

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

GOD WITH US

International Sunday School Lesson
For December 21, 1952.

Memory Selection: "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus; for he shall save his people from their sins."—Matthew 1: 21.

Lesson Text: Matthew 1: 18-25.

As pointed out in the beginning of this series of studies of Matthew's Gospel, we interrupt our consecutive study to turn back to the first chapter which recounts, in part, the birth of the Messiah. We are, as you recall, attempting to learn about the Christian life from the gospel written by Matthew.

Matthew's account of the nativity is not as well known, or as much loved, as the nativity story recorded in Luke. Though the portion selected for our lesson lacks many of the details of the birth of Christ, it deserves close study.

It might be well to point out, in our consideration of the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel, that the opening verses are more than a mere list of names. Through the list, Matthew was trying to convince his fellow Jews that Jesus was the Messiah which had been foretold in Jewish prophecy.

Of this Gospel, Tarbell writes: "The whole effect of Matthew's Gospel is to present the picture of the Messiah-King to the Jews and to the world at large—the Messiah of promise and prophecy, the Messiah proclaiming his Kingdom, instructing men in spiritual parables and convincing them by his mighty works; the Messiah also as the Man of Sorrows, becoming obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross."

So, Matthew opened his message with the genealogy of Jesus Christ, thereby declaring that he was a descendant of Abraham and of David. This genealogy may be divided into three major parts, each based upon an epochal period of Jewish history: the period extending from the patriarch to the height of the kingdom under David; from David to the Babylonian captivity; and from the captivity the birth of Christ, thus tracing the family line for about 2,000 years.

Following the record of the ancestry of Jesus, Matthew declares, "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise:" and since he had traced Jesus' genealogy from Joseph's point of view, he related the facts of Jesus' birth from the same standpoint. Luke, on the other hand, wrote from Mary's standpoint.

Matthew tells us that Joseph, espoused (or as we would say, engaged) to Mary, discovered before their marriage that Mary was going to give birth to a child. While this discovery must have been a great shock to Joseph, it brought out the best in him. He loved Mary dearly and was not willing to make a public spectacle of her by refusing to marry her. Weighing his decision, the troubled man fell asleep. An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and revealed the truth of the situation to him, as follows:

God's long-promised Messiah was about to be born and Mary had been selected as the maiden to have the honor of being the mother of the Messiah. Though in human form this child had been conceived by the Holy Spirit rather than a human father—so Joseph need have no fear of taking Mary to be his wife. Instead of being a woman of questionable character, Mary was the elect of God, chosen to help fulfill the promise on which the hope of Israel and the world was based.

The angel even named the coming child: "Thou shalt call his name Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins." Joseph was obedient to the will of God. After the revelation was received by him, Joseph "did as the angel had bidden him, and took unto him this wife."

Then, Matthew uses an expression which he frequently used in his gospel: "That it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophets." Isaiah had said, "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign: Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (Isa. 7: 14). Immanuel—God with us! "Jesus," the name by which we best know the son of God, is the Greek form, but its meaning is the same as was applied by Isaiah's Hebrew name—"Immanuel."

Beyond all the gaiety of Christmas and beneath all the decorations with which we connect the day, there is the central message that Jesus was born to save. Christmas assures us that God is with us, loves us and cares for us.

(These commentaries are based on copyrighted outlines produced by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ, U. S. A., and used by permission.)

