

“Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage: be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.” (Joshua 1:9).

"And the gospel must first be published among all nations" (St. Mark 13:10).



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GOSPEL SPREADING CHURCH OF GOD

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WASHINGTON, DC

DECEMBER 2018

NOT FOR SALE

THIS IS ALL GOD’S PLAN

He Shall Save His People From Their Sin

The Word of God tells us that we are not responsible for being sinners. So since we are not responsible, we are helpless in doing something to correct the situation. This created a problem for God Who had to find someone to take on the responsibility of correcting the condition. The very Son of God was found to be the only Person who was able to take on the responsibility. God’s love for man was so deep and far reaching that, finding Him to be qualified, God sent His Son, Jesus, to correct the condition.

You have heard the story picturing the birth of Jesus Christ. Millions in this country reverently celebrate His birthday this month. It is the 1964th anniversary, but the memories of that night when the angels of the Lord met the shepherds on the plain, bringing them good tidings of great joy, announcing that in Bethlehem of Judaea, the Saviour was born, the memories are fresh in our minds tonight. We call it Christmas. And the people do many things to celebrate Christmas. But celebrating Christmas and celebrating the birthday of Christ are different. Nevertheless, when we see them decorate their trees and exchange gifts, when we see the Christmas festivities, and hear the carols that magnify the Lord, and greet the season, the memory of that eventful night in Bethlehem seems to be more sacred to all who know that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son to prevent men from perishing.

It was love that moved God to send His Son, and it was love that moved the Son to come in the form of a human being and endure the suffering, humiliation, and agony attending the mission He was sent to perform. He did not take on the nature of angels which would have kept Him from suffering. But He wanted to feel the burdens of life, and face the consequences of sin in order to show us how to triumph.

For thirty-three years He lived under conditions just like those which face us, only He did not let conditions lead Him into sin. He did not let them prevent Him from loving His enemies. He did not let them make Him misjudge or accuse or seek revenge against those who hated and abused Him. He was not tempted by fame or money or even by power to do wrong in the sight of God, or to compromise His stand, or to destroy His usefulness as the Messiah.

Notwithstanding, He was the Son of God. At times He was lonely, at times He was sad, at times He was disappointed, at times He rebuked and chided those about Him who would err or who would exercise little faith in God. There was a time that He became so indignant that He assaulted men and destroyed their property. There was a time that He wept as a baby. There was a time that He was in such agony that sweat poured off Him like drops of blood. Though He did not cater to the whims of the people, there were times when He wanted to know what they thought of Him. When we have to face a great ordeal that means life or death to us, we get scared stiff. His reaction was similar, except that He went to the Father in fervent prayer and pleaded either that the Cup be removed, or that He may have the courage and fortitude to drink.

This was all God’s plan. It was God’s plan that His Son take on the nature of man. God wanted Adam to live a sinless life in the Garden of Eden. Though Adam did not have the nature of an angel, he was as holy and as perfect, and as devoid of a sinful nature as an angel. God gave him a mind that was so pure, that he had no knowledge of an evil nature. There were no evil responses in the appearance of the woman before him in the nude; nor was there any evil reaction on the part of the woman when he appeared nude before her. They had no evil thoughts or realizations. They had no improper

(Continued on Page 2)



You sing, “Jesus Paid It All.” Don’t forget the other part, “All to Him I Owe.”

Don’t become excited at the storm the devil kicks up. Jesus is the Master of every tempest.

Holiness is living at peace with your neighbor and your enemy.

Keep in touch with God when you are well, and you will have help when you are sick.

Holiness is not that we cannot sin, but that we won’t sin.

The devil is not in hell waiting for you. He is in the earth waiting to take you to hell with him.

Don’t measure your chance for heaven by the size of your church, but measure it by the way you live.

A thankful heart will offer praise.

Nothing works on the heart of man like love.

What is one moment of lustful pleasure when compared with eternal joy in store for the pure in heart?

A man who doesn’t hear God is simple –I don’t care what college he graduated from.

I am happy because I am with the Lord and He is with me.

The gospel is preached that man might see the love of God, not the wrath of God.

“Sparks from the Anvil” are now available in hard copy. If you desire a copy, write to the Happy New Publishing Company, 2030 Georgia Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20001-3027 Contributions are \$8.00.

