

From Where We Stand . . .



The Creator Visits The Earth

St. Luke — Chapters I and II

And the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women.

And when she saw him she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

And the angel said unto her, Fear not Mary; for thou hast found favour with God.

And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS.

He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David and he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be?

And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee, therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

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 all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, in-

to Judea, 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 she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks 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 been it, they made known abroad 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.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Across The Fence Row

Rest is for the dead.
— Thomas Carlyle

One pound of learning requires ten pounds of common sense to apply it.

The efficient man is the man who thinks for himself, and is capable of thinking hard and long.
— Charles W. Eliot

Your ship won't come in till you row out to meet it.

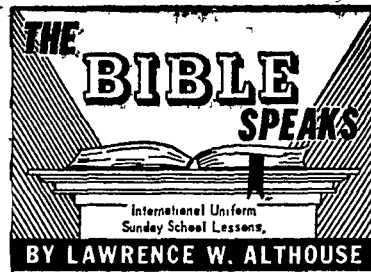
Envy provides the mud that failure throws at success.
— N. Y. Globe

Oh, yes, and did you hear about the man who picked up a carton of artificial milk by mistake, and tried to unload the imitation on Tabby.
You guessed it, the cat wouldn't touch the stuff.

Weather Forecast

The five-day forecast for the period Saturday through next Wednesday calls for temperatures to average above normal. Colder at the beginning of the period and milder by Monday. The daytime high is expected to be in the upper 30's to 40's and the over-night low in the low 20's to low 30's. Normal high temperature is 39, low is 24.

Precipitation may total one-half inch melted. Chance of snow flurries over the North mountains Saturday and showers Monday and again Wednesday.



CHRISTMAS Lesson for December 24, 1967

Background Scripture: Malachi 3:1-4, Micah 5:2,4, Isaiah 9:2,7
Devotional Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7.

I am not at all sure that you ought to read the background scripture for this week's lesson—not until Christmas is well over, at least.

That may sound like strange advice, but I know what Christmas means to most of us and I would hate to have yours spoiled for you. What I'm trying to say is that the book of Malachi doesn't have a very Christmasy feeling about it.

In fact, there are some parts of it that might, if taken seriously, take all the Ho-Ho-Ho, right out of our holidays.

Season's Greetings

So why not skip the lesson this week and immerse yourself in the sentiments of the Christmas cards that come your way. They are practically guaranteed to be completely inoffensive to everyone. I can assure you that there isn't likely to be any Malachi on them.

Of course, if you are one of those who delights in reading what you've been advised not to read, you may very well turn to Malachi all the more quickly. I realize, however, that you are not that type — (though if you were, Malachi 3:1-4 is the passage I had in mind).

Perhaps you are just a little bit curious as to what could be so upsetting about the Bible. I mean, we think of this book mostly in terms of inspiration, comfort, solace, beauty, etc. This is particularly true of the Christmas stories: "good will," "peace on earth," and all of that.

Actually, Malachi 3 (RSV) begins encouragingly enough: "Behold, I send my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts."

Holiday Wishes

Nothing very threatening there: the coming of the Messiah. Of course, there is one little inaccuracy: "... will suddenly come..." With department stores heralding Christmas since September, I don't think Malachi's "suddenly" is quite accurate.

But of course, Malachi goes on (the trouble with most prophets is that they don't know when to stop!). It's what follows that can turn your mistletoe purple: "But who can endure the day of his coming..." — (Not at all a reference to the long shopping season) — "and who can stand when he appears?"

You see, the people of Judah rejoiced at the first part of Malachi's vision: the messenger was coming... hooray! They had waited so long, so patiently.

But now what is this Malachi is saying: "For he is like a refiner's fire... and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, till they present right offerings to the Lord." (Malachi 3:2-3RSV). A refiner's fire... in the creche?

Merry Christmas

This time of the Messiah's coming, this time of rejoicing and fulfillment would also be, Malachi said, a time of challenge and change. The messenger of God would purify the people, particularly the priests! Presumably the process of purification would not be without some pain and anguish, some radical changes.

You see now why Malachi is not recommended to replace "Twas The Night Before Christmas..."? If Christmas means more than just the "Hooray! Jesus has come with the goodies!", if it means judgment, change, repentance, rebirth, then I'm not sure we want any part of it. And that's the trouble, Christmas is really a challenge. The baby Jesus becomes the Christ of the dusty road, the noisy market place, the harlot's home, the prisoner's cell. And the invitation he gives us is not to join him in the security of the crib, but to be vulnerable on a cross.

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NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent

To Use Soft Corn . . .

Local growers who have corn on hand that is not mature and dry enough to store in the normal crib, might use it as high moisture ground ear corn in the silo, or permit fattening hogs to run into the field and eat the corn. Since this corn is too wet to store, and would be very expensive to dry, these methods could get some return from it. The high moisture corn could be ground and put on top of other types of silage.

To Use Farm Records . . .

Farm records should not only be used for income tax purposes and to realize the financial condition of the farm business, but to plan for the future. Farm planning and management is very important and good records should be used to identify the successful enterprises as well as those that lost money. Spend some time on the records for a better understanding of the business and where you are going.

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To Control Parasites . . .

Many groups of both cattle and hogs are carrying high body lice infection. If this condition is permitted to further develop during the winter months, the animals will become unthrifty and will not make efficient body gains or milk production. Several treatments two weeks apart may be needed in severe cases to eliminate the lice. Parasite infected cattle are not the most profitable; get rid of the lice and make greater profits.

Farm News This Week

New Potato Variety Found Superior For Food Processing — Page 1

Winter Small Game; Archery Season Open December 26 — Page 1

Animal Nutritionist Discusses Dairymen's Filled Milk Problem—Page 1

Veal Calf Club Starts Second Year — Page 1

Garden Spot H. S. Plans Welding Course — Page 1

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