

Christmas CAKE



At Christmas time of all times, you want the best, whether its wearing apparel or baking, and speaking of baking, have you ever tried Stover's Christmas Cake — It's delicious — made from the choicest ingredients — Blended to a delectable flavour.

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Cakes *Cookies*

Puddings *Mince Pie*

THE STOUFFVILLE BAKERY

Dad is home again!

Christmas candles will burn brighter this year and Christmas turkeys have a new and special flavour for the thousands of Canadians who will be sitting down to their first Christmas dinner with the family circle complete. And many a childish face will glow in the candlelight because "dad" takes his place at the head of the table again — with his strange tales from Italy, from France, Germany or the Pacific.

But even as the candles are lit and the heaped plates go round, Canadians will pause and remember — remember those family groups that will never be complete — those thousands of desolate and homeless in Europe — that great army of children who have been frightened and hurt and starved by a war not of their making.

Let us therefore make a solemn resolve never again to allow the powers of darkness — greed, selfishness and mistrust — to put out the candles of Christmas, those brave lights that symbolize the warm love and kindness that came into the world two thousand years ago.



THE HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER COMMISSION OF ONTARIO

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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson for December 23
Golden Text.—Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.—Luke 2: 14

The Lesson as a Whole

Once more we are called upon to consider with reverence and gratitude the wonderful fact of the nativity of our blessed Lord and the precious truth of His incarnation—the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh (1 Tim. 3: 16). For the birth of Mary's child was the fulfillment of the promise given when the arch-deceiver was put under the curse in Eden. At Bethlehem the Seed of the woman came as a babe into the world to accomplish the work of our redemption. But He who thus assumed our humanity, apart from sin, was actually the eternal Word (John 1: 1, 2) the "only begotten of the Father" (John 1: 14) who stooped in grace to be made like unto those whom He was to own as His brethren, in order that He might free us from the judgment hanging over us and so open for us the gates of Paradise (Heb. 2: 14, 15, 17).

The supernatural events attending His advent, are all in perfect accord with the importance of the birth of the promised Saviour, our Kinsman-Redeemer. (Lev. 25: 48) and require no explanation, nor do they need any apology. Unbelieving skeptics may sneer and demand an explanation in accord with natural law. Those who are taught of the Holy Spirit receive the plain declaration of the Word of God without question, because all are in perfect harmony with His revealed purpose. Faith receives without difficulty, where mere human reason refuses to accept without full explanation. When we realize that "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself" (2 Cor. 5: 19), we bow in adoration and thanksgiving before the Babe in Bethlehem's manger, knowing that in Him we see the manifestation of divine love intervening on behalf of sinful man. Mary was not the mother of God, as Romanists declare, but she was the chosen vessel to be the mother of the humanity of Him who is both God and man in one blessed and glorious person. Bethlehem thus became the preparation for Calvary, where the work of redemption was accomplished.

Verse by Verse

Verse 1.—"There went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed." This was God's way of overruling in the affairs of the nations so as to bring Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, their native city, in accordance with the prophecy uttered by Micah seven centuries before it came to pass (Mic. 5: 2). By the decree of Augustus practically the whole world was set in motion, and God's Word was fulfilled to the letter.

Verse 2.—"The taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria." Some years ago Biblical critics thought they had found a discrepancy here, as there was a record of this man being appointed ruler of Syria a number of years later. But further investigation brought to light the fact that he had also held the governorship before, at the very time indicated here.

Verse 3.—"Every one into his own city." This was the provision that obliged Mary and Joseph to go to Bethlehem at what might have seemed to both a most inconvenient time.

Verse 4.—"Joseph.....was of the house and lineage of David." In fact, had things been in order in Israel, Joseph would have been heir to the throne of David, as his genealogy in Matthew 1 makes clear.

Verse 5.—"Mary his espoused wife." While Joseph cared for and threw the mantle of his protection about Mary, she remained a virgin, although an expectant mother. Matthew's account corroborates this.