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The "Happy Am I" Radio Preacher's Message

THIS IS ALL GOD'S PLAN

(Continued from Page 1)

emotions or aspirations or ambitions. They were pure and righteous throughout; so there was no difference between them and the angels of heaven, except that the angels were spirit beings and they were physical. The Holy God was as much at home in the Garden as their guest as He was on His throne in His heaven as their God. He was as much Adam's Father then as He is Christ's now.

With their pure mind and holy body, Adam and Eve should have lived in the flesh holy all their days. This was all God's plan, but they did sin and fall from grace. So God prepared His Son to be just as holy and pure and righteous as Adam, with all the propensities and natural inclinations, with all the feelings and emotions, to live in this world in the flesh under even a more unwholesome environment than Adam lived. The pure mind of the Son, however, under a more severe stress than Adam's, was able to keep itself clean and only by obeying God, even down to death. He **"...was in all points tempted like as we are"**, the Scriptures teach, **"yet without sin"** (Hebrews 4:15b). It was not in God's plan that Adam should sin; but when he did sin, then God revised His plan, and provided for the advent of His Son, Who would not only Himself live above sin, but Who would, with His own blood, cleanse the sin of Adam, and redeem the fallen race. This was the revised version of God's plan.

In Romans 5:12 you will hear, if you read, how sin came into the world and why we are all sinners. **"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"**

Sin is the cause of death because sin destroys life. Sin separates man from God, and God is the source of life. Sin separates man from God because God hates sin and cannot have it in His presence. God remains a distance out of sight from the sinner, but lingers in the shadows in forbearance, hopeful that man will repent and turn away from sin. While in sin, man commits acts that are against his health and welfare, and gradually the structure of his health weakens. Gradually the structure of his social, financial, and moral condition deteriorates. Gradually despair comes, and then if God doesn't reach him, gradually



Elder Lightfoot Solomon Michaux,
founder

he dies. The wages of sin is death.

Read Romans 5:19 as follows:

"For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."

Adam was the seed of all men who have come into the world, and since Adam was condemned because of his sin, all who came out of his loins were likewise condemned. The Scriptures teach that since Adam's disobedience corrupted his blood and consequently all other men, then by the obedience of One, which is God's Son, Jesus Christ, shall those same corrupted human beings be made righteous.

The process through which this great undertaking would come to pass would be through the death and, as extraordinary as was the resurrection, in that it was suffered by One Who was never worthy of death, Who did not deserve to die, Who was never out of fellowship with God because He was never under the bondage of the sin of Adam. Since He did not deserve to die, He could very easily lay down His life for His friends who did deserve to die. And since that is exactly what He did, His death was as extraordinary as His resurrection. Since He did die for His friends, He paid the penalty that God inflicted when He said to Adam, *"... the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die (Genesis 2:17b)."* And since He paid the penalty, God is satisfied to restore life to those who were under this penalty, provided they accept and recognize Christ as their Saviour from this penalty. However, this acceptance and recognition must come during their lifetime when the offer is made. And their acceptance must be evidenced by their repentance (or turning from all sin), and by their patterning their life after the life of Christ, their Saviour. This is all in the plan of God. May God bless you.

Join Us

Celebrating



SAVE THE DATE

2019

August 7-11
 NEWPORT NEWS, VA

www.GospelSpreadingChurch.org

The Holy Bible Word Puzzle
Rules

1. Find the "Book" given at the top of the first column. Then find the "Chapter" and "Verse" indicated beside the "Book".

2. To find the "Word", begin at the first word in the "Verse" and count each succeeding word until you have counted the number indicated on the table.

3. Write the "Word" on the blank line in the "Answer" column.

4. Repeat this operation for each book listed in the puzzle.

5. Reading each word from the top to bottom in the Answer column, you will have a familiar Bible passage.

6. Then search the Scriptures to find the answer. The use of a
- concordance is recommended. Quote where the passage is found.

7. Please use the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

8. Mail answer to: **Happy News Publishing Co., 2030 Georgia Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001.** If you do not wish to cut the paper, you may submit your answer on plain paper.

9. The answer to the puzzle should be postmarked by the fifteenth (15th) of the month for publication in our next issue.

10. Letters must be limited to forty (40) words and are published as space will allow.

Editors reserve the right to edit as needed.

