
A SERIES
----OF----
FIFTY-TWO
BIBLE LESSONS
FOR THE USE OF
INTERMEDIATE AND
ADVANCED CLASSES
IN THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL,
BY
J. W. MCGARVEY,

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ORIGINAL PUBLISHER'S PREFACE

The demand for the FIFTY-TWO BIBLE LESSONS, prepared by J. W. MCGARVEY in 1874, for Intermediate and Advanced Classes continues unabated. Notwithstanding the increased popularity of the International Lessons, there are classes almost everywhere that prefer to confine their studies to the New Testament, to the skip-around method adopted by the committee selecting the International Series. These have found in the FIFTY-TWO LESSONS, the subjects and lessons filling up the full measure of their desires. The publishers, by permission of the author, have electro-plated its pages from new type and now offer it to the Sunday-School world with confidence that it will abundantly satisfy every class that will adopt and study its lessons.

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LESSON I

The Birth of John the Baptist

LUKE'S INTRODUCTION -- LUKE i: 1-4

Does Luke claim to be an eye-witness of the things of which he writes? (1, 2)

What source of information does he claim? (2)

What extent of information does he claim? (3)

What was his object in writing? (4)

ZACHARIAH'S VISION -- 5-22

Who and of what family were the parents of John? (5)

Meaning of "the course of Abia." See 1 Ch. xxiv: 1, 4, 5, 10.

Note -- Abia is the New Testament form of Abijah, having lost the j by coming through the Greek, which has no j.

What was the character of John's parents, and why is it mentioned? (6) Their age, and why is it mentioned? (7) Compare verse 18.

What was Zachariah's task as a priest? (9) What did the people do while the incense was burning? (10) What occurred in the temple? (11, 12, 13)

What was predicted of the position and habits of John? (15) What of his influence with the people? (16, 17) What other conversation occurred? (18-20) What was the effect on the people? (21, 22) What was the design of these miraculous events? When did these things occur? (5)

JOHN BORN AND CIRCUMCISED -- 23-25, 57-64

When did Zachariah go home, and where was his home? (23, 39, 40) How many were the days of his ministration?
Ans -- As there were twenty-four courses of priests, each course served two weeks, and the other four weeks of the year

were taken up with festivals, at which all the priests were present.

What was the feeling of the neighbors when John was born?(58) Compare verse 14. Describe the scene at his circumcision. (59-64) When was it customary to name a child? 59. What custom of Pedobaptists is copied from this?

Note -- This is a trace of the mistaken idea that baptism took the place of circumcision.

What was the effect of these events on the people? (65, 66) State in full the purpose of God in Zachariah's dumbness. What effect must these events have had in John's favor when he commenced his ministry?

In Zachariah's prophecy, concerning whom does he speak in verses 67-75; of Jesus, or John? Why of the former on this occasion? Compare verse 76. What prediction did he then make concerning John? (76) How was John to give the people knowledge of salvation? (77) What more is said of John's early life? (80) Does it appear from this that he entered the priest's office? In what deserts was he? *Ans* -- The term *desert* applies to the thinly inhabited portions of

Judea, like the hill country in which John's parents resided. This was an appropriate place for the early life of such a man as John.

LESSON II

The Birth of Jesus

ANNOUNCEMENT TO MARY -- LUKE i: 26-40

State the place of residence, the family connection, and the espousal of Mary. (26, 27) Repeat the salutation of the angel. (28) In what way was Mary highly favored and blessed? Does this salutation prove that she was sinless?

In announcing the birth of Jesus, what did the angel say he should be and do? (32, 33) How would David be his father? (32) Compare verse 27. By what power was the birth of Jesus to be accomplished, and why was he to be called the Son of God? (35) How much older was John than Jesus? (36)

When the angel departed, what did Mary do? (38-40)

How long did she stay there? (56)

Note -- Mary's hymn of thanksgiving in verses 46-55 is well worthy of being committed to memory by the class.

JOSEPH'S TROUBLE -- MATT i: 18-25

What did Joseph think of doing with Mary? (19) How did he learn what to do?

What reason was given for naming the child Jesus? (21) Why was he to be called Emmanuel? (23) Where do you find the prediction of his birth here quoted? (23) Is. vii: 14. In what condition was Joseph when the angel appeared to him? (24, 20)

JESUS BORN IN BETHLEHEM -- LUKE ii: 1-7

What caused Joseph and Mary to go from Nazareth to Bethlehem? (1-5)

Note -- The word *taxed* is not a correct translation in this passage. It should be *enrolled*. The decree of Cæsar was that a census of all the world, by which is meant all the Roman Empire, should be taken.

When was this enrollment completed? (2)

Note -- Cyrenius was made governor ten or eleven years after the birth of Jesus, consequently the enrollment, although commenced a short time before his birth, was not completed till eleven or twelve years later.

Why should the enrollment of Joseph and Mary take place at Bethlehem? (4) Compare **1 Sam. xvii. 12.**

Note -- As the Jewish law required the lands originally given to any family to remain in that family forever, and as Joseph and Mary were both of the family of David, their inheritance was at Bethlehem, and the family genealogy was kept there. There, then must their names be enrolled.

What inconvenience did the parents of Jesus suffer? (7) Does this imply that they could have paid for lodging in the inn if there had been room?

THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE SHEPHERDS -- LUKE ii: 8-20

Describe the appearance of the angel to the shepherds. (8, 9) Why did they watch their flock by night? (8) What did the angel say to them? (10-12) Why give them a sign by

which to find the babe? (12) What more did the shepherds hear? (13, 14) Was the song of the angels appropriate to the birth of Jesus; if so, why?

What was immediately said and done by the shepherds? (15-17) What did the people think, and what did Mary think? (18, 19) What more did the shepherds do? (20) What kind of men were they?

Does the history of the birth of Jesus furnish any proofs that he was the Son of God and the Christ? If so, what are they? Do you see any wisdom in the choice God made of the parents of Jesus? If so, in what particulars? Were the events connected with his birth still remembered when he began his public ministry?