

**International Sunday School Lesson**  
**For**  
**JANUARY 6, 1957**

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**WISE MEN SEEK JESUS**

Memory Selection: "And when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, frankincense and myrrh."  
 —Matthew 2:11.

Lesson Text: Matthew 2:1-12.

In Matthew's gospel, we have the story of the visit of the three wise men, who were the first Gentiles to visit Jesus. Their search for and their worship of the Christ, therefore, may have been prophetic of the time the Gentile world would accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

As pointed out before, the purpose and aim of Matthew's Gospel was largely to convince the Jews that Jesus fulfilled the Messianic hope and prophecy. Therefore, all through his Gospel, Matthew links Jesus with the earlier prophecies.

Jesus was born in the year 5 B.C. — four years and one week before 1 A.D. — an error made by Dionysius in the calculation of time caused the beginning of the Christian era to be counted wrong. Pompey had captured Jerusalem in 63 B.C. and Palestine was under the Romans at the time of the birth of Jesus. Augustus Caesar was Emperor of Rome. The gospel references to the time is "in the days of Herod the King," referring to Herod the Great.

Matthew tells us that, "Behold, there came wise men from the East to Jerusalem, saying, 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." Tradition numbers these "wise men," probably astrologers and philosophers of their day, as being three, some adding that they were from India, Persia and Arabia, respectively.

Having seen a strange star in the sky, they were led to seek the new Saviour. The Star was of such unusual splendor that they believed it foretold the birth of royalty. Then, in their oriental minds, there flashed a thought: The Jewish exiles in Babylon had said that a King would be born among them who would once more restore the glory of Israel. And this particular star was in the direction of Jerusalem, the homeland of the Jews!

In 1604, the great astronomer Kepler saw the planets Jupiter and Saturn in conjunction and, shortly afterward, a bright star burst forth in the constellation of the Serpent. Calculations show that, just before the birth of Jesus, these same two planets were in conjunction.

After traveling for miles across the desert, the Wise Men arrived in Jerusalem. They must have been surprised to find the city quiet — unexcited by the event proclaimed by the star. After making inquiry around the city, they explained their presence. Word of their visit and their search for the new "king" reached Herod, who, when he "heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him." So he called all the leaders of the Jews — the chief priests and scribes — to him and asked what they knew of this Christ, who should be born. They told him that the prophecies had declared that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem of Judea, and then they quoted the prophecy of Micah (Micah 5:12). They knew the text, but they did not recognize the fulfillment of it.

Apparently, Herod took the Wise Men's report more seriously than did the chief priests. Herod wanted to know just when the star appeared, so that he might calculate just when the birth had taken place. Jesus is thought to have been around two years old at this time — not the tiny baby in the manger as usually depicted. With every pretense of sincerity, Herod asked the Wise Men to report back to him after they had found the Child, so that he, too, might go to Bethlehem to worship him.

Again, the Wise Men set out on their quest and, this time, they were successful. Following the star, they came to the house where Mary and the Young Child lived. When they saw the child,

**With Our Boys In Service**

Fort Knox, Ky. (AHTNC) — Pvt. D. E. Griffin, 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Griffin, Route 2, Marshall, recently was graduated from the automotive maintenance course at the Army's Armor Training Center, at Fort Knox, Ky.

The eight-weeks course included classes in engine electricity, transmission, brakes, steering, and suspension systems and recovery of disabled vehicles.

Griffin entered the Army last August and completed basic training at the fort.

**State Nurses To Meet Wednesday In Asheville**

District No. 1 of the North Carolina State Nurses Association will meet Wednesday, January 9 at 4 p. m., at the County Court House in Asheville. Mrs. Harold Clark will speak on Disaster Nursing.

Mrs. Eunice Seaborn, a member of District 1, has been appointed to serve on the State Standing Committee on Promotion of Program, Public Relations and Membership. She plans to attend a committee meeting in Raleigh January 8.

The 1957 Annual Convention of the North Carolina State Nurses Association, and North Carolina State Student Nurses Association Convention is to be held in Asheville October 22-25, with headquarters at the George Vanderbilt Hotel. Approximately 1300 graduate nurses and student nurses will be expected to attend.

