

## Sunday School Lesson

Lesson I. First Quarter, For January  
7, 1912

**N**OTICE in the opening verses that Luke says to his friend that he is about to set forth a declaration of things most surely believed, that he might know the certainty of those things. May all who study these lessons be most surely believers, knowing the certainty of all things written in the whole Bible.

It seems to me that Luke must have had in mind the words of Prov. xxii, 21, "That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth, that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee." Thank God for a book of certainties concerning things beyond the wisdom of men and concerning Him of whom the whole book tells, the Creator, Redeemer, Judge, the Head of the church, the Messiah of Israel, the King of kings and Lord of lords. Matthew writes of Him as King of the Jews, Mark tells of the perfect servant, Luke describes Him as man, the Son of Man, and John sees Him as the Son of God, reminding us of the four faces of the cherubim, the lion, the ox, the man, the eagle. He was foretold as the coming one from Gen. iii, 15, onward, and He often appeared as a man before He came as the Son of Mary. But He was the Creator of all things and yet set apart as the Redeemer before the world was (John 1, 1-3; Col. 1, 16, 17; I Pet. 1, 20). The Holy Spirit who wrote the whole of this book foretold both by Isaiah and Malachi that a certain one would precede Him and herald His coming and prepare the way before Him (Isa. xl, 3, 4; Mal. iii, 1). The angel Gabriel confirms this in verse 17 of our lesson.

Herod reminds us of the great adversary, the devil, to whom he belonged and whom he served so well, but God works out His purposes in spite of all adversaries and makes even the wrath of man to praise Him (Ps. lxxvi, 10). Herod belonged to the line of Cain, which will be consummated in the coming antichrist, or wicked one, or beast of Dan. xi, 36, 45; II Thess. ii, 8, 9; Rev. xix, 19, 20.

Zacharias and Elizabeth are in the line of Abel and belong to Him who shall yet overcome, the Lamb, who is also the Lord of the whole earth. How beautiful the testimony concerning them in verse 6, "They were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord, blameless." Their standing before God was correct, for they could say, "In the Lord have I righteousness and strength," and they relied upon the blood which maketh atonement for the soul (Isa. xlv, 24; Lev. xvii, 11). They lived according to Mic. vi, 8, doing justly, loving mercy and walking humbly with God. Yet in their life story there were a loneliness and a long unanswered prayer (verses 7, 13). The prayer had been heard from its first utterance, but God's time had not come. Let us never doubt that He hears us, but let us be gladly patient as we wait for Him (Ps. xxxvii, 7). In their case it seemed a hopeless matter, somewhat like Abraham and Sarah, but the latter had assurance

from God that the child would be given, and so he staggered not through unbelief (Rom. iv, 19, 22). There must be good reason for allowing us to come to the end of ourselves and to wait till the last minute, so to speak, before manifestly answering our petitions. Consider the case of Peter in Acts xii. Having committed the matter to the Lord, go about your work with the assurance that He will see to it. Zacharias was doing as was his custom, executing the priest's office before God (verses 8-10). It was the time to burn incense, and the multitude were praying without. It is all so suggestive of our present privilege, for there is one before God on our behalf who ever liveth to make intercession for us.

The appearance of the angel troubled Zacharias, as also it did Mary some months later, but his word to each had a comforting "fear not" (verses 11-13, 29, 30). There is many a "fear not" for you, O faint hearted believer, if you would but appropriate them. God does not give fear (II Tim. i, 7). There must be great joy and gladness where the angels live, for they have much to say about it (verse 14; Lu. ii, 10), but it is all because of Him to whose voice they love to hearken and excelling in strength to do His pleasure they delight to do His commandments (Ps. ciii, 20-22). How wonderful is verse 15, where we learn that this promised Son would be great in the sight of the Lord and filled with the Spirit from His birth, in order to make ready a people prepared for the Lord (verse 17). There is, however, a separation implied, according to Num. vi, 1-8, without which the spirit filled life cannot become a reality. Insulation from the world is essential to a God glorifying life (Rom. xii, 1, 2). Elijah's life was a separated one also, his motto being, "The Lord God of Israel liveth before whom I stand," but even he did not always see the Lord alone, nor did he always cease from himself. Zacharias did not promptly receive Gabriel's message and was in consequence dumb.

### Tell of Weird Voting in Dauphin County

Election Board Members Voted Twice, They  
Admit in Contest for District Attorneyship

**T**HE climax of stupidity on the part of Dauphin county election boards was revealed in the testimony in Paul A. Kunkel's contest of the election as district attorney of Michael E. Stroup, when it was shown that in Williams township last month two minority officers each voted twice, one having to mark the ballot for the other. None of these four ballots was counted.

The minority inspector, Aaron Lenker, and the clerk, William A. Miller, are the two Democratic officials who achieved this distinction. Each was on the stand and their testimony tallied.

Lenker was uncertain how to mark his ballot for the fusion ticket, so Miller did it for him, as well as marking his own. Each voted the straight Democratic ticket. Later they discovered

that they had not voted for any township officers, because none had been nominated on the Democratic ticket.

The judge of elections, Harvey Umholtz, they said, then told them to take other ballots and vote for local officers. They did, marking a cross after each Democratic candidate and writing in names of men for whom they wished to vote for township places.

In the evening, when the court started, an argument arose about which of these four ballots to count, which ended by Umholtz throwing out all four. Lenker and Miller testified that Umholtz stuffed the four ballots into his pockets and has them yet. Judge McCarrell directed that Umholtz be subpoenaed for next Tuesday to explain the transaction.

The entire county has now been canvassed in the testimony. Kunkel asserts that he has shown 162 ballots were thrown out. Stroup asserts that only 124 have been shown thrown out. The difference is that many election officers have been uncertain as to the exact number which were thrown out. Kunkel has counted the maximum in each case and Stroup the minimum. The face of the returns shows Stroup to have beaten Kunkel by 135, and Judge McCarrell has been endeavoring to ascertain if a sufficient number of ballots were uncounted to change the result if they should be counted.

### Pennsylvania's Record

Crops For the Year Equal More Than 4 1/4  
Per Cent. of Nation's Output

**F**ROM 3.417 per cent. of the total farm crop acreage in the United States during the year just closed, Pennsylvania, by application of approved modern scientific methods of agriculture, produced crops valued at 4.687 per cent. of the total value of all the crops in the country.

These figures are shown in the annual crop statement by William J. Rose, division freight agent of the Philadelphia and Schuylkill divisions of the Pennsylvania railroad, compiled annually from statistics from the bureau of statistics of the United States department of agriculture.

The showing of Pennsylvania is considered remarkable, inasmuch as this state's portion of the total value of the farm crops is more than 1 per cent. more than this state's portion of the to-

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tal acreage under cultivation for ordinary field crops.

The total acreage under cultivation throughout the country during the year was 230,955,800, of which 7,892,000 acres lay in Pennsylvania. The selling value of the total crop of the country, comprising nine different style field crops, was \$3,552,104,387, of which Pennsylvania's share was \$166,476,400.

The advanced position taken in agriculture by this state in this and other years is shown by an interesting column in Mr. Rose's tabulation, which gives the "yield value per acre" of the farms throughout the country. Taking the entire country as a unit, each acre of farm land should yield \$15.38 selling price of its crop. But the Rose report shows that in Pennsylvania each acre yields on an average \$21.09. This accounts for the gross selling price of Pennsylvania crops being so far in advance of other states.

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