that time he and two other men destroyed ten plants, seized nearly all the copper belonging to them and poured out about 3,000 gallons of beer. Deputy Collector D. S. Bowers has also just returned from a raid which he and two men made in Haywood county in which they destroyed three big plants. One of these was at the site of an old saw mill and the place constructed under a huge pile of slabs. Some of the places were in comfortable log houses that had been chinked and daubed as if the owner intended making them permanent.

Wilmington Steamer Wrecked in Recent Storm

Special to The News.
Wilmington, Jan. 12.—Following the severe storm off the coast of this state during the past few days, comes the report that the steamer Madeline, owned by the fleet of passenger craft owned by and in command of Capt. John W. Harper, of this city, was lost in the rough seas between this port and Hatteras. Capt. Harper and crew were on board at the time, but managed to escape in a life boat. The steamer went down. They were picked up by a southbound schooner, and will soon return to their homes here. The loss of the steamer will amount to thousands, and will be a severe loss to Capt. Harper, as it is understood the present that he carried little, if any marine insurance.

Cold Snap Gives Atlantic City a Rare Spectacle

Atlantic City, Jan. 12.—The cold snap put Atlantic City in the position of the ocean in the direction of affording visitors a spectacle that has not been seen since 1902. Sections of ice, miles in extent, bobbed up and down on the waves just off the beach during the morning and late afternoon spans of ice again formed over the shallow places within sight of the boardwalk.
Frozen salt ice piled up on the sand as the tide receded, in some places getting two feet in height, where it gathered about piling of piers and about the steamer Alpha, which was ice bound the greater part of the day.
"New York girls are having the pictures of their gentlemen friends photographed on their finger-nails." "Nothing remarkable about that." "No, why?" "Certainly not. Any girl who thinks much of a young man likes to have him always on hand."—Yonkers Statesman.

Woman's Happiness

The highest point of woman's happiness is reached only through motherhood, in the clasping of her child within her arms. Yet the mother-to-be is often fearful of nature's ordeal and shrinks from the suffering incident to its consummation. But for nature's ills and discomforts nature provides remedies, and in Mother's Friend is to be found a medicine of great value to every expectant mother. It is an oily emulsion for external application, composed of ingredients which act with beneficial and soothing effect on those portions of the system involved. It is intended to prepare the system for the crisis, and thus relieve, in great part, the suffering through which the mother usually passes. The regular use of Mother's Friend will repay any mother in the comfort it affords before, and the helpful restoration to health and strength it brings about after baby comes. Mother's Friend is for sale at drug stores. Write for our free book for expectant mothers which contains much valuable information, and many suggestions of a helpful nature.
BRADFIELD REGULATOR CO., Atlanta, Ga.

Development of The Hawaiian Islands

The development of the Hawaiian Islands under American guidance is illustrated by figures presented in a document just received by the bureau of statistics, department of commerce and labor. The document, entitled "The Hawaiian Annual, 1912," is issued annually by Mr. Thomas G. Thrum, of Honolulu, and presents statistics of the production of commerce, finance, population and education in those islands during a term of years down to 1911.
The figures of growth since the annexation of Hawaii to the United States and, indeed, since the reciprocity treaty of 1876 between the islands and the United States, by which freedom of commercial interchange with this country was established and investments of American capital thus assured, are extremely interesting. A table shows, for example, the reduction of sugar, by the eastern province, from 1876 to 1911. The production of sugar in 1876, the year immediately prior to the adoption of the reciprocity treaty, is given at 25 million pounds; by 1881 it had grown to 94 million pounds; in 1891, 211 million; in 1901, 411 million; in 1911, 1,011 million pounds, or 40 times as much in 1911 as in 1876. The value, which was stated at 1-4 million dollars in 1876, was given at 36-3-4 million in 1911, or 30 times as much in 1911 as in 1876. The increase in the production of sugar in 1911 is 40 times as great as in the year immediately prior to the beginning of reciprocity, and the value 30 times as great, the relative difference in increase between quantity and value being due, of course, to a reduction in prices of sugar meantime.
Of this increase of practically one billion pounds in the sugar production of the Hawaiian Islands since the adoption of the reciprocity agreement with the United States, more than one-half has developed since annexation, which occurred in 1898. The sugar production of 1897, the year immediately prior to that of annexation, was, according to the table in question, 520 million pounds, as against 25 millions in 1876, the year immediately preceding the reciprocity treaty, and 1,011 million in 1911. Thus the increase in sugar production in the islands during the 22 years of reciprocity, 1876 to 1898, was 495 million pounds, and during the period since annexation, 1898 to 1910, was 592 million pounds.
The radicals are not the only producers of the Hawaiian Islands. The statements show numerous other articles or products of the islands, indicating that the recent attempts at diversification of production have been at least moderately successful. The value of canned pineapples sent to the United States alone in the fiscal year 1911 was over 2 million dollars; of rice, the quantity shipped to this country from Hawaii in that year was 6-2-3 million pounds; of coffee, 2-3-4 million pounds; of hides and skins, 1-1-2 million pounds; of manufactures of wood the value of the shipments in 1911 was about \$146,000. By far the largest item of shipment to the United States is sugar, valued in the fiscal year, 1911, at 36-3-4 million dollars, and 42-2-3 million in 1910, against 1-4 million in 1876 the year of the reciprocity treaty.

