

Sunday School Lesson

January 5. Lesson 1, Childhood of Jesus—Matthew 2: 10-23. Golden Text—Thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.—Matthew 1: 21.

- ANALYSIS**
 I. THE VISIT OF THE WISE MEN, 10-12.
 II. FLIGHT INTO EGYPT, 13-15.
 III. RETURN TO NAZARETH, 16-23.

INTRODUCTION—In beginning these studies from the first gospel, one may recall the remark made by a distinguished French scholar, Renan, who said: "The Gospel according to St. Matthew is the most remarkable book that has ever been written." It provides as well a wonderful picture of the Messiah, and shows how Jesus was the fulfillment of the prophecies of the Old Testament. The writer makes it clear that the Christian is the heir of all the promises of Israel, and the true interpreter of scripture.

I. THE VISIT OF THE WISE MEN, 10-12. V. 10.—There are two accounts of the birth of Jesus, one in Matthew and the other in Luke, and these together give us a clear view of this most marvelous event in the history of the world. The actual date is uncertain; but it is probable that Jesus was born several years before A.D. 1. This seems to follow from the fact that Herod was still living when Jesus was born, and it would appear that Herod died in B.C. 4. Some think that the records of the stars may also help to fix the date, but this is not at all sure. We must also read the account in Luke 2: 2 where the events are connected with the movements in the Roman Empire.

V. 11.—The Wise Men or Magi, were a Median tribe, who devoted much time to the study of the stars. They were shipped the heavenly objects and thought they could tell from the progress of the stars how things were to happen. The visit of these men represents the first fruits of the universal mission of Christianity, and it is a fine tribute paid to Jesus as the Redeemer of the world. Bethlehem is a small town south of Jerusalem, and according to Matthew, there were predictions that the promised Messiah was to come out of this place. Luke mentions the place of birth, but omits the prophecy. There is now a famous church built over the spot where Jesus is said to have been born, called the Church of the Holy Nativity.

V. 12.—Herod, who is mentioned here, was also called the Great, and was King over the whole of Judea; but he was not complete ruler, since he had to acknowledge the sovereignty of Rome. He must be distinguished from Herod Antipas his son. He was an able ruler, but unscrupulous and cruel.

II. FLIGHT INTO EGYPT, 13-15. V. 13.—Egypt always had close association with Palestine, and it was not unusual for Israelites in time of peril to turn to Egypt for help. The flight into Egypt was a much richer and more civilized land, and at this time there was a large number of Jews there, especially in Alexandria, which was said to have one-fifth of its population consist of Jews. We do not learn from any other source of the visit of Jesus to the land of the Nile.

V. 14.—This story of the flight has been made familiar by many pictures. The verse leaves the impression of haste, fear, and concealment. The parents remain in the land of Egypt till Herod dies.

V. 15.—One of the main features of Matthew is the use of the Old Testament. He was writing for Christian Jews who were in need of Bible proof to uphold their beliefs when attacked by the Jews. One of the oft-repeated sentences is, "That it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet." The passage here quoted is from Hosea 11: 2.

III. RETURN TO NAZARETH, 16-23. V. 16.—The massacre of the innocents has often been portrayed by the artists, and it is doubtful if these are always historically accurate. Probably the number of children murdered was small, as there would not be very many younger than two years in a small town like Bethlehem. However, it was a very cruel deed, and quite in keeping with what is known from other sources of the character of this man. We do not read in the gospels that Jesus ever came back to Bethlehem, but it is interesting to wonder whether he ever returned to see the inn in which he had been born.

V. 17.—Again we note the tendency to call attention to the fulfillment of the prophecies of scripture. Ramah has been sometimes identified with a small village Er-Rama, about five miles north of Jerusalem.

V. 22.—On their return to Palestine, the parents remained in the south, in

Judea, but they are warned in a dream that the danger is not over, and they go north. We must try to keep clearly in our mind the geography of Palestine, which is divided into three parts: Judea south; Samaria next and Galilee north. The kingdom had been divided after Herod's death among his sons. Archelaus received Judea and Samaria, and ruled so badly that after eight years he was sent into exile, and Rome assumed direct control. However, Galilee remained under Herod Antipas till after the death of Jesus.