Verse 6.—"While they were there, the Gays were accomplished." Thus the word of prophecy was fulfilled. That which had been foreordained of God so long before came to pass in His due time.

Verse 7.—"She brought forth her first-born son.....and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." To what depths of humiliation had the eternal Son of God stooped! He who created all things chose to be born in a stable and cradled in a manger. Doubtless, those better able to pay for accommodations than Joseph and Mary filled every available space in the inn. There was no room there for the Saviour of the world!

Verse 8.—"There were.....shepherds.....keeping watch over their flock by night." These lowly men were destined to be the first to get the glad news of the Redeemer's birth—He who is Himself the Shepherd of Israel (Psa. 80: 1; 23: 1) and who declared Himself to be the good Shepherd who came to lay down His life for the sheep (John 10: 11, 14). Elsewhere, as the risen One, He is designated the great Shepherd (Heb. 13: 20) and, as the coming One, the chief Shepherd (1 Pet. 5: 4). How fitting it was that His advent should first be announced to men who were engaged in guarding their flocks of sheep!

Verse 9.—"The angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them." It must have been a scene of incomparable splendor. So marvelous was it that the simple men were filled, for the moment, with terror, not comprehending what was actually taking place.

Verse 10."Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." It was a message of comfort and good cheer that the heavenly visitor brought as he announced the coming into the world of Him who was to bring blessing to untold millions of people.

Verse 11."Unto you is born.....a Saviour.....Christ, the Lord." Micah's prophecy had been fulfilled

at long last in David's city. He had been born who was to be the Saviour of all who would avail themselves of His grace. Christ, that is, Messiah, the anointed of Jehovah, the Lord of all.

Verse 12.—"Ye shall find the babe lying in a manger." Not in some royal palace or a rich man's mansion was the Saviour to be found, but in a stable, probably a cave cut in the limestone rock, lying in a manger, where the cattle had fed. What lowliness was thus manifested in His birth, which, as one of our poets has said,

"Would no glory borrow."

No majesty from earth.

Verse 13.—"A multitude of the heavenly host." The announcing angel was no longer alone, but a vast throng of these glorious beings joined with him in praising God for the wondrous way in which He had intervened on man's behalf.

Verse 14.—"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Some render it "to men of good will," and it is true that it is only such who really enjoy the peace of heart that Jesus Christ gives to all who follow Him. But it is to sinful men, hitherto in rebellion against God, that He offers peace through the sacrifice His Son has made. He came seeking sinners and therefore the Authorized Version here seems more in accord with the Gospel message.

The Heart of the Lesson

The angel's message, as heard by the shepherds on the hillside near Bethlehem, that first Christmas night, was the proclamation of God's good will to sinful men, offering them peace through the One who had come from the glory that He had with the Father before the world was (John 17: 5) and united our humanity with His eternal deity in order that He might "give his life a ransom for many" (Matt. 20:

Uxbridge Man was Injured in Accident

Harry Pritchard, R.R.3, Uxbridge was severely injured Saturday evening when he was in collision with a car driven by Norman A. Graham, Omemee. The accident occurred in Oshawa.

Graham is facing a charge of reckless driving. Pritchard sustained a broken leg, broken collarbone and possible internal injuries.

According to police the accident occurred when Pritchard, who had parked his car on the side of the road, was changing a tire, when the car driven by Graham, came from the rear and collided with him. Dr. F.A.Cuddy, Whitby, was called and ordered the man removed to the Oshawa General Hospital.

The accident was investigated by P.C.'s R. Love and John Thomas, of the Whitby police.

Palestine is now the home of 1,035,154 habitants. The world-wide Zionist movement is working on a project which would allow this ancient country to again become fertile and raise its population to between 6,000,000 and 7,000,000.