GO TO SOME CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

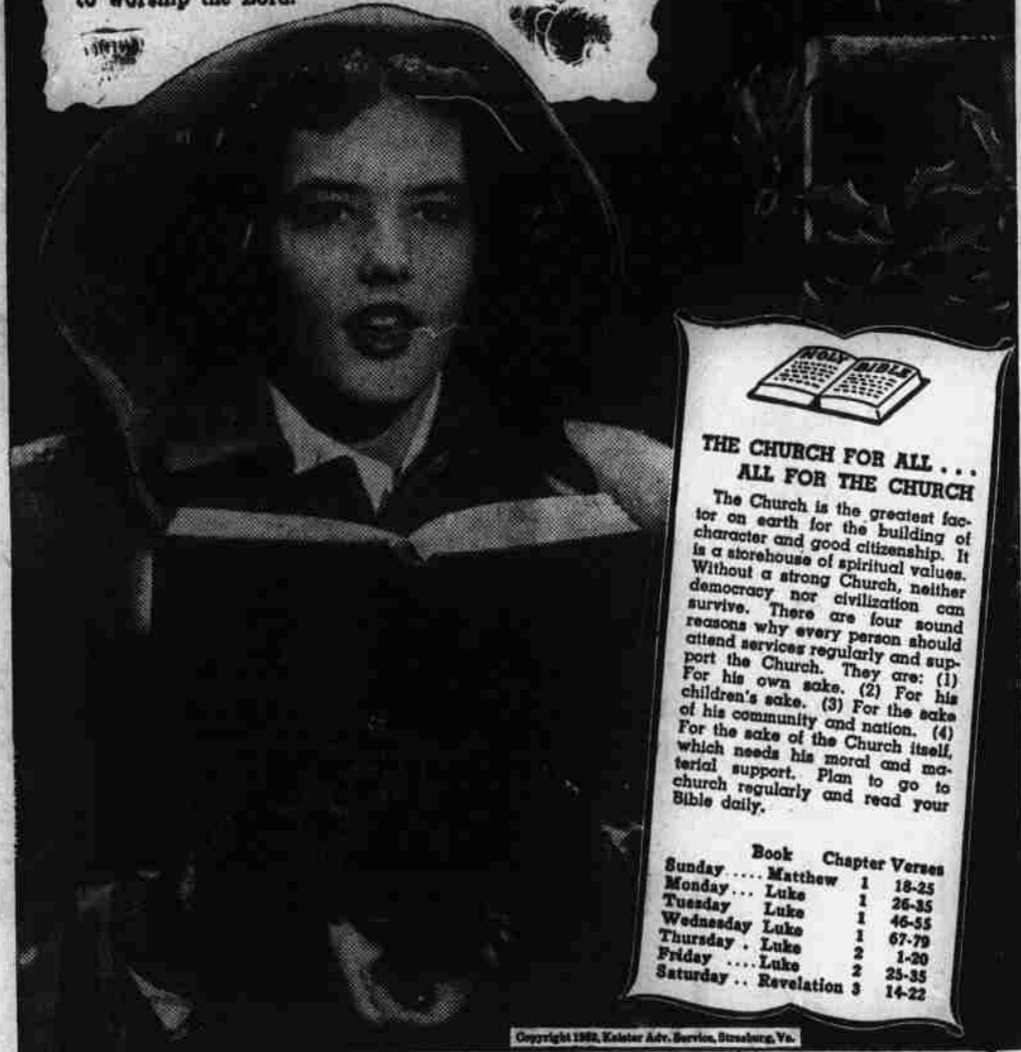
Not many events in history have left their imprint upon the world for centuries. Man has a way of putting behind him the past—forgetting his triumphs, overcoming his defeats—as he faces new challenges in a changing world.

But at Christmas we remember an event of two thousand years ago. Not one of the momentous crises of military or political history! Just the birth of a child . . . in a stable . . . in a sleeping town . . . far away!

Why should such an event, so long ago, still set the world to singing?

It can only be because that event, unlike any other in the world's long history, affected everyone. What happened in Bethlehem twenty centuries ago has never stopped changing people's lives from that day until this!

Because that first Christmas has given you deeper happiness and richer hope—come, with all the faithful, to worship the Lord.



THE CHURCH FOR ALL . . . ALL FOR THE CHURCH

The Church is the greatest factor on earth for the building of character and good citizenship. It is a storehouse of spiritual values. Without a strong Church, neither democracy nor civilization can survive. There are four sound reasons why every person should attend services regularly and support the Church. They are: (1) For his own sake. (2) For his children's sake. (3) For the sake of his community and nation. (4) For the sake of the Church itself, which needs his moral and material support. Plan to go to church regularly and read your Bible daily.

Book	Chapter	Verses
Sunday . . . Matthew	1	18-25
Monday . . . Luke	1	26-35
Tuesday . . . Luke	1	46-55
Wednesday . . . Luke	2	67-79
Thursday . . . Luke	2	1-20
Friday . . . Luke	2	25-35
Saturday . . . Revelation	3	14-22

THIS PAGE MADE POSSIBLE BY THE FOLLOWING FIRMS:

Lynch Funeral Home
PHONE 2811 HERTFORD, N. C.

Simon's
OUTFITTERS FOR THE FAMILY

Robertson's Cleaners
PHONE 2976 HERTFORD, N. C.

DOZIER'S FLORIST
FLOWERS FOR ALL OCCASIONS PHONE 4606

W. M. Morgan Furniture Company
HOME FURNISHINGS HOT POINT APPLIANCES

Winslow-Blanchard Motor Co.
YOUR FORD DEALER

Reed Oil Company
ESSO PRODUCTS

Towe-Webb Motor Company
CHRYSLER-PLYMOUTH SALES AND SERVICE

J. C. Blanchard & Company, Inc.
"BLANCHARD'S" SINCE 1833

CANNON CLEANERS
PHONE 2511 DEPENDABLE SERVICE

Hertford Livestock & Supply Co.
PHONE 2501 HERTFORD, N. C.