V. 23.—Nazareth, where Jesus was brought up, was an important town and it lay on the route of the travel from Egypt to the East. Here Jesus would see the regiments of soldiers passing, and he would hear of the events happening in the world. The scenery also was beautiful.

Markets for Alberta Coal Edmonton Journal (Ind. Cons.) (Mr. Neate, of the Dominion Fuel Board, warns Alberta coal producers that it is necessary for the operators to be on their guard against losing ground in the Manitoba market through their anxiety to supply the province further east.) The competition of the American mines in Manitoba has not been of a fair character. They have persistently dumped their product there. Repeated efforts have been made within the past five years to have the Canadian anti-dumping act amended so as to prevent the practice of importing American supplies at set prices which bore little relation to those at the mines. When the Minister of Finance introduced his 1925 budget he announced that the desired changes would be made. But short-sighted criticism offered by Progressive and some other Western members led him to withdraw the resolution of which he gave notice. Since then, though the Government has had its attention drawn frequently to the injustice that was being done the Alberta industry, no action has been taken. The situation demands correction immediately.

An Old Myth Exploded.

Manitoba Free Press (Lib.): Figures are now available which bring to a definite conclusion the long-drawn-out discussion regarding the existing scale of railway freight rates on grain. As is well known, these rates were set under the Crows Nest Pass agreement in the teeth of the railways which have always insisted that the carriage of grain on such terms involved them in loss. . . . This fall, however, there came a chance. Special circumstances, the chief of which was the short western crop, brought about a sharp and alarming decrease in railway earnings. Sir Henry Thornton and Mr. E. W. Beatty both issued statements on the situation, and it became at once apparent that both railways were depending upon grain for a large part of their net profits. Neither railway has yet issued a statement explaining how they could at one and the same time carry grain at a loss and make their profits out of that carriage.

It is less important for the stock market to be on the up-grade than on the level.—Virginian-Pilot.
 What are you fellows going to do now that actresses have taken to slapping your faces. Have they no sense of chivalry left?—Mr. Bernard Shaw.

It Is Dangerous To Be Beautiful

By PEGGY O'NEIL

"My beauty has been my ruin," a woman of 35 said to me the other afternoon. "If I hadn't been beautiful I wouldn't have been so cocksure that another man would come along after I turned the last one down.

"Like many other beautiful girls I played fast and loose with the affections of my admirers, confident that I would never lack for a fresh one. I did not think there would ever be a time when I would be left on the shelf, a lonely woman.

"If I hadn't had more attention to cultivating my mind. Even now that my looks have faded I might still be a charming and desirable companion for some man.

"But I wasted my opportunities—confident that beauty was everything." That is what this woman told me in a burst of frank self-revelation.

Test of Experience To-day it is the fashion to rate feminine beauty as one of the most highly-priced commodities. A really beautiful girl is said to have the world at her feet. There is scarcely any door that is closed to her.

In business and in love it is the popular belief that she starts with the dice heavily loaded in her favor. But how far from truth this is, is proved by actual experience. You have only to look round at your own circles of friends. How many beautiful girls do you know who are successfully and happily married?

Men court them and pay them attention—yes, but it is the other sort, the homely ones that they mostly marry.

And how many beautiful girls do you know who are holding down big business and professional positions? I know a good many women who have been particularly successful in commercial careers. They are capable, attractive women, but few could be called beautiful.

Ruined Her Life I remember meeting a girl some time ago who had won a prize in a beauty competition. If ever there was a girl who was ruined by her looks, it was she.

Formerly she was a sweet, unpretentious girl with a gentle disposition. The public recognition of her beauty soon changed all this, and she became arrogant, self-centred, and impossibly conceited.

She lost her job because she concentrated more on her looks than on her employer's business; she jilted her fiancé because she thought he was not good enough for her; she almost broke her mother's heart with her unreasoning vanity.

To-day this girl is working as a packer in a factory. Illness has deprived her of her looks. She has, nothing left.

