

When Angels Came to Men

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TEXT—There were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field. 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 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.—Luke 2:8, 9, 13, 14.

How amazing that angels came to men! Indeed, some are so impressed with the vastness of the physical universe and with the insignificance of man that they doubt whether God has any interest in us. But such thinkers lack a proper sense of values. Firemen will risk their lives to save a baby in a burning building, even though all the wealth in the building be lost because of their attention to the child. A world of men is more concerned to God than a universe of stars. The sheep in the fields were not afraid as the shepherds were, when the angel of the Lord appeared; the shepherds had a sense of the supernatural which the sheep had not. Men may become sons of God while sheep and stars cannot; hence God cares for men especially—and sends his angels to them.

The shepherds were good men. We read of them hastening to Bethlehem and of their "glorifying and praising God." It has been well said that had men would have heard only the night wind, instead of the angels' songs. Mrs. Browning speaks of some to whom every common bush is aflame with God, while others sit around picking blackberries. Once, when the voice of God spoke to Jesus, some who heard it said it thundered! Men who are not Christians miss the vision of God and no angels' song cheers them in the night of life.

The shepherds were poor men. Some tell us that the principal duty of the church toward the poor is to change their environment. But the shepherds teach us that God may come to the poor before their environment is changed. How often have Christian workers found the brightest saints in squalid tenements! We do not underestimate the value of a good environment, but the surest way to secure it is to make, first, good men.

Religion for Busy Men. The shepherds were busy men. The angels did not appear to idlers nor to those shut up in cloisters, but to men in the fields. What a revelation of heaven's ideal of the religious life! The "glory of the Lord" which shone about the shepherds was the Shekinah which had glowed in the temple of old, seen only by the high priest and on rare occasions. But here it came to illuminate the fields where men toiled. God does not propose to take men out of their employments, but would have them serve him at their tasks. Alas, that many are so busy with their flocks that they have no time to go to Bethlehem!

We are interested in the song of the angels, but would first remind ourselves of the wonder that there could be communication between these heavenly creatures and the sons of men. Paul speaks of "the tongues of men and of angels," and we cannot conceive the language of heaven. Yet on that night the angels were understood by the shepherds. Light is thrown on this fact by the reference in Ephesians 3:15 to "the whole family in heaven and earth." Just as the spectroscopic shows the stars are composed of the same elements as the earth and suggests the unity of the universe, so the family in heaven and earth is one, and there is a certain kinship between men and angels. At any rate, the "tongues of men and angels" are harmonized when Jesus is their theme!

The Song of the Angels. The angels seem to have sung in antiphon, like the Levite choirs. First, one section sang, "Glory to God in the highest." Another responded, "On earth peace." Then they sang in chorus, "Good will toward men."

The coming of Jesus brought glory to God "in the highest," that is, from the highest intelligence. They knew the glory Christ had with the father and could appreciate the sacrifice involved in his stooping to be born among men. They knew the holiness of God which required a sacrifice for sin. They appreciated the love which provided a sacrifice in him who not only was made in the likeness of men but was to humble himself to the death of the cross.

The coming of Christ brought "on earth peace, good will toward men." The latter expression is the same as that used by the father when he said of Jesus, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." By the blood of the cross such a peace has been made that God may have the same pleasure in redeemed sinners as he finds in his Son, in whom he always takes delight. Indeed, as Paul puts it, we are "accepted in the Beloved," all this comeliness being placed upon us! How wonderful!

Presence of Christ's Power. Reserve in speaking about ourselves may make heavy demands upon buoyant and impetuous natures. Frequent retirement for communion with God is not natural to flesh and blood; it falls to satisfy the demands for excitement and human sympathy which enter so largely into much of our modern religion. But let us be sure that it is a true note of the presence of Christ's resurrection power that we should be thankful to be often alone with God.—Rev. H. P. Liddon, D. D.

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

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LESSON FOR DECEMBER 29

JOSEPH CARES FOR HIS KIN-DRED.