No. 979

BOOK	CHAPTER	VERSE	WORD	ANSWER
1. I Samuel	6	12	1	_____
2. Judges	21	19	5	_____
3. St. Matthew	22	9	12	_____
4. Amos	5	16	14	_____
5. Leviticus	5	13	6	_____
6. Proverbs	16	17	2	_____
7. Ezra	9	8	3	_____
8. I Chronicles	6	70	4	_____
9. II Chronicles	30	6	49	_____
10. II Samuel	20	13	6	_____
11. St. Mark	10	46	14	_____
12. Habakkuk	2	8	12	_____
13. Revelation	12	17	20	_____
14. Exodus	26	12	17	_____
15. Romans	9	27	14	_____
16. II Corinthians	6	7	23	_____
17. Zephaniah	1	4	26	_____
18. II Kings	18	17	5	_____
19. Exodus	9	14	30	_____
20. Micah	2	12	23	_____
21. Esther	3	11	21	_____
22. St. John	6	24	8	_____
23. Acts	2	47	14	_____
24. Jeremiah	31	21	26	_____
25. I Peter	2	10	2	_____
26. Psalm	14	4	3	_____
27. St. Luke	6	23	5	_____
28. Hebrews	7	5	4	_____
29. Jude	1	6	15	_____
30. Daniel	7	8	8	_____
31. Psalm	90	5	23	_____
32. St. Luke	14	23	9	_____
33. Joshua	12	4	4	_____
34. II Peter	2	1	8	_____
35. Genesis	1	9	20	_____
36. Numbers	25	4	11	_____
37. Jude	1	5	26	_____

QUOTE WHERE PASSAGE IS FOUND
.....

PRINT FULL NAME.....

YOUR COMPLETE ADDRESS.....
.....

Answers to Last Month's Puzzle

“Therefore, shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes” (Deuteronomy 11:18).

Responses to the
Bible Word Puzzle

The following persons found the correct answer:

Barbara Benjamin
Fort Mill, SC

John W. Black
Spring Hill, TN

Ivy Canady
Williamsburg, VA

Donna Dargan
Newport News, VA

Peter Ettah
Nigeria – W.A.

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ORDER OF WORSHIP
SUNDAY SERVICES

8:30 AM..... Sunrise Prayer Service
9:45 AM..... Sunday School
11:45 AM..... Morning Service
6:00 PM..... Young People's Union

WEEKDAY SERVICES

8:00 PM..... Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Washington, DC..... Tuesday

PURITY CLUB

7:00 PM Tuesday..... Baltimore, MD
8:00 PM Thursday..... Newport News, VA

RADIO BROADCASTS

Newport News, VA
WKQM—940 AM
Sunday..... 8:30 AM-9:00 AM
Monday..... 6:30 PM-7:00 PM
Tuesday..... 6:30 PM-7:00 PM

Washington, DC
WFAZ—1220 AM
Sunday..... 1:00 AM - 1:30 AM
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM
9:00 PM - 9:30 PM
Monday..... 1:00 AM - 1:30 AM
Saturday..... 11:00 AM-11:30 AM

NEW YEARS DAY SERVICE

MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2019

GOSPEL SPREADING CHUCH OF GOD
4105 CHESTNUT STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19104

8:00 AM – CONTINETAL BREAKFAST
9:30 – 10:30 AM - ELDERS AND DEACONS MEETING
11:00 AM – NEW YEARS DAY WORSHIP SERVICE
DINNER FOLLOWING SERVICE



Mrs. Michaux's Gospel Message to All

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Birth and Childhood of Jesus

JOSEPH'S VISION

(St. Matthew 1:18-25)

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

“Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.”

BIRTH OF JESUS

St. Luke 2:1-7

“AND it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.”

THE VISIT OF THE SHEPHERDS

St. Luke 2:8-20

“And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the



Mrs. Mary E. Michaux, co-founder

field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

“And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.”

JESUS CIRCUMCISED AND NAMED

St. Matthew 1:25; St. Luke 2:21

“And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.” “And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising

of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.”

THE INFANT JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

St. Luke 2:22-38

“And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord; (As it is written in the law of the Lord. Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;) And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons. And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him. And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.”