WHAT New York IS WEARING

Illustrated Dressmaking Lesson Furnished with Every Pattern
 By Annebelle Worthington



2935
 address your order to Wilson Pattern Service, 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto. Patterns sent by an early mail.

No, I think that on the average the moderately attractive girl—very often even the downright plain girl—has a better chance of happiness than her beautiful sister.

I look around me and I see the plain girls winning all along the line. They have husbands and children. They are placid and comfortable instead of painfully living up to their good looks.

What Really Counts After all, when a man marries he does not want to be always looking at a beauty advertisement of a fashion plate. It is very nice to be seen out with a beautiful girl at the theatre or at a dance. But when one comes down to the stern practicalities of domestic life the average man wants a good deal more.

No girl, however plain she is, need ever despair of getting a husband. A dozen times a day when I see married couples together I say to myself, "Now, what on earth did he see in that woman?"

One sees good-looking, smart men married to the dowdiest and most uninteresting creatures imaginable. But it does not need to seek far to find the reason. The plain girls have made it their business to cultivate charm.

And that, after all, is what really counts.—Montreal Standard.

Dad (assisting little Alice with her homework)—"If I gave you five oranges and you had one, how many oranges would you have?"
 Alice—"I dunno. We always do our sums in apples."

Fragrance

You walked through a garden—
 Do you remember—
 But that was in June.
 And this is November.
 And you did not notice
 Me at all,
 For I was a tulip
 Beside a wall.
 But my ashes still breathe
 Of a lady fair,
 Who plucked me and tucked me in
 In her hair.
 A lady who wept
 That you did not remember
 You kissed her in June—
 When it came November.
 —Judy Shea in Chicago Tribune.

The National Debt

Toronto Globe (Lib.): Veterans ill or disabled should be accorded hospital treatment or pension assistance with a maximum of generosity and a minimum of red tape. Ex-soldiers who are actually sick should be instantly entitled to hospital treatment upon the mere evidence of the illness itself. If there is to be gagging and quibbling over when the disease first started, let the doctors do the arguing among themselves after the sick man is safely inside. . . . Those who offered their lives in the days of national crisis should not need to apply litter and yon and be passed about from pillar to post in their own hour of need. They served the nation. Let the nation repay as best it can.

Wheat Pool and Protection

Saskatoon Star-Phoenix (Lib.): European countries, once heavy buyers and Canadian wheat, have sought to fight the pool and encourage home production by putting high tariffs on imported wheat. In 1925 France charged a duty of 15 cents a bushel on foreign wheat. Germany and Italy admitted it free. Today the duties are: France, 53 cents; Germany, 48¢ cents; Italy 73¢ cents. European protectionists and reluctance to pay the price asked for Canadian wheat imposed a severe test on the pool during the 1928-29 selling season.

It's our guess that even if long skirts do succeed in coming in, they won't stay long.—Detroit Free Press.

Britain Plans Big Building Program

Construction Work Amounting to \$100,000,000 is Announced

HELP UNEMPLOYED

Municipalities, Railways, Gas and Water Projects Involved

London.—Construction work in Great Britain amounting to more than \$100,000,000 has been approved by the Government in connection with its plans to alleviate unemployment, and the Government will make a total contribution to this work of about \$46,000,000. This was revealed in a statement issued by R. Hon. J. H. Thomas, Lord Privy Seal and Minister of Employment.

This work involves municipalities, railway companies, gas companies and water supply companies. "It is generally required that all materials needed for the state-assisted works shall, so far as is practicable, be of United Kingdom origin, and all manufactures will be United Kingdom manufacture," the statement emphasized. This stipulation is subject to such exceptions as the Government Department concerned may find to be necessary or desirable in any particular case, having regard to all the circumstances, including comparative prices of British and foreign articles.

"If the necessary supplies are not purchased in the United Kingdom, they are to be secured from the overseas part of the Empire wherever possible," the statement declares.

Road Schemes

The Government has further approved, under the trunk road program, road schemes costing another \$45,000,000. Under the whole five-year program of road work the schemes approved total \$75,000,000. The road fund liability in respect of these schemes is estimated at \$90,000,000 and employment will in this respect be afforded equivalent to the employment of 100,000 men for one year.