Major - Loomis Lumber Company
HERTFORD, N. C.

TOWE OIL COMPANY
SINCLAIR PRODUCTS - U. S. TIRES

Jordan's Barber Shop
BILL JORDAN, Prop.

Hertford Banking Company
MEMBER F. D. I. C.

Hertford Hardware & Supply Co.
PAINTS - HARDWARE - BUILDING MATERIALS

Hertford Furniture Company
"MOVED IN TOWN, IT'S TRUE, BUT STILL RETAIN LOW PRICES, TOO"

The Southern Cotton Oil Company
HERTFORD, N. C.

Perquimans Church Services

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH
C. W. Duling, Pastor
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Evening Worship, 8 o'clock.
Mid-week Services, Wednesday at 8 P. M.

BETHEHEM CHURCH OF CHRIST
Joe Brickhouse, Pastor
First Sunday
11 A. M. and 8 P. M.

BURGESS BAPTIST CHURCH
Colon Jackson, Jr., Pastor
Church services second and fourth Sundays at 11 A. M.
Sunday School at 10:00 A. M.
Church service 7:45 P. M. second and fourth Sundays.

PERQUIMANS CHARGE CHURCHES
H. M. Jamieson, Pastor
First Sunday:
New Hope Church, 11:00 A. M.
Oak Grove Church, 7:00 P. M.
Second Sunday
Winfall Church, 11:00 A. M.
Cedar Grove Church, 10 A. M.
Woodland Church, 7:00 P. M.
Third Sunday
Oak Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.
New Hope Church, 7:00 P. M.
Fourth Sunday
Cedar Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.
Woodland Church, 10 A. M.
Winfall Church, 7:00 P. M.
Fifth Sunday
Woodland Church 11:00 A. M.
Prayer Meeting each Wednesday at Winfall Church, 7:00 P. M.

ANDERSON'S METHODIST CHURCH
C. H. Beale, Pastor
Church School, 10:00 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 A. M., second and fourth Sundays.

WOODVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
Harvey L. Coppidge, Pastor
Church Services on second and fourth Sundays at 11 A. M.
First and Third Sundays at 7:45 P. M.
Sunday School 9:45 A. M.

UP RIVER FRIENDS CHURCH
Elizabeth White, Pastor
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.
Church Services, 11 A. M.
Christian Endeavor, 6:30 P. M.

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Bennie Crawford, Pastor
Sunday School, 10 A. M.
Preaching first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.
Preaching second and fourth Sunday evening at 7:30.

PINEY WOODS FRIENDS CHURCH
D. Virgin Pike, Pastor
Church School 10 A. M.
Morning Worship 11 A. M.
Young People's Meeting 7 P. M.

WHITEVILLE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Caleb Goodwin, Jr., Pastor
Sunday School, 11 A. M., every Sunday except third Sunday.
Church services every third Sunday at 8 P. M.

HERTFORD METHODIST CHURCH
A. L. Chaplin, Pastor
Church School, 9:45 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Youth Fellowship, 6:45 P. M.
Evening Worship, 7:30 P. M.
Mid-week Fellowship, Wednesday at 7:30 P. M.

BAGLEY SWAMP PILGRIM
Coy S. Saunders, Pastor
Sunday School, 10:00 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Young People's Meeting, 6:30 P. M.
Evening Worship, 7:30 o'clock.
Mid-week Services, Thursday at 7:30 P. M.

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Rev. Charles F. Wulf, Rector.
9:45 A. M., Church School, every Sunday.
9:00 A. M., Holy Communion, 1st Sunday.
8:30 A. M., Holy Communion, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays.
11:00 A. M., Holy Communion, 3rd Sunday.
11:00 A. M., Morning Prayer, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays.
10:00 A. M., Holy Communion, Fridays and Saints' Days.

BEREA CHURCH OF CHRIST
Walker Perry, Pastor
2nd and 4th Sunday at 10:30 A. M.
Morning worship on first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.
Evening worship first and third Sundays at 7:30 P. M.

CHAPPELL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Ralph Knight, Pastor
Sunday School, 2 P. M. every first Sunday.
Church Service 3 P. M. every first Sunday.
Sunday school at 11 A. M. every second, third and fourth Sunday.

Go To Church Your Church Any Church But Go