LESSON TEXT—Genesis 47:1-12. GOLDEN TEXT—Honor thy father and mother.—Ephesians 6:2. DEVOTIONAL READING—Psalms 34. ADDITIONAL MATERIAL—Genesis 46:16-50:26.

Since we took the birth of the Savior for our Christmas lesson, today, instead of a review, we will go back and take up the alternative lesson for December 22. It will be more profitable to complete the study of Joseph in his attitude toward his kindred than to undertake the review.

I. Joseph Sends to Canaan for His Father (45:17-28).

After Joseph had made himself known to his brethren he sent them back to his father in Canaan with the good news not only that he was alive, but that the Lord had exalted him to be lord over all Egypt, and that his father and brethren with their families should come down to Egypt where he would give them the best of the land and that they should eat of the "fat of the land." This illustrates how one day Jesus Christ shall disclose his identity to his brethren the Jews, and that his exaltation at the right hand of the Father was to make preparation for them against the awful day of trial which shall be visited upon them (Acts 3:19-21).

II. Joseph Meets His Father in the Land of Goshen (46:29-34).

Jacob experienced a double delight—that of seeing his beloved son whom he had long mourned as dead, and of being welcomed to the new and strange land by his prime minister. Joseph instructed his father and brethren how to place their request before Pharaoh. Since their occupation was that of shepherds he knew that some tact should be employed in their approach to the king, for "every shepherd is an abomination unto the Egyptians."

III. Jacob and Five Sons Presented to Pharaoh (47:1-7).

Though Joseph was high in authority he was not ashamed to bring his father and brethren into the presence of the great Pharaoh, even though they were humble farmers.

1. Pharaoh's Question (47:3-4). He inquired as to their occupation. They answered that both they and their father were shepherds. They went a little beyond what they were asked by Pharaoh and instructed to do by Joseph. They requested the land of Goshen, for they knew it was a good place for pasture for their flocks.

2. Pharaoh's Instructions to Joseph (47:5, 6). He told him to make his father and brethren to dwell in the best of the land—even Goshen, and that if he knew of any men of ability among them to give them the charge of his cattle. He assumed that since Joseph was so capable and trustworthy that some of his brethren would also possess suitable qualifications of administration.

IV. Jacob Blessed Pharaoh (47:7-10).

Though Jacob was a pilgrim in Egypt, dependent upon Pharaoh even for food to eat, in the dignity of his faith of what God would do with him, and through him, he pronounced a blessing upon the great Egyptian king. The less is blessed by the greater (Hebrews 7:7). Though conscious of his place of superiority through the divine covenant he did not manifest officiousness, but rather the desire to convey a vital blessing. He recognized that he was the channel through which great blessings would come to Pharaoh, in accordance with the Abrahamic covenant (Genesis 12:1-3). Israel is one day to be the channel through which the blessings of salvation shall flow to the Gentile nations (Romans 11:12-15).

V. Joseph Nourished His Father and Brethren (47:11, 12).

According to the instructions of Pharaoh, Joseph placed his father and brethren in the best of the land and made provision for them. Jesus Christ will one day, when the famine of the great tribulation is exceeding sore, be reconciled to his brethren, the Jews, and will give them a possession in the best of the land and nourish them. Christ is now seated with the Father on his throne, and one day will reveal himself to his brethren the Jews and will feed them on the "fat of the land."

Jacob lived in Egypt 17 years. When the time of his death approached he exacted from Joseph a promise that he would bury him in Canaan. He blessed Joseph's sons and issued a prophecy concerning his own sons.

Calmness. The man who is calm does not selfishly isolate himself from the world, for he is intensely interested in all that concerns the welfare of humanity. His calmness is but a Holy of Holies into which he can retire from the world to get strength to live in the world. He realizes that the full glory of individuality, the crowning of his self-control, is the majesty of calmness.

Cross is Always Ready. God will have these learn to suffer tribulation without comfort; and that thou subject thyself wholly to him, and by tribulation become more humble. No man hath in his heart a sympathy with the passion of Christ, so much as he who hath suffered the like himself. The cross therefore is always ready, and everywhere waits for thee.—Thomas a Kempis.