At the same time the Minister announced to form a colonial development fund, which would enable the carrying out of great construction projects in the colonial Empire lying outside the Dominions. This would directly benefit British labor by the demand for materials from the British manufacturers.

The Government's employment plans therefore call for expenditure of upwards of \$150,000,000 within Great Britain, and the construction of costly development works in the colonies, notably Africa, benefiting Britain by employment equal to the employment of about 190,000 men a year.

A WIND

A captain of a trawler in the English Channel once told the Bishop of Oxford that time and again, when the catch was in, and they seemed becalmed, there often was a wind higher up, "unfelt" on deck. He kept his sail's peak up, and headed for the haven, and when morning came found himself near home. So with us in the monotony of daily tasks the wind of God's Spirit up above will slowly bring us home.—John A. Hutton.

PATHS

The best path through life is the high road, which initiates us at the right moment into all experience. Exceptional itineraries are suspicious, and matter for anxiety. What is normal is at once most convenient, most honest, and most wholesome. Cross roads may tempt us for one reason or another, but it is very seldom that we do not come to regret having taken them.

According to London Opinion, 13 huns in Surrey are called "The Jelly Farmer." The suggestion seems to be that a jelly farmer is one who sells his farm and opens an inn.—Detroit News.

While bathing at a French seaside resort, an income-tax collector was attacked by a shoal of jelly-fish. Some jelly-fish evidently have more backbone than taxpayers.—The Humorist.

Does It Ever Rain Fishes?

Baron Munchausen, the prince of tellers of "big stories," never told of a rain of fishes. But a certain John Kendrick Bangs, feeling that this was an oversight, wrote such an account for him under the subtitle "Recent Adventures." Bangs says that his narrator-hero when a boy secured a large quantity of gunpowder and planted it in a fishpond. When this was touched off the whole pond was blown high in air and after some days the contents of the pond, containing many fishes, rained down on the astonished people.

Now the interesting thing is that an imagined rain of fishes is not necessary, for there is a multitude of true accounts of such rains. Having a penchant for the unusual in natural history, for many years I collected and filed away accounts of rains of fishes. When I came to publish them I found I had 48 accounts ranging from A.D. 360 to 1901, and in space from America (eight accounts), Great Britain (ten), Germany (eight), France and Greece (one each), through India (ten), Ceylon (three), Malaysia (two) and the South Seas (one).

The publication of this article aroused much interest and letters came in calling my attention to overlooked references and giving personal experience. These accounts I brought together in another article. There were 26 of them but I think that there are duplicates and that I have established only 23 new falls.

There are thus put on record about 71 accounts (more or less well authenticated) of rains of fishes. These accounts in range of time and space make for sure testimony as to the actuality of the occurrence of this phenomenon. I have personally never been so fortunate as to experience or even witness such a rain; but I cannot disregard the evidence recorded by scientific men.

Since the publication of my previous articles there have come to me two accounts of falls of fishes which are so well authenticated that it seems worth while to put them on record. The first, a personal experience, was related to me by Mr. Richard Hoadley Tingley, of Port Chester, New York, whom I have known personally for a number of years. This fall occurred on May 15, 1900, on the outskirts of Providence, Rhode Island. A severe thunder-storm with a high wind brought a heavy downpour of rain and with it living squirming perch and bull-pouts, from two to four and a half inches long, which fell on yards and streets—covering about a quarter of an acre. Mr. Tingley says that he was out in the storm and was pelted not only with raindrops but with fish as well. The boys collected these fishes by the painful and sold them, while a reporter on the Providence Journal gathered a bucketful of them and these were displayed in various shop windows on one of the principal business streets of the city.

In July, 1928, I heard of a fall of fishes near Tarboro in my native state of North Carolina. I have spent some time in getting the facts, and even more time in getting the corroborating reports of those who persuaded the reporter to give to me the forms. Here follows this fall of fishes, as collected by me.

