SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

THE SON OF GOD BECOMES MAN.—John 1: 1-51.

Golden TEXT. — The word became flesh, and dwelt among us. John 1: 14.

THE LESSON IN ITS SETTING

Time. — The prologue of John's Gospel entends back to eternity. The birth of Jesus and of John the Baptist took place in B.C. 5. The ministry of John the Baptist and the early ministry of Jesus here recorded are all to be placed in January and February, A.D. 27.

Place. — Practically everything in this lesson took place in Bethany beyond Jordan.

2. The same was in the beginning with God. This is simply an emphatic summary of the preceding verse.

3. All things were made through him; and without him was not anything made that hath been made. Notice carefully that the Word was not made. There was no time when he was without existence.

4. In him was life. No one knows today what life is, but we do know life when we see it. In Christ is every form of life—intellectual, moral, spiritual, and eternal. And the life was the light of men. Here John passes from the relation of the Word to the world at large to his relationship to men.

5. And the light shineth in the darkness. Darkness is the result of sin and the environment in which sin flourishes in the dark men stumble, and are possessed by fear. Yet God's grace does not cease where darkness has fallen. And the darkness apprehended it not. However powerful the hold of sin upon men might be, and however deep the darkness Satan has created, nevertheless that darkness has never been able to extinguish the light of God's truth and grace in Jesus Christ!

6. There came a man, sent from God, whose name was John. "The Baptist was the final recapitulation of all prophetic forces concerning Christ, the great witness of Christ's Advent, the Forerunner."

7. The same came for witness, that he might bear witness of the light, that all might believe through him. "Belief rests on testimony. John's testimony turned men's eyes to Christ and convinced those who believed (cf. 4: 42)."

8. He was not the light, but came that he might bear witness of the light. All ministers and Sunday School teachers should remember that they themselves are "not the light," but are simply sent to "bear witness of the light"—all of our ministry and teaching of the Word is simply to point men to the light, the Lord Jesus Christ.

9. There was the true light, even the light which lighteth every man, coming into the world. "If John meant, as I believe he did mean, that there is a light that lighteth every man, that no man is utterly finally without light; and that, when Jesus came, that light, in some new sense, came into the world, then I think I have here a clear and remarkable statement of the truth that there is some measure of light in every human below, irrespective of incidental differences."

10. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, and the world knew him not. 11. He came unto his own, and they that were his own received him not. When the Creator himself, the Word of God, came into the world, the world knew him not. (Cf. Rom. 1: 19, 20.) The phrase "his own" is more accurately translated in the margin "his own things," and refers principally to the kingdom of Israel, which was his by right, and the land of Israel, which was also his, and all the things pertaining to the temple and the worship of Jehovah, including the priesthood. The phrase, "they that were his own," refers to the people of Israel in general.

12. But as many as received him. "This refers not only to the people of Israel, but to all men elsewhere —the individual relationship takes the place of the national." To them gave he the right to become children of God, even to them that believe on his name. This is one place in the Gospel where we find the phrase, "children of God," which is often found in the same writer's First Epistle (especially chapters 3 and 5). It is true that all men are the children of God by creation, but all men are also prodigals, who have left the Father, who have forfeited their rights, and who, by their sins, have no right to the privileges of sonship.

13. Who were born. The margin more accurately translates "who were begotten," this birth referring, of course, not to our first and natural birth, but to our second and spiritual birth, by which we are made the sons of God, which spiritual birth is one not of blood, i.e., it is not a physical birth, the blood being mentioned as the seat of natural life. Nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, i.e., not by the human will controlled by fleshly nature. But of God. "The higher, spiritual, eternal life is the immediate gift of God. To obtain it, that divine begetting is needed by which God communicates his own nature."

14. And the Word became flesh. The Word did not cease to be God when he became flesh, but when he was made in the likeness of sinful flesh (Rom. 8: 3), which means, of course, that he became a man, he then was both God and man. And dwelt among us. "The original word describes properly the occupation of a temporary habitation. The tent or tabernacle was easily fixed and easily removed, and hence it furnished a natural term for man's bodily frame."—(And we beheld his glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father.) **The glory of God is such part of his majesty, and power, and grace as men are able to behold.** Men saw in Christ such manifestations of power, holiness, and grace, and majesty that he had a glory like unto that which men beheld in God the Father. Full of grace and truth. "In the Old Testament, the two essential features which, in John's view, distinguish the human life and the Word made flesh.

15. John beareth witness of him. The Baptist's testimony to Christ is recorded by all of the evangelists (Matt. 3: 1-12; Mark 1: 1-8; Luke 3: 1-20.). And crieth, saying, This was he of whom I said, He that cometh after me is become before me. In other words, his successor has become his predecessor. Though he came after John in point of time, he really became one superior to John in influence, in holiness of character, and in finality of his mission. For he was before me. "The original phrase is very remarkable: it expresses not only relative, but absolute priority.