Makes Heroes. Nurture your mind with great thoughts. To believe in the heroic makes heroes.—Disraeli.

Temperance Notes

(Conducted by the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union.)

THE MOURNERS.

A loan shark sat on his empty safe; He was down to his utmost dime, And he gazed across at a vacant cafe (Let it stand, for we need the rhyme) And he dropped three tears on his shirt front (which For a loan shark is going some), And he wailed: "Alas! I was good and rich In the days of the Demon Rum.

"He used to harry the boys in him, At the end of each perfect day, And stood around with a jovial leer While I garnered their weekly pay. But they've canceled the good old pig mill lease And emptied his shining shelves, And all of the lads that I used to fleece Are spending the coin themselves."

A jaller stood in his empty jug And puffed at a cheap cigar; As he gazed at a hungry Croton bug That crawled up an iron bar. "Dear me," he said, with a choking sob "This business is on the bum. I shudder for fear I shall lose my job. Since they've whipsawed Demon Rum.

"He used to serve as my puller-in, And goad, how the business grew; While the cellophane doors clanged to. But since he was canned in Washington My trade is so nearly dead That they're going to pull the building down And put up a school instead."

AS AN ENGLISHMAN SEES IT. Phillip W. Wilson, special correspondent of the London Daily News, writing from New York, comments most interestingly on the liquor situation in the United States. He says: "By the courtesy of Fleming Revell, the publisher, I had a glance through the advance proofs of Joseph H. Odell's book, 'The New Spirit and the New Army.' His testimony is explicit. The army may not be 'bone dry,' but drinking has been reduced to an unbelievable minimum. 'It is amazing,' writes Mr. Odell, 'how the desire has almost died out with the abolition of temptation. This, I think, the answer to critics who alleged that restrictive laws are evaded. To some extent they may be, but the necessity for evasion limits consumption to the few—the reckless. The mass of the people are loyal in this as in other matters, and it is the mass that counts.

"The city of Washington has, since the war, put on scores of thousands of inhabitants, and is now, I am told, of over 300,000 population. Yet there is not a saloon of any kind to be seen. In theaters, movie palaces, restaurants, hotels, you are not served with drink. Town-planning on a noble scale is unmarred by taverns at street corners.

"The question for the old world to decide is whether she will have any chance economically against the new world, if, to military and naval handicaps, she adds the burden of intemperance from which society here is shaking itself free."

MORE ABOUT DENVER.

Writing of Denver's experience, Harry W. Newcomb, president of the Newcomb Realty company and once an opponent of prohibition, says: "It was said that the tourists would not come here on account of prohibition. We have had more tourists in Denver since we had prohibition than ever before in the history of the city. All of the hotels are filled, the apartment houses are well rented and conditions are far better than they were formerly. The credit of the merchants in the city is greatly increased, as they have been able to collect their bills and in turn pay others in other cities a great deal faster than they ever did before. All of the breweries in Colorado have changed their equipment and are making near beer, malted milk, pottery, etc., and the loss predicted by people leaving the state on account of not having employment has proved a matter of mere adjustment. There are just as many people employed by these breweries now as there were heretofore, and most of the saloon men found legitimate business which they could engage in and are now strong advocates of prohibition."

DRINK AND DIVORCE.

The Pontiac, Mich., Press Gazette reports a case where a woman, granted a divorce on June 3, recently appeared in court with the request that the decree be set aside. She was granted a separation from her husband on the ground that he was drinking to excess. She explained to the judge that he was no longer using intoxicating liquor, and on the court's determining that both husband and wife were agreeable to a setting aside of the divorce decree, it was granted. Our correspondent who sends us the clipping makes the following comment: "It is rather doubtful if the above event would have transpired if we were still stopping around in the license swamp."

PROHIBITION.

Prohibition is the stuff That makes for peace and quiet; It takes the bar from Bartecyorn, The rye all out of riot. —Kansas City Star.

And we shall be in better shape When all the world goes dry— From out the grape it knocks the ape. From cider steals the sigh! —Cleveland Plain Dealer.