On May 18, 1928, a rain of fish fell on the farm of Mr. S. N. C. This farm is operated by Mr. W. J. Doughtie, and from him and his wife I have gotten the following details. A heavy downpour of rain came on this day. There was very little wind but there were fishes, hundreds of them. No one was out in the rain, but immediately after the shower the children went out and began waiting about in the puddles. They found many little fishes, some of them alive and swimming. The fish were pretty uniform in size, about one and a half to two inches long. Mr. Doughtie estimates that there were several hundreds of these little fishes scattered over two or three acres of ground. This spot is some three quarters of a mile from the nearest water course, which is not known to contain any number of fishes.

Now for the explanation of these and all other rains of fishes. High winds, particularly whirlwinds, pick up water, fishes and all, and carry them inland where, when the velocity of the air and clouds becomes relatively lowered, the fishes fall to earth. Can anyone who has seen a water-spout doubt that it could pick up and carry off fishes? No one, I believe, who has experienced or even seen the prodigious effects and carrying power of a land tornado, can have any doubt of the ability of a waterspout, a water tornado, to bring about a "Rain of Fishes."—Dr. E. W. Gudger, Billo-grapher and Associate in Ichthyology, American Museum of Natural History, in Scientific Monthly.

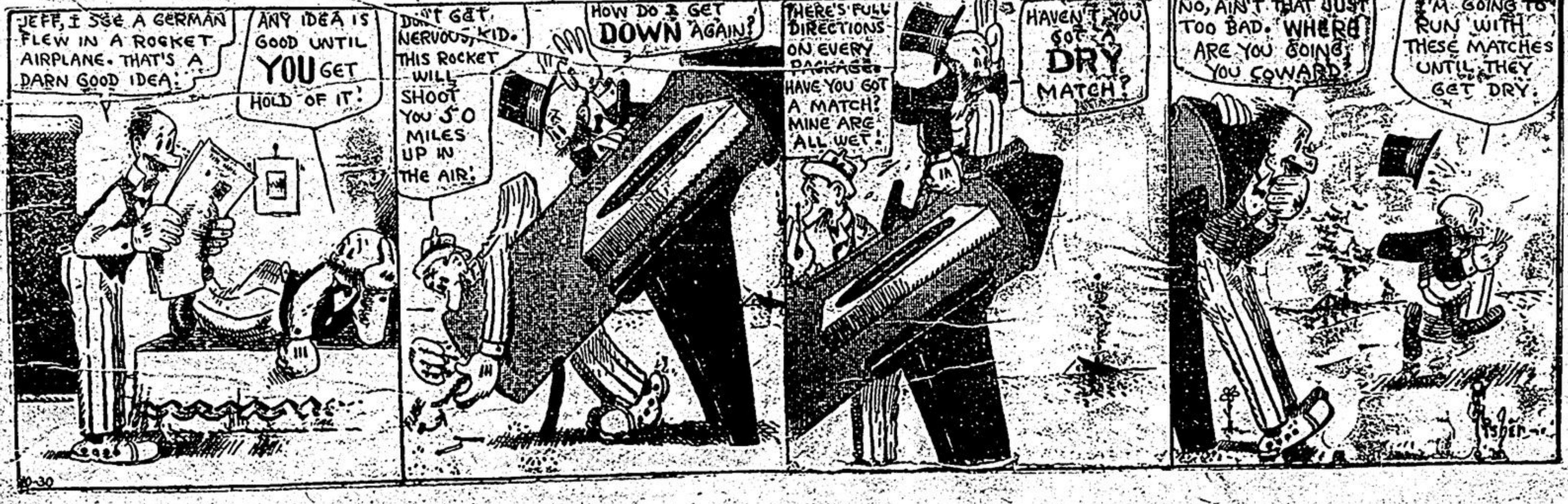
HOPE

All men are guests where Hope doth hold the feast.—Gascogne.
 Hope, thou muse of strong desire,
 Bickerstaffe.

HARD SPEECH

Hard speech between those who have loved is hideous in the memory, like the sight of greatness and beauty sunk into vice and rage.

MUTT AND JEFF— By BUD FISHER



Love Sends a Gift of Wet Matches.

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