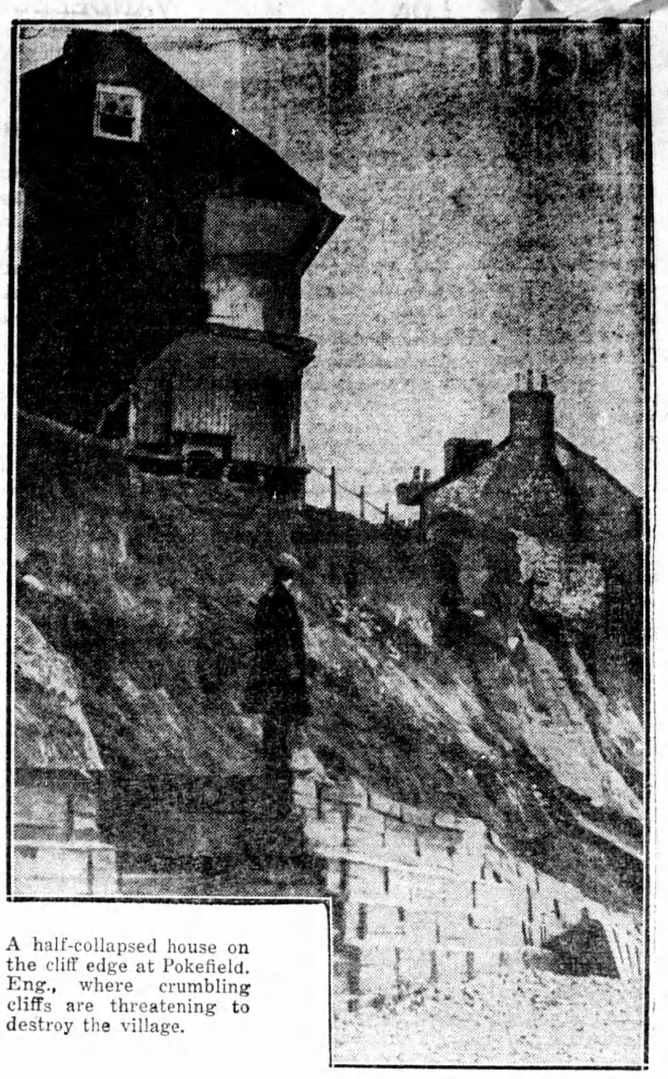
16. For of his fulness we all received. "As Christ has all the fullness of God (Col. 1: 19; 2: 9), the church has all the fullness of Christ. John is here looking back and stating that he and all the other believers were simply empty vessels which Christ had filled. And grace for grace. "Each blessing appropriated became the foundation of a greater blessing."

17. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. Grace and truth are superior to law and the One who brought grace and truth to man is infinitely superior to the one through whom the law was given.

18. No man hath seen God at any time. The meaning here is that no man has ever beheld God with his physical eye, because infinite spirit cannot be the object of human, natural vision (Deut. 4: 12). The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father. Literally the preposition here is "into," "suggesting the tender, intimate relation between children and parents or bosom friends. Christ's relationship to the Father is one of closest fellowship in knowledge and love." Christ as the only begotten Son of God, knowing God as no other being ever could know him, living with God from eternity, dwelling in the very bosom of God's love, is certainly one who can unveil the glory and truth of God the Father.