Practically all the imports into the Hawaiian Islands are from the United States, except a few articles, required by local conditions, which cannot be obtained in this country. The imports of foreign merchandise amounted to about 5 million dollars, made up chiefly of nitrates from the western coast of South America, and Japanese products imported from Japan to meet the demands of the 70,000 persons of Japanese birth or parentage now living in the islands. The census of 1910 shows the population of the Hawaiian Islands at 191,907, of which 70,500 are classed as Japanese, 26,000 as "Hawaiian," 25,000 as Portuguese, and 21,500 as Chinese. The number of persons born in the United States residing in Hawaii in 1910 has not yet been announced by the census of that year, the figures of 1900 having been stated at 4,068. The total has grown from 58,000 in 1878 to 192,000 in 1910, the growth of the foreign population during the period being from 5,900 to 150,300, while the number of Hawaiians declined from 51,500 in 1872 to 38,500 in 1910.
The figures of trade show a continuous excess of exports over imports. In 1875 the excess of exports over imports was \$407,265; in 1890, 6 million dollars; in 1901, 4-1-3 million; and in 1911, 14-1-2 million. Im-

Possum's Bite Killed Him

(Jefferson City Dispatch to Chicago Inter-Ocean)
Joseph Ewler, 22 years old, a farmer residing near Wardsville, 12 miles east of here, died as the result of blood poisoning caused by the bite of an opossum. Ewler was bitten one week ago, but he did not consider the wound serious. In two or three days blood poisoning set in and caused his death.
The one thing we can all get for nothing is gratuitous advice.

Mother's Friend

The highest point of woman's happiness is reached only through motherhood, in the clasping of her child within her arms. Yet the mother-to-be is often fearful of nature's ordeal and shrinks from the suffering incident to its consummation. But for nature's ills and discomforts nature provides remedies, and in Mother's Friend is to be found a medicine of great value to every expectant mother. It is an oily emulsion for external application, composed of ingredients which act with beneficial and soothing effect on those portions of the system involved. It is intended to prepare the system for the crisis, and thus relieve, in great part, the suffering through which the mother usually passes. The regular use of Mother's Friend will repay any mother in the comfort it affords before, and the helpful restoration to health and strength it brings about after baby comes. Mother's Friend is for sale at drug stores. Write for our free book for expectant mothers which contains much valuable information, and many suggestions of a helpful nature.
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CHINESE VIEW OF LOVE.

Marriage a Business of the Head, Not an Affair of the Heart.
(Ng Poon Chew, in the Chinese Annual.)
Perhaps there is no greater difference existing between the Chinese and the American people than that between their ideas of love. In fact we Chinese do not believe in love, for we are not sickly, sentimental creatures, but cold philosophical, fatalistic beings. We arrange our matrimonial affairs through hard reasoning and not through the tender passion.
To us marriage is a serious business of the head, and not a light affair of the heart. In these matrimonial transactions we apply the most rigid, keen, calculating business principles, and that is why we are so successful in the marriage enterprise, as we have never been bled by Cupid at the game of love.
We never pay homage at the altar of this stupid, brainless, yellow kid, the disturber of peace, the breaker of hearts, the destroyer of homes and the promoter of affinity stock companies. We cannot tolerate his presence in China, as China is not a land of lovers. Consequently the cool, quiet hours of our midsummer nights are not disturbed or spoiled by hot air from the woollens and cooling of sentimental creatures.
We do not believe in love, for love is not the greatest thing in the world. It is not even a thing nor substance. It is simply the product of an idle brain, the outgrowth of a drowsy mind. It is inconspicuous and unobtrusive for its quantitative and qualitative character changes with the changes of scenery and environment, and its drawing and binding power increases or decreases as the square of the distance between subject and object increases or decreases, as the case may be.
Love is the antithesis of reason; for man sees with reason and only feels with love, and it is the most violent form of brainstorm. Love is a symptom of a disordered brain, as a nightmare is a symptom of a disordered stomach. It is a deadly contagious disease, for it turns the strongest head and makes the wisest man a fool. Indeed there is no fool like an old fool who is affected with amoritis. When a man has contracted this love disease and is under its influence he acts in the most idiotic manner and performs all sorts of antics, all of which he entirely renounces and repudiates when he is free from its hypnotic spell.
Now are we peculiar because we do not agree with you in regard to the idea of love? But alas! the world is changing, and China is changing with it, the old time proven ideas are fast giving way to the new, and our young people are being converted to the worship of the blind god, and from now on there will likely be more love in our courtships and divorces in our matrimony.
A girl may not really object to being kissed, but she objects to the young man's thinking that she doesn't object.

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