(Continued on Page 12)

GOSPEL SPREADING CHURCH OF GOD CHRISTMAS EVENTS 2018



Gospel Spreading Church Spiritual Christmas Drama *"The Star of Christmas"*

Saturday, December 8, 2018

6:00 PM

2030 Georgia Avenue, NW
Washington, DC

Gospel Spreading Church Sunday School Breakfast Sunday, December 9, 2018

9:00 AM

4310 Edmonson Avenue
Baltimore, MD



Gospel Spreading Church 2018 Annual Christmas Stageplay *"A World Without Christ"*

Sunday, December 16, 2018

12:00 Noon

300 Lincoln Street
Hampton, VA



Gospel Spreading Church Annual Christmas Fellowship

Sunday, December 16, 2018

2:30 PM

2006 Georgia Avenue, NW
Washington, DC

Gospel Spreading Church Spiritual Voices Service Sunday, December 16, 2018 Sunrise of Annapolis Nursing Home 300 PM 800 Bestgate Road Annapolis, MD



By Micah, Age 13
Upper Marlboro



I would give Him love and thanks because of provisions [He has given] to my family and me. I am extremely thankful for all that He has done. He provides for all of our needs and a lot of our wants. He appreciates thanks.

By Phillip, Age 14
Upper Marlboro



If I could give the Lord a gift, I would give Him my time, my attention, and my love because in everyday life, everyone will not drop everything and focus on Him, so that is exactly what I would do for Him. Those would be my gifts!

By Nya, Age 13
Lanham



If I could give the Lord a gift I would give Him my love because He has done a lot for me, like He provides for me and protects me every day!

By N’Kyron, Age 14
Lanham



I love God and the Lord Jesus. Love is the best gift of all and the best that could ever be given or received.

Malachi, Age 14
Landover



I would give Him obedience for the rest of my life. I think He would really appreciate this gift because that is what He wants from us.

By Rachael, Age 16
Upper Marlboro



Being honest, I don’t know what I would give to Jesus because He has done so many things for me, my family, and the world!

The best gift I have ever received is the blood and salvation of Jesus Christ. And the best gift I’ve given was helping my brother to become saved since he was scared to go up in front of church so I told him what to do and we prayed together.

Jasmine, Age 16
Landover



ANSWERS TO NOVEMBER HOLY BIBLE QUIZ

- What were the Hebrew believers to lay aside?
(Every weight and sin - **Hebrews 12:1**).
- To whom were they to look in running the Christian race?
(Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith - **Hebrews 12:2a**).
- For the joy set before Him what did Jesus endure and despise?
(He endured the cross and despised the shame - **Hebrews 12:2b**).
- To save themselves from becoming wearied and faint what were believers to consider?
(They were to consider the character, conduct and death of Jesus – **Hebrews 12:3**).
- What exhortation had they forgotten?
(They had forgotten the chastening of the Lord - **Hebrews 12:5**).

- When chastening is accepted rightly what does it yield?
(Chastening yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness – **Hebrews 12:11**).
- What two things were they to follow?
(They were to follow peace and holiness - **Hebrews 12:14**).

ANSWERS TO NOVEMBER FILL IN THE BLANKS

- Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness,fearful in praises, doing wonders (**Exodus 15:11**)?
- My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed; I will sing and give praise (**Psalms 57:7**).
- To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved(**Ephesians 1:6**).
- Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee (**Psalms 63:3**).
- Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable (**Psalms 145:3**).
- Praise the LORD with harp: sing unto him with the psaltery and an instrument of ten strings (**Psalms 33:2**).
- God came from Teman, and the Holy One from mount Paran. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise (**Habakkuk 3:3**).

DECEMBER HOLY BIBLE QUIZ

- Who issued a decree “that all the world (Roman Empire) should be taxed”?
- Why did Joseph have to travel to Bethlehem?
- Why was it important that Joseph and Mary go to Bethlehem?
- Why was it important that Jesus be called Mary’s firstborn?
- What combination of titles was Jesus called?
- How would the shepherds know they had found the Messiah?
- What did the angels proclaim for heaven and earth?

DECEMBER FILL IN THE BLANKS

- For our _____ shall _____ in him, because we have _____ in his _____.
- And thou shalt have _____ and _____; and many shall _____ at his _____.
- Because thou hast been my _____, therefore in the _____ of thy _____ will I _____.
- Whom having not _____, ye _____; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet _____, ye _____ with _____ unspeakable and _____ of _____:
- Sing unto God, _____ to his _____: _____ him that _____ upon the _____ by his name _____, and _____ before him.
- Let all those that _____ thee _____ and be _____ in thee: and let such as _____ thy _____ say continually, _____ be _____.
- _____ in the Lord _____: and again I say, _____.