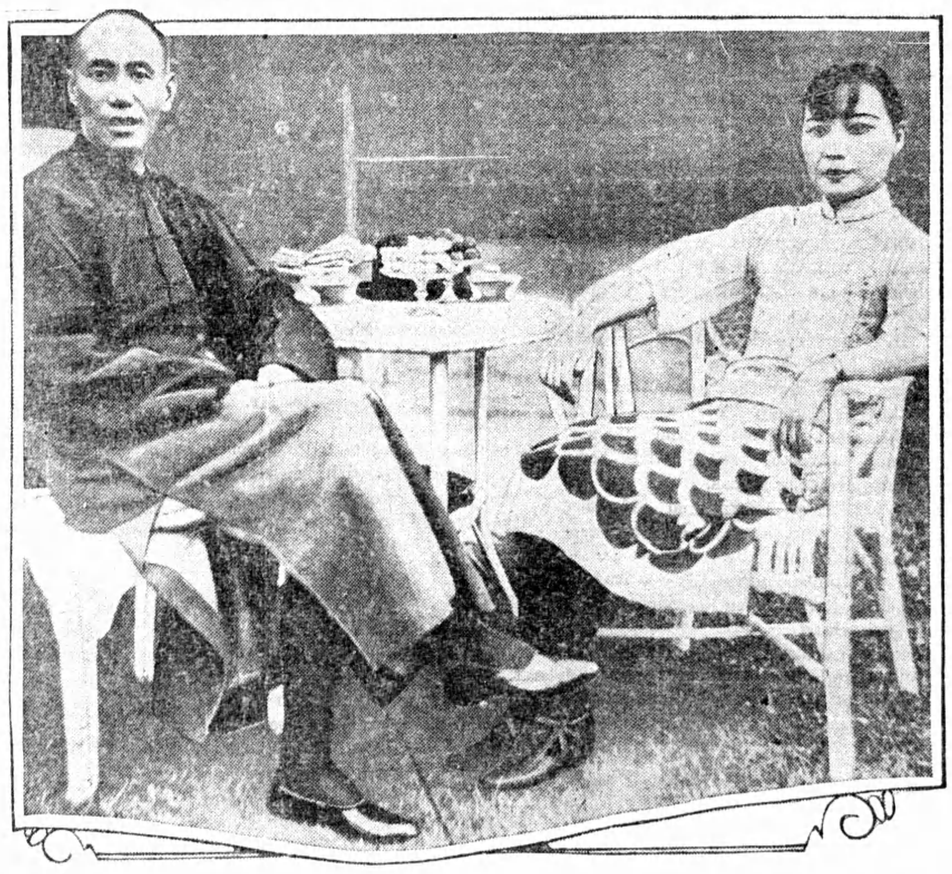
C—3

Village Threaened



A half-collapsed house on the cliff edge at Pokefield. Eng., where crumbling cliffs are threatening to destroy the village.

Mystery Surrounds Fate of Chinese Premier



Widely differing reports as to the fate of General Chiang Kai-Shek feature dispatches from the far east today. W. L. Donald, the Australian who has been acting as intermediary between the rebel marshal, Chang-Hauch-Liang, and the Nanking government, declares he saw the premier alive and well. Earlier reports from Japanese sources quote Chang as announcing he had executed Chiang. Transcript of Chang's radio speech, released by Nanking, contains no such statement. The Nanking government has rushed 150,000 soldiers to Sian-Fu, headquarters of the rebel war lord, with orders to rescue Kai-Shek if he is alive, or take revenge. "Get Chang," their orders say. This photograph shows Chiang Kai-Shek with his wife, who is a graduate of a woman's college in the United States.

Missionary Saved From Bandits

Kidnapped by bandits last February, Father Joseph Clarence Burns (marked by X), American missionary, is shown here following his rescue by Japanese troops. He is pictured here in front of the Japanese gendarmerie at Antung, Manchukuo, with an officer of the station at his right and a fellow missionary behind him.

Credit Guernsey Cow With Butterfat Record

ONEONTA, N.Y. — John Middlesworth, superintendent of the Cathedral Farms here, said Friday that Cathedral Rosalie, Guernsey cow, has broken the world's record for butterfat production by a Guernsey with 1,157.29 pounds this year.

Middlesworth said the old record of 1,155.8 was set last year by Norinda Milkmaid, of the Lockshire Farms at Cressy, Rosalie, with 25 days to go yet this year, should set a 1936 mark of about 1,240 pounds, Middlesworth said.

She is milked three times daily. The cow is owned by H. H. Buckley. Rosalie set a record for May, Middlesworth said, with 2,413 pounds of milk, of which 124.51 were butterfat.

Speed

(Leonard Lyons, in New York Post)

Funk & Wagnalls, the publishers, phoned Dixie Tighe Tuesday and asked her to write a book for them —a biography of the new King of England. "We want 50,000 words—and no padding. And we must have the completed manuscript by Saturday. Will you do it?" . . . "Oh, no — I can't," Mis Tgihe replied. "You see, that would leave me Thursday, Friday and Saturday free and I just wouldn't know what to do with the idle time!"

NOT A TREATMENT

(Indianapolis News)

A horse will eat an apple a day with never a thought of keeping the doctor away.

Insofar as actual quantity is concerned, Japan is self-sufficient in wheat, having produced over 47,900,000 bushels in 1935, but 16,318,000 bushels were imported for blending. In spite of the fact that Canada was excluded by trade policies from the market for half of 1935, the Dominion supplied 1,929,029 bushels in that year.

Made Burglar Take Off His Trousers

LONDON. — Mr. Sidney Herbert Stanley, baker and confectioner, of Clapham Common, S.W., found an intruder in his house; he hit him on the head with an iron bracket, made him take off his trousers and shoes, and then locked him in his shop while he telephoned the police.

At London Sessions recently, the man, Arthur James Anderson, aged 30, baker formerly employed by Mr. Stanley, pleaded guilty to breaking and entering the house on November 15. He was sentenced to 18 months' hard labor.

A Pair of Queens

Pictured after their coronation are the queens of the north and south, who will provide incentive for their respective teams in the New Year's Day gridiron classic—the Orange Bowl game at Miami, Fla. "Queen of the north" (Left) is Miss Leontine McGregor of Detroit; her majesty of the south is Miss Joan Taylor of Miami. We almost forgot to teh you that the teams are Mississippi State and Duquesne University.

Churchill's Daughter to Wed

Have Vic and Sarah made up their minds? Miss Churchill, dancing daughter of the British statesman, Winston Churchill, who recently figured as a possible leader of a new government for the British Isles during the abdication flurry, and Victor Oliver, United States actor and orchestra leader, have announced wedding bells for December 23.