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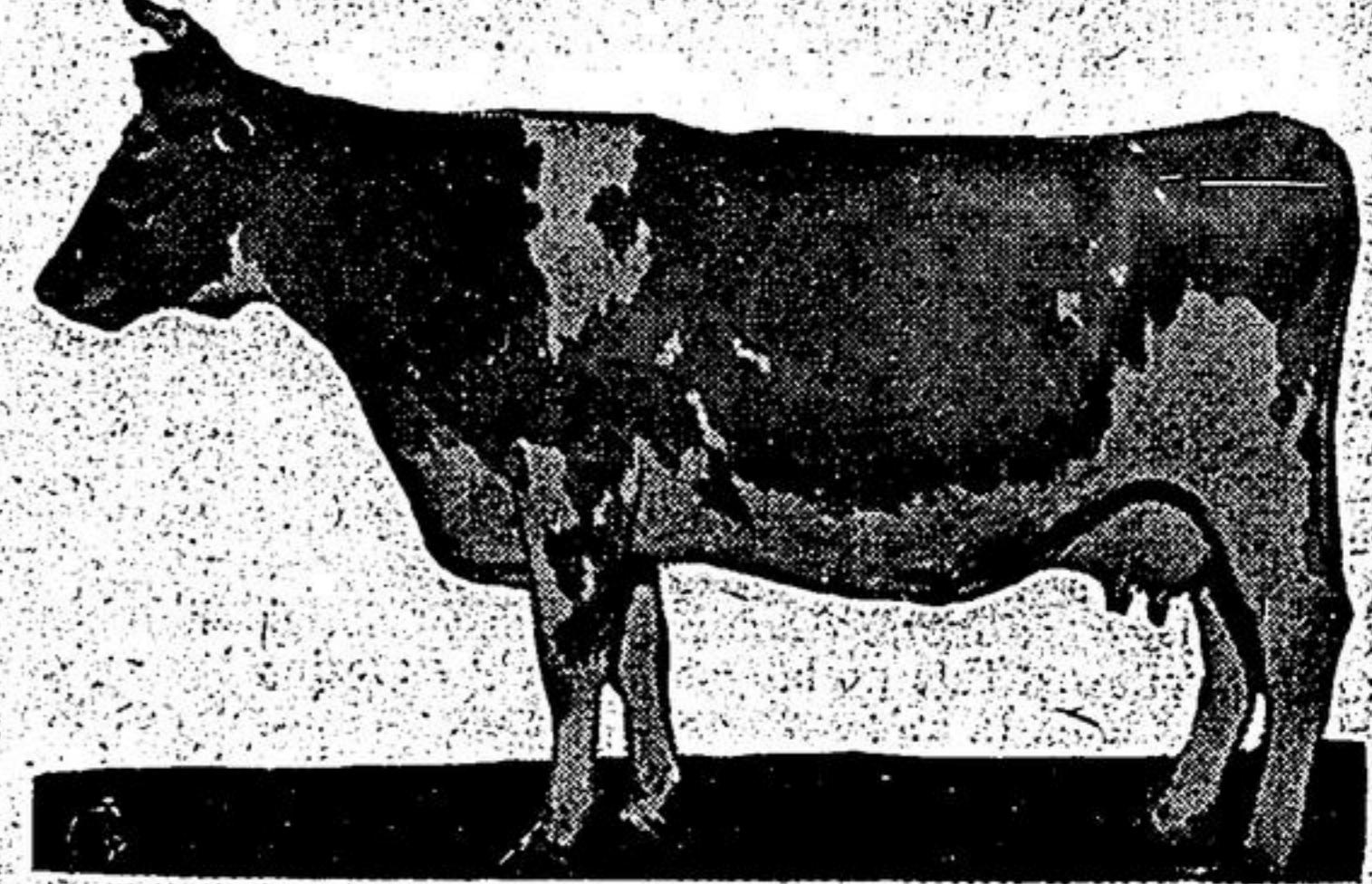
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