Sunday School Lessons for the Month of December

The lessons for this month were reviewed by Elder David Green. He was a teacher of the junior boys class between 1994 and 2000 at the Church of God Sunday School, Newport News, VA.



LESSON 48 – December 2, 2018
SUBJECT – The Sign of Immanuel

GOLDEN TEXT: “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14).

PRINTED SCRIPTURE TEXT: Isaiah 7:1 And it came to pass in the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, that Rezin the king of Syria, and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, went up toward Jerusalem to war against it, but could not prevail against it.
2 And it was told the house of David, saying, Syria is confederate with Ephraim. And his heart was moved, and the heart of his people, as the trees of the wood are moved with the wind.
3 Then said the LORD unto Isaiah, Go forth now to meet Ahaz, thou, and Shearjashub thy son, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool in the highway of the fuller’s field;
4 And say unto him, Take heed, and be quiet; fear not, neither be fainthearted for the two tails of these smoking firebrands, for the fierce anger of Rezin with Syria, and of the son of Remaliah.
7 Thus saith the Lord GOD, It shall not stand, neither shall it come to pass.
8 For the head of Syria is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is Rezin; and within threescore and five years shall Ephraim be broken, that it be not a people.
9 And the head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is Remaliah’s son. If ye will not believe, surely ye shall not be established.
10 Moreover the LORD spake again unto Ahaz, saying,
11 Ask thee a sign of the LORD thy God; ask it either in the depth, or in the height above.
12 But Ahaz said, I will not ask, neither will I tempt the LORD.
13 And he said, Hear ye now, O house of David; Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will ye weary my God also?
14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.
15 Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good.
16 For before the child shall know to refuse the evil, and choose the good, the land that thou abhorrest shall be forsaken of both her kings.

LESSON DISCUSSION

During the reign of King Ahaz, Assyria was a threat not only to Judah, but to the smaller gentile nations in the region. These smaller nations formed a confederation to fight Assyria if any one of them was attacked. These smaller nations attempted to convince King Ahaz to join their confederation, but the king refused. Because of Ahaz’s refusal, Rezin, king of Syria, and Pekah, king of Israel, declared war on Jerusalem.

God told Isaiah to meet Ahaz at the city reservoir to encourage him to trust God (See Isaiah 7:3-4). God would eventually save Judah from this imminent threat. Although his faith was still weak, God challenged Ahaz to ask Him of a sign of deliverance. The king was afraid to tempt God with such a request (See Isaiah 7: 10-12). Nevertheless, God would give Ahaz a sign that the future virgin birth of Jesus would confirm that the Kingdom of Judah would not be destroyed by these nations who were against it.

Although the enemy of our souls may surround us with intent on defeat, we must stand fast in faith in God. The end result is always victory.

LESSON 49 – December 9, 2018
SUBJECT – The Promise of a Divine Ruler

GOLDEN TEXT: “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

PRINTED SCRIPTURE TEXT: Isaiah 9:1 Nevertheless the dimness shall not be such as was in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did more grievously afflict her by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations.
2 The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.
3 Thou hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.
4 For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian.
5 For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood; but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire.
6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.
7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

LESSON DISCUSSION

The word “*hope*” means *to expect with confidence*. In this week’s lesson, Isaiah’s prophesy of the coming of Jesus Christ provides hope to future generations. Although some people of that day were walking in spiritual darkness, the birth of the Messiah would bring the light of truth, and joy of the nation of Israel would increase. The burdens of the nation would be lifted by the Lord, as the burden of sin would be lifted by yoking up with Jesus.

The prophet Isaiah described Jesus as being wonderful, a counselor, a mighty God and the prince of peace, all of these character traits rolled into one (See Isaiah 9:6). An everlasting kingdom of peace, unlike earthly kingdoms, shall be established and performed by the zeal of the Lord of hosts (See Isaiah 9:7). As St Matthew 11:28-29 says, “*Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*” Through the birth of Jesus Christ, all nations have a chance to become a part of this everlasting kingdom.