At champagne Prohibition takes a slam With all its might and main; It indicates to us the "sham," And warns us of the "pain." —Youngstown Telegram.

NOVEL USE FOR A DISTILLERY.

The oldest distillery in the country, located at Agawam, Mass., is to be converted into a yeast factory. All the old machinery will be removed and new equipment installed. For nearly a year the distillery has been idle, its death knell having been sounded when congress passed the law prohibiting the manufacture of distilled liquors. During more than 135 years it had been engaged in the production of gin known the world over and has made fortunes for its owners.



Half a Century Ago

Half a Century Ago, every community could be supplied to some extent with locally dressed meat, drawing on live stock raised nearby.

Now two-thirds of the consuming centers, with millions of people, are one to two thousand miles away from the principal live-stock producing sections, which are sparsely settled.

The American meat packing industry of today is the development of the best way to perform a national service.

The function of providing meat had to develop accordingly. Those men who first grasped the elements of the changing problem created the best facilities to meet it—large packing plants and branch houses at strategic points, refrigerating equipment (including cars), car routes, trained organization, profitable outlets for former waste—which became the natural, inevitable channels for the vast flow of meat across the country.

If there were a better way to perform this necessary service, American ingenuity and enterprise would have discovered it, and others would now be using it.

During 1918, Swift & Company has earned a profit on meats (and meat by-products) of less than 2 1/2 cents per dollar of sales—too small a profit to have any appreciable effect on prices.

Swift & Company, U. S. A.

Insisted on His Rights. Mr. Arthur Bouchier once had an amusing experience with his dresser. It was on a first night, and when the performance was over the dresser was nowhere to be seen. Mr. Bouchier sent some one to look for him, and he was discovered up in the gallery—hissing!

His explanation was that he was an old gallery first-nighter, and that while he would serve Mr. Bouchier faithfully behind the scenes, he reserved the right to do as he liked in the auditorium and hiss or clap according to his unbiased opinion.

Mr. Bouchier did not dismiss the man. A frank critic is a valued friend.

Down to Earth. Mrs. Peavish says that before they were married Mr. Peavish liked to hear her sing "Home, Sweet Home," and now he likes to hear her rattle dishes on the table.—Galveston News.

The girl with flowery cheeks is apt to leave a little flour on a lapel of a young man's coat once in a while.



After the Raid. "The Parisians extracted fun even out of the German gotha raids," said a senator in a Washington interview. "Two young Frenchmen met in the Tuileries gardens the morning after a raid. "Any damage down your way?" the first asked. "Damage? Rather!" the second answered. "Father and mother were blown clean out of the window. The neighbors say it's the first time they've been seen to leave the house together in seventeen years."

Origin of One Proverb. One obtains historical glimpses in proverbs. The familiar "robbing Peter to pay Paul" is said to derive its origin from the fact that in the reign of Edward VI the lands of St. Peter at Westminster were appropriated to raise money for the repair of St. Paul's.

Don't expect your friends to do more for you than you are willing to do for yourself.

IT'S SUMMERTIME IN FLORIDA

Free yourself from the danger and anxiety of colds and sickness and the costly fuel bill and come where the skies are ever blue and the sun is bright and warm, sit out doors and eat oranges fresh-picked from our producing groves. There are thousands of acres of oranges and grapefruit in the Lake Alfred-Florida-Villa-Winter Haven section, for oranges is the proven area for safety and big returns. We have superior elevation, affording fine air and water drainage and freedom from mosquitoes or other pests; fertile soil underlaid with clay, holding moisture and plant food; remarkable frost-protection because of location, altitude and the moderating influence of ninety lakes within a four-mile radius; the best drinking water in the state; ideal situation on the main line of the A. C. L. railroad; wonderful and extensive system of hard (asphalt) auto roads, and many other advantages. We offer these orange and grapefruit groves at reasonable prices and terms spread over a number of years. Prices depend upon location and age of trees. Over three thousand (3,000) acres are planted at Lake Alfred. We can furnish groves in bearing, paying fine net income, or young groves just as fine, at much less money, which will bear in a couple of years or so.

