

LESSON 3

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

MEMORY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

8. Where was Jesus born?

Jesus was born in Bethlehem as the prophet Micah had said.

9. Was the birth of Jesus a miracle?

The birth of Jesus was God's great miracle to save us.

10. Who was this baby Jesus?

Jesus was the son of Mary and the Son of God.

11. Why did Jesus come into the world?

God had promised that He was coming to save His people and to win the victory over Satan.

LEARN TO SING:

Psalter Hymnal 337:1

Joy to the world! the Lord is come. Let earth re -
ceive her King; Let ev - ery heart pre- pare Him room,
And heaven and na - ture sing, And heaven and na - ture
sing, And heaven, and heav - en and na - ture sing.

MEMORY TEXT:

“This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.”

1 Timothy 1:15

READ CAREFULLY:

Luke 1:26-56; Luke 2:1-7; John 1:1-18

ABOUT THIS LESSON:

We have had you look back in the first lesson, children, to see what God had promised in the Old Testament. We saw the wonderful promise God made to Adam when He was placing the curse on Satan. We saw how God made the promise plainer when He spoke it again to Abraham.

SATAN TRYING TO BREAK THE LINE

All through the Old Testament times, Satan was trying to break the line that was to bring Christ into the world—the line of God’s wonderful promise. You saw something about that line when you studied the first lesson.

Then you saw how God caused a Way-Preparer, John the Baptist, to be born. God worked a miracle so that he could be born, didn’t He? We saw how much Satan had been working so that the way would not be ready. We saw how many friends Satan had made, even among God’s chosen people.

GOD STOPS SATAN

But God’s promises would not be broken. God is faithful and God is almighty. But we must remember that God did choose to use men in the great battle that He was fighting with Satan. That is why sometimes it looked as if the battle was lost.

When we see how many people were really looking for Jesus when He was born, we might think that the devil had really won the battle. But Jesus was born.

PROMISE FULFILLED THROUGH A MIRACLE

The promise is being fulfilled, and Jesus is born in a most wonderful way. He did not have an earthly father. God caused Jesus to be born of a virgin—a young lady who was not married. It was a miracle. You see, children, it takes a miracle, it takes God’s special working to save sinners who are dead and who deserve to go to hell!

And who was this Jesus? He was the Son of God. He was and is God. He even made the worlds. In John 1, which I have asked you to read carefully, John says that “All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”

John also says in the 14th verse of chapter 1, “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” If we compare this with the first verse, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God,” we see that John is talking about Jesus and is saying that He is God.

THE MIRACLE OF CHRIST’S BIRTH

What a wonderful event Christmas is, children. You notice that in the song I have asked you to learn, you sing, “Joy to the world! The Lord is come.” For this time God is not coming to judge the world, but to speak to the world of a way that we can again be friends of God. He is telling us that He is winning the victory over Satan so that all those who have not made friendship with Satan, or have broken their friendship with Satan by believing God’s promise, could once again be friends of God.

But Jesus was also man. He was the son of the virgin Mary. He was one of us and, “He was like unto us, His brethren, in all things, sin excepted.” He came to take our place. He came to fight the battle against Satan for us. He came to do the will of God for us. He came to die for us.

Now do you wonder why the angels sang such a wonderful song? Do you wonder now that they sang about peace? God was making peace with man. He was making peace for man (that is for all those who believe on Him). But remember that He was making peace for man by making war with Satan. We will see that in all His life Jesus was fighting with Satan. We will see later how hard Satan tried to kill Jesus, how hard he tried to have people kill Him.

THE SONG OF MARY

Now you will see why you read the wonderful song that Mary sang when she knew that Jesus was going to be born from her. Christmas, boys and girls, is wonderful—very, very wonderful. It is the time that God kept the most wonderful promise that ever had been made. It is the time that the greatest Gift that has ever been given came into the world.

When we think of Christmas, we like to think that just everybody is happy and joyful because of it. Remember that Satan kept the people then (except for a few, as we will see two weeks from now) from being happy about the right things in Christmas. Satan still does the same thing. Then the people would have been happy with Jesus’ coming if He would just do the things that they wanted Him to do. If they could just have the kind of kingdom that they would like to have. If Jesus would just fight against their enemies instead of God’s enemies.

It is the same way today. Sad to say, Satan has been successful in getting many people to be joyful at Christmas because they do not know what really happened then. He fools them into thinking that if people are just nice and say nice things to each other and give nice gifts to each other, then they can really be happy. And then they do not really understand the promise God made.

They do not understand all that man has done, how sinful and dead man is. And that is exactly what the devil wants. The devil knows that if we are fighting a war and we don’t think that the enemy is very bad or very dangerous, we will not fight very hard. If we think that we have sort of won the victory already because people are so nice and so on, we will not fight very hard. That is what he tried to make the Jews think when Jesus was born and that is what he tries to make people think today.

VICTORY THROUGH CHRIST

But please remember, children, that as we are studying about the life of Jesus, we will be studying and learning about the greatest battle that has ever been fought in the whole world. It is still going on; and we are in it. How much do we know about it?

What will it mean to us pretty soon when it is Christmas and we will celebrate? Jesus is born! God keeps His promise! The devil cannot have God’s people as his friends. The devil’s people, the people who do not believe in Jesus, cannot have God’s people as their friends, for they are at war. And God through Jesus, wins the victory.

POINTS TO REMEMBER:

- ◆ 1. Sometimes in the Old Testament it looked as if the line of promise was going to be broken. That was because God used men in the great battle that He was fighting against Satan. But God’s promises could not be broken.
- ◆ 2. The birth of Jesus is a miracle. The greatest miracle in the history of the world. For Jesus is the Son of God, and Jesus is the son of Mary.

- ◆ 3. Christmas means that God came down to fight the battle against sin and Satan for us.
- ◆ 4. Christmas means that Christ was born to take our place, for He is our brother too. He came to fight the battle against Satan for us. He came to do the will of God for us. He came to die for us.
- ◆ 5. When Jesus was born, Satan was busy making people believe that if they were just nice, and Jesus would give them what they wanted, everything would be O.K. Satan works the same way today.

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

1. What is the line of the promise? Can you name some people on that line? What did God use that line for? (L. 1)

2. Why did God use a miracle to bring John the Baptist into the world? (L. 2)

3. What had Satan done to keep God's people from looking for Jesus to come? (L. 2)

4. What had God done to prepare for the coming of Jesus into the world? (L. 2)

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LESSON:

1. Why did it sometimes look as if the battle God was fighting with Satan was lost?

2. How many people were looking for the birth of Jesus?

3. What was so wonderful or special about the birth of Jesus?

4. Who was Jesus' father? mother?

5. Why did Jesus come into the world?

6. What does John 1 say about Jesus before He was born?

7. What is God telling us about the battle with Satan with the coming of Jesus?

8. Can you name some of the things Jesus came to do for us?

9. How would God make peace with the coming of Jesus?

10. When Jesus was born what did most people want Jesus to do?

11. What does Satan fool people into thinking about Christmas today?

12. What is the greatest war in history?