LESSON 50 – December 16, 2018
SUBJECT – The Righteous Branch

GOLDEN TEXT: “But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth: with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked” (Isaiah 11:4).

PRINTED SCRIPTURE TEXT: Isaiah 11:1 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:
2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;
3 And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:
4 But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth: with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

5 And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

6 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

7 And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8 And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice’ den.

9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

10 And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.

LESSON DISCUSSION

At the time of this lesson, Assyria was a powerful nation on the rise with the intention of conquering as many little nations as possible. Jerusalem was no exception, and because of their sins, God would suffer Israel and Judah to be punished at the hands of their enemies. God, in his mercy, would not allow total destruction or genocide of the Jewish legacy, but a rod would come out of the lineage of Jesse (See Isaiah 11:1).

The Branch of Jesse of which Isaiah speaks is none other than Jesus Christ, Who will one day reign with wisdom, understanding, and godly counsel (See Isaiah 11:2). Messiah’s reign would be one of eternal righteousness, including peace and justice for the poor. Not only would the Jews reign with Him, but also Gentiles who accept Jesus (See Isaiah 11:10). St. John 1:11-12: *“He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.”* In today’s times, that promise of eternal rule is guaranteed to all who accept Jesus as Lord and Savior.

LESSON 51 – December 23, 2018
SUBJECT – The Birth of Christ

GOLDEN TEXT: *”* (St. Matthew 1:21).

PRINTED SCRIPTURE TEXT: St. Matthew 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.

20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:

25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

LESSON DISCUSSION

Christmas is a special time to reflect on the birth of Jesus Christ and the purpose for His coming into the world. As Mary, His mother was engaged to Joseph, she was expecting a child Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost (See St. Matthew 1:18). Because of this news, Joseph, being a just man, made the heartbreaking decision to end the engagement (See St. Matthew1: 19).

But before he could act on his decision, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, informing him that the child Mary had conceived was not the result of sin, but of divine intervention, and that he should retain his engagement (See St. Matthew 1:20). The angel also told

him that the child to be born to Mary would be named Jesus Whose mission would be *“...to save his people from their sins”* (St. Matthew 1: 21b).

Matthew confirmed the virgin birth by quoting Isaiah 7:14 in which the child’s name would be called Immanuel, which means *‘God with us.’* Being assured of God’s plan for him and Mary, Joseph put aside his decision to end the engagement, and took her as his wife. He had no sexual relationship with her until after Jesus was born. It is through the birth of Christ and His death at Calvary that even today, man can experience true deliverance from the bondage of sin.

LESSON 52 – December 30, 2018
SUBJECT – Wise Men Worship Christ

GOLDEN TEXT: *“*And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh*”* (St. Matthew 2:11).

PRINTED SCRIPTURE TEXT: St. Matthew 2:1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

2 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.