Our community grove care service is an ideal arrangement whether grove-owners reside upon their property the year around or not. Summers in this high-altitude-lake-district are as agreeable as the winters. With competent crews working under the direct supervision of our expert grower, whose ability and fitness are recognized by both state and federal departments, we take over all care and responsibility of your grove, if you so desire, thereby freeing you from obligation of personal attention and at the same time guaranteeing you against all risk of insuperable inefficiency of neglect. Our larger buying power and continuous use of skilled labor saves you money. The high type of scientific care and development we furnish is best proven by the fine condition of the groves at Lake Alfred and the satisfaction of the owners who live on their land and who have used our services continuously since the day we took hold, years ago.

One business policy is unique in many respects. We will not sell you an acre until you come down and learn the facts or send someone in whose competency and integrity you can rely. We wish you to make observations and comparisons in your own way. Our home office at Lake Alfred will extend every facility enabling you to form accurate judgment. Whether you buy or not you will enjoy our uniform courtesy and service. It is through the many and general good opinions of others that most of our sales have come.

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EATONIC FOR YOUR ACID-STOMACH

Regretting at Leisure. Mrs. Houllihan—Phwat a fool I was! I'd never saw yez till the day before me unforchinit marriage. Houllihan—Faith, O! wish ye hadn't seen me till the day after.—Boston Transcript.

Keep your liver active, your bowels clean by taking Dr. Froy's Pleasant Pellets and you'll keep healthy, wealthy and wise. Adv.

Bells Go to Rightful Owners. Three huge bells formerly in the belfry of Christ church, Wellington, New Zealand, have been presented by that government to France. The bells were cast from cannon captured by the Germans from the French in 1870, and were presented to Christ church by German residents.

The View of It. "Do you believe in heredity?" "Not at all. Neither of my parents is either smart or good-looking."

A true friend is one who never reminds you of your best traits.

To Be Safe. The prima donna was reading the rough draft of her new contract. When she came to the paragraph providing that she should have transportation for herself, maid, dog and Sig. Gazibonani, her husband, she drew a line through the signor's name. "Just put that husband," she ordered.

"Yes, madam," assented the manager. "But why, if I may ask?" The diva blushed and coyly ducked her head. "I may wish to make a change," she answered.

A single dose of Dr. Peery's "Dead Shot" will expel worms of Tapeworm. No second dose or after negative treatment. Tones up the stomach and bowels. Adv.

A Mixed Jury. "How did she happen to lose the case?" "Some of the ladies on the jury didn't think she was as beautiful as her lawyer tried to make out.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

HAARLEM OIL CAPSULES IF YOUR BACK ACHES

Do you feel tired and "worn-out"? Are you nervous and irritable? Don't sleep well at night? Have a "dragged out" unrested feeling when you get up in the morning? Dirty spots? Blisters? Bad taste in the mouth, backache, pain or soreness in the loins, and abdomen? Severe distress when urinating, bloody, cloudy urine or sediment? All these indicate gravel or stone in the bladder, or that the poisonous microbes, which are always in your system, have attacked your kidneys.

You should use GOLD MEDAL Haarlem Oil Capsules immediately. The oil soaks gently into the walls and lining of the kidneys, and the little poisonous animal germs, which are causing the inflammation, are immediately attacked and chased out of your system without inconvenience or pain.

Don't ignore the "little pains and aches," especially backaches. They may be little now but there is no telling how soon a dangerous or fatal disease of which they are the forerunners may show itself. Go after the cause of that backache at once, or you may find yourself in the grip of an incurable disease. Do not delay a minute. Go to your druggist and insist on his supplying you with a box of GOLD MEDAL Haarlem Oil Capsules. In 24 hours you will feel renewed health and vigor. After you have cured yourself, continue to take one or two Capsules each day so as to keep in first-class condition, and ward off the danger of future attacks. Money refunded if they do not help you. Ask for the original imported GOLD MEDAL brand—and thus be sure of getting genuine.—Adv.