**Mrs. James Phillips Passes Saturday; Funeral Monday**

Mrs. James Phillips, 62, of the Bright Hope section, died at her home Saturday morning, December 29, 1956 following a long illness.

Funeral services were held at 2 p. m., Monday in Pleasant Valley Baptist Church.

Burial was in Little Ivy Cemetery.

Surviving are the husband; 2 daughters, the Misses Meredith and Sara Phillips of the home; two sons, Duane of Detroit, Mich., and David of the home; three sisters, Mrs. Sophia Keek of Omaha, Wash., Mrs. Nellie Buckner, of Seattle, Wash., and Mrs. Mary Verie Kay of Blain, Wash.; three brothers, Fred Woody of Sunny-side, Wash., George of Mars Hill, and Jesse of Republic, Wash.; her stepmother, Mrs. May Woody, of Mars Hill; and a granddaughter.

Mrs. Phillips was an active member of Bright Hope Methodist Church and was active in community affairs until her illness.

Born in Republic, Wash., she moved to North Carolina sixteen years ago.

Holcombe Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

**Kelly Wild, 82, Of Big Pine, Passes; Rites Tuesday**

Kelly Wild, 82 of Walnut RFD 1, died Sunday, December 30, 1956 at 4:30 a. m., in his home after a brief illness.

Funeral services were held Tuesday at 2 p. m., in the North Fork Baptist Church, of which he was a member for 50 years. The Rev. W. S. Vahan, the Rev. J. B. Brigan and the Rev. Lester Creighton officiated and burial was in the church cemetery. Pallbearers were nephews.

**Age-Old Problem**

The so-called better half of the matrimonial combine spends a lifetime trying to figure out how the other half lives.

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It is interesting to think that the title of our lesson for this week has a double meaning. It suggests that the Wise Men from the East came to Bethlehem, seeking the Christ. It also suggests that men — who are wise — will seek Jesus. How wise are you?

**Here Comes The Bookmobile**

Now Bookie dear, please let's not start the New Year with an argument. It was just a misunderstanding, all the way around. I thought you said you would write this column last week. You thought I said if you were too busy resting, that probably our fairy godmother would write it. Well, as it turns out you were too busy resting, and our fairy godmother was otherwise occupied. What about me? Oh, I was running around like a chicken with my head cut off trying to get ready for Christmas. You say I looked like I was enjoying myself. Well, I was. I love to put everything off until the last minute, then hustle and bustle, and get all excited. We might stop here and explain that it is our custom to write this column on Monday, and give it to Mr. Pop before we start out on the route for the week. And as you know, last Monday was not just any ordinary Monday, it was Christmas Eve! This is another Monday, and there is something different about it, too. It's the very last day of 1956. By the time you read this 1957 will be three or four days old. But we think it will be all right to wish our friends a VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR! Even if we are a few days late.

The end of the year is a time for looking back; and a time for looking forward. We just took a look at our registration book. At the end of December 1955, 675 people had registered to use our library. At the end of this December there are about 1600 who have signed up. Last December, 910 books were out on loan. We haven't tallied the last three days, but even without them the circulation figure is 1525. Not that figures alone can tell the story of the success of our Madison County Library. You would have to go along with Bookie and me, out on the route. There are folks who have never missed us a single time since we started running a year ago last October. There are folks who walk quite a long way to meet us. There are the little pre-school age children, who love their books. No, figures won't tell it and words won't tell it adequately.

As the old year draws to a close and the new year starts, I want to say, from the bottom of my heart — Thank you, my very good friends along the route for all the happiness you have given me.

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**HOT SPRINGS**

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Neal and daughter, Patsy, of Copper Hill, Tenn., spent Christmas holidays with Mrs. Neal's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Collins.

Mr. and Mrs. Max Gillenwater and children of Richmond, Va., spent Christmas with Mr. Gillenwater's mother, Mrs. Bryan Moore.

Miss Shirley Brooks of Bartow, Fla., spent the holidays with her mother, Mrs. Esther Brooks.

Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Barnwell have returned from Chicago, where they spent Christmas with their daughters. They also visited Mrs. Barnwell's sister, Mrs. Gertie Czarnocki, in Detroit, Mich.

Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Evans of Troy, N. C., spent the holidays in their cabin here. While here, Mrs. James Greene of Asheville spent a few days here with them.

Mrs. Queen Leake and daughters, Judy and Molly, spent last weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Troy Harrison.

Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Sumerel had as their guests during the holidays Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sumerel and children of White Pine, Tenn., Mr. and Mrs. Reeves Ricker and daughter of Brevard, and Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Stevens and children of Easley, S. C.

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Mr. and Mrs. O. R. Treadway left Sunday to spend a few weeks with their children in Knoxville, Tenn.

The WMU of the Baptist Church will hold their regular meeting at the home of Mrs. Roy Henderson Friday, Jan. 4.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Fowler and daughter, Eula, enjoyed Christmas at Shelby with Mr. and Mrs. Grover Fowler and family.

Young people who were at home for the holidays, included Madeline and Robert Henderson, of University of Tennessee, son and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe R. Henderson; Miss Wanda Moore of Asheville, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jess Moore; and Mrs. Marie Collins, daughter of Mrs. Walter Collins.

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**BIG BRANCH (NEAR MARS HILL)**

We are glad to see Mr. Fitz McKay back home from a Charlotte hospital where he underwent an operation three weeks ago. He reports he is doing nicely.

Miss Orpha Willis became the bride of Mr. Henry Harold Demsko on Friday evening of last week in the Mars Hill Baptist Church. Mrs. Demsko is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Willis Sr., of Mars Hill.

Dr. Haynes Baird and his three children spent part of the Christmas holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Baird.

Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Goforth and children spent part of the Christmas holidays with Mrs. Goforth's parents on the Branch.

Mr. and Mrs. Burns Baird and children spent Christmas with Mrs. Baird's parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Allen, in Jacksonville, Fla. They reported having a fine time. They visited other relatives while in Jacksonville.

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Young people who were at home for the holidays, included Madeline and Robert Henderson, of University of Tennessee, son and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe R. Henderson; Miss Wanda Moore of Asheville, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jess Moore; and Mrs. Marie Collins, daughter of Mrs. Walter Collins.

Mrs. Bertha Rose spent Christmas in Asheville with her daughters and families, Mr. and Mrs. Greer Pendland and Mr. and Mrs. Burdas Tiler.

Those visiting Mr. and Mrs. Homer Foster for the holidays were their daughter, Mrs. Grant Phillips and children, Larry, Sandra and Steve, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Kitchen, all of Andrews; Mr. and Mrs. Wade Pike and children of Asheville; Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Phillips of Murphy; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Foster and son of Bluff City, Tenn. Also for dinner on Christmas Day, Mr. and Mrs. Willie Collins and Bill and Mr. and Mrs. John Goufflo.

Mr. Alfred Maney and son, Decker, of Oak Ridge, Tenn., visited Mr. Maney's mother, Mrs. Josie Maney, last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Williamson and son, Johnnie Jr., spent Christmas with Mrs. Williamson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Troy Harrison.

**BIG BRANCH**

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Neal and daughter, Patsy, of Copper Hill, Tenn., spent Christmas holidays with Mrs. Neal's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Collins.

Mr. and Mrs. Max Gillenwater and children of Richmond, Va., spent Christmas with Mr. Gillenwater's mother, Mrs. Bryan Moore.

Miss Shirley Brooks of Bartow, Fla., spent the holidays with her mother, Mrs. Esther Brooks.

Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Barnwell have returned from Chicago, where they spent Christmas with their daughters. They also visited Mrs. Barnwell's sister, Mrs. Gertie Czarnocki, in Detroit, Mich.

Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Evans of Troy, N. C., spent the holidays in their cabin here. While here, Mrs. James Greene of Asheville spent a few days here with them.

Mrs. Queen Leake and daughters, Judy and Molly, spent last weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Troy Harrison.

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