3 When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

5 And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

6 And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

7 Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

9 When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.

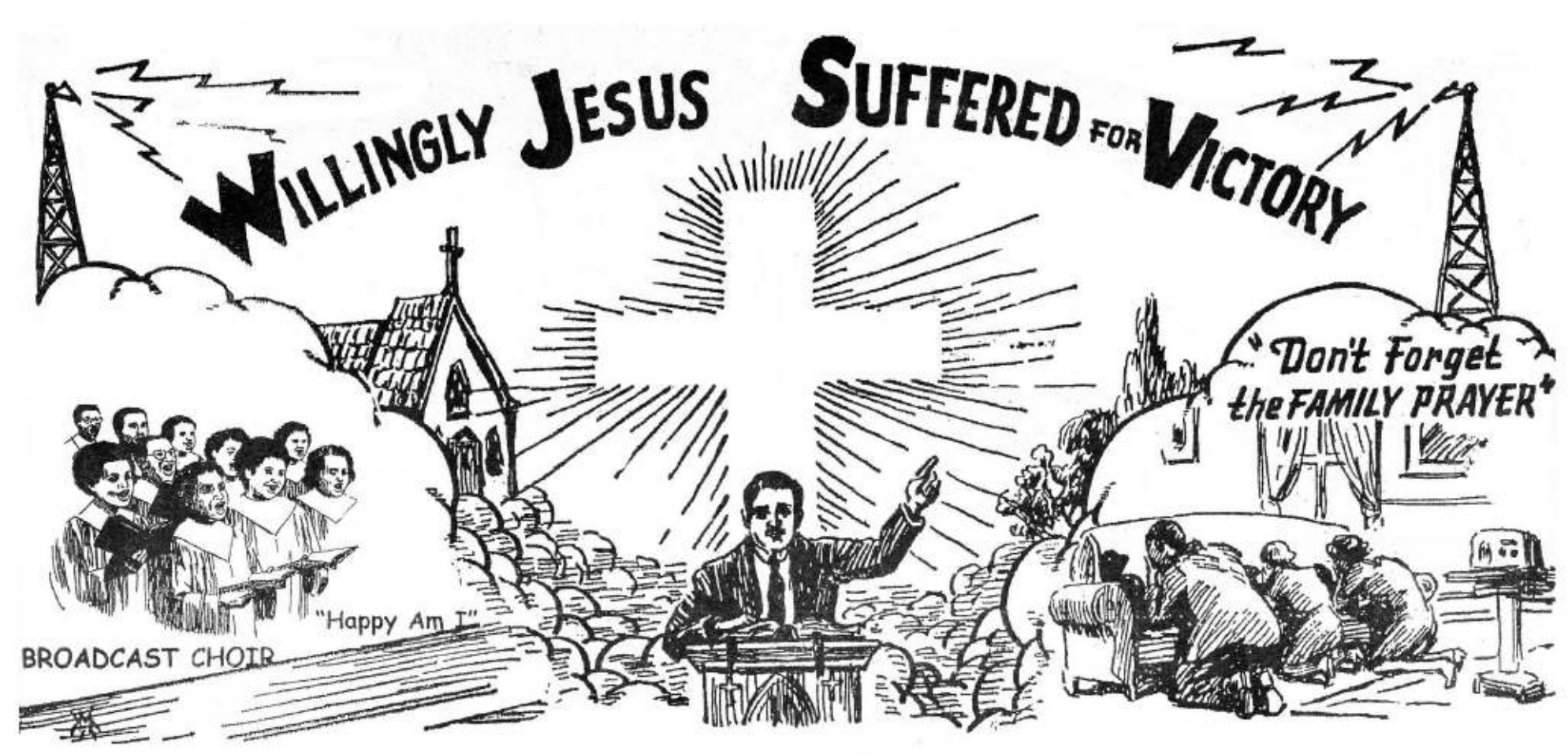
12 And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

LESSON DISCUSSION

After the birth of Jesus, wise men from the east, known as the *Magi*, had heard about the virgin birth. These Magi, a priestly class of Persian astrologers, were followers of the stars in the east to Jerusalem.

Upon their arrival, these wise men inquired about the King of the Jews. Word of their inquiries reached Kind Herod, who was troubled by the news. He feared that a king was coming to usurp authority over his rule (See St. Matthew 2:3). King Herod called together the chief priests and scribes, the religious leaders of the day, to learn where this king was to be born. Giving accurate information to Herod from their records, Herod sent the wise men to search for the child, and to bring him back a report of the location so that he could go and worship Him. The wise men followed the star, found the child with Mary, and fell down worshipping Him. As a presentation, they gave the child gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

God, knowing that Herod intended to destroy the child, warned the wise men not to return to Herod, but to go back to their own country another way (See St. Matthew 2:12). As wise men of that day sought for Jesus, wise men today still seek Him.



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Prayer Answered

"...I Am The Lord That Healeth Thee" (Exodus 15:26)

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Birth and Childhood of Jesus

(Continued from Page 5)

The Holy Child: Jesus

According in the Bible Days, something special would amaze
A virgin girl would soon give birth, and peace would come to the earth
Mary was the young girl's name, through virgin birth our Savior came
He had no where to lay His head, accept on a straw bed
It was noised from town to town, an angel from heaven had come down
He told Mary what she's to do; To her it was so brand new
She was to birth a holy child. Mary took all this so mild
The child would have a purpose here, To teach to people everywhere
Jesus, His name would be called, His coming was to save us all
From degradation and evil sin, all men's lives He would defend.
Shepherd and Wise Men did declare, Jesus our King, is become our heir
All power from heaven is given, He shall reign in our living
Some say it happened in December, other seasons were given, I don't remember
This we know and it is true, Jesus was born for me and you.
Merriest Christmas to all.

Arlethia Jones Carter

May God bless you is my prayer.

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