

Unity Explains This Week's International BIBLE LESSON



The Divine Gift.
—Matt. 1:1, 18-25

1. The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

18. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

19. And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.

20. But when he thought on these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

21. And she shall bring forth a son; and thou shalt call his name JESUS; for it is he that shall save his people from their sins.

22. Now all this is come to pass, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying,

23. Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son,

And they shall call his name Immanuel;

which is, being interpreted, God with us.

24. And Joseph arose from his sleep, and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took unto him his wife;

25. And knew her not till she had brought forth a son: and he called his name JESUS.

Questions and Answers

Why is the Christ called "the son of David, the son of Abraham"?

David represents love and Abraham faith. These two faculties, when quickened in man, bring him into the Christ consciousness. The Christ in man is the offspring of love and faith.

From what do we derive our higher nature?

From the universal Spirit, the source of all life and being.

What is the virgin birth?

The virgin birth is the awakening of the mind of man to the conception

of the Christ Spirit as the only reality. Spiritual birth is always a virgin birth.

To the metaphysician, what is the meaning of the name Immanuel?

Immanuel means "God with us," but the metaphysician sees it as the consciousness that God is with us and that we are one with Him. The name thus means to him, "God within us."

At its inception in the soul of man, why is the I AM represented as a newborn child?

The newborn child represents the purity, innocence, and trust of one whose mind is stayed on God.

What do Mary and Joseph represent?

Mary represents the soul; Joseph, intuitive wisdom. Joseph, "being a righteous man," wished to do what was right without regard to his own interests, and he meditated on the course he should take.

Is meditation conducive to enlightenment or intuitive perception?

Yes. In meditation the mind is stilled and becomes receptive to the true ideas of universal Mind, in which all wisdom and knowledge abides. Joseph received guidance from the Lord in a dream after meditation.

What connection has wisdom with love?

Wisdom is the outcome of love deeply and quietly held. We understand those whom we love. "Joseph [wisdom], thou son of David [love]." Together, wisdom and love form the mind of the Christ.

What is the Christ?

The Christ is the perfect-idea man, whom God created, the real self of all men. Jesus Christ is the Christ self brought into perfect expression and manifestation. Christ is the Saviour of mankind, the free, divine gift of God to us.

To Be Held in the Silence

The love of the Christ in my heart is the free gift of God to me.

(Next Sunday's lesson, "Our Dawning Consciousness of the Divine," is from Matt. 2:1-12.)

Christmas Table Blessing

Dear, loving Father, in the name of Thy most holy Son whose birth we celebrate this day, we rejoice and give thanks unto Thee for Thine infinite loving-kindness and tender mercies. Out of hearts filled with love for Thee and Thy Son, we give thanks for these lavish gifts from Thy hand. With joy we accept them, consecrate them, and partake of them now. Amen.

The I AM

By Elizabeth Searle Lamb

Dear Father-God, now I give the I AM within my being full dominion over my life. I recognize the I AM as the essence of that which is in Truth Thy Son, symbolized by Jesus Christ. Within deep silence, in Thy presence, I am conscious of the inner Christ, through whom I am able to enter into real communion with Thee.

Just as Jesus drew to Himself the twelve disciples, teaching them as He walked and talked with them, so I call upon each of the twelve faculties of mind that must all be developed within me. They must learn and grow in spiritual unfoldment and finally reach a spiritual regeneration, complete and total, in Christhood.

So in prayer, dear Father, I call upon faith, strength, wisdom, and love (Peter, Andrew, James, and John). I feel a quickening of these qualities within my own being. I call forth spiritual power, imagination, understanding, and will (Philip, Bartholomew or Nathanael, Thomas, and Matthew). I call upon order, zeal, renunciation, and the life forces (James the Less, Simon the Zealot, Thaddaeus, and Judas). Now each of these faculties is quickened spiritually, redeemed and harmonized, balanced in the whole pattern of the twelve.

It is my prayer, dear Father-God, that my own inner Christ self, the I AM, may take full control of my being, so that I may say with Jesus, "I and the Father are one."

Amen.

A Message to You

(Continued from page 6)

joy and blessing to others. As you go about your daily activities, hold close the wonder of divine love, this "Love all lovely" that Christ in you exemplifies, and let it flow out in thought and word and deed. Let "Love to God and all men" be your highest aim, and this will be the most joyous Christmas you have ever known. Let this filling of divine love be to you a continual "gift and sign" of the living Christ Spirit, which abides in you.

"Love came down at Christmas and dwells with you eternally!"

Your friends in

Silent Unity

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IT IS this year to, ing eve new ye: lions of greeting: ized, the blossom of brigh nium and have any to comp luck or u ences. Fe we have : or whisp new year" —to loved and strang it not ha that the y brand-ne turned out better tha that prece It cannot on the ba "history al tory never for it has make thing: History is kind—the And your l penings of the story of dominant th and reaction themselves

BIBLE LESSON

Unity's Interpretation of the International Sunday School Lesson

Divine Gift.—Psalms 148:1-3, 11-13; Matt. 1:18-25

1. Praise ye Jehovah.
Praise ye Jehovah from the heavens:
Praise him in the heights.
2. Praise ye him, all his angels:
Praise ye him, all his host.
3. Praise ye him, sun and moon:
Praise him, all ye stars of light.
11. Kings of the earth and all peoples;
Princes and all judges of the earth;
12. Both young men and virgins;
Old men and children:
13. Let them praise the name of Jehovah;
For his name alone is exalted;
His glory is above the earth and the heavens.

18. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

19. And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.

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Questions and Answers

What is the meaning of the name Jehovah?

Jehovah is one of the names of God. In Exodus 3:14, 15, Moses says that Jehovah told him that His name means "I AM THAT I AM." The I AM is the ideal creation of Divine Mind. In the Old Testament the I AM is symbolically described as Jehovah; in the New Testament it is called Christ.

Why does the Psalmist exhort us to praise Jehovah?

Our ultimate purpose is to compre-

hend and attain oneness with the I AM, the divine nature, the ideal or perfect-man idea that indwells within us. Praise stirs into activity the higher powers and spiritual energies of our being. It exalts our spirit and clears our vision to perceive the I AM, the only-begotten Son of God, the cause and the fulfillment of our existence.

What is the virgin birth?

The virgin birth is the awakening of the mind of man to the conception of the Christ Spirit as the only reality.

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To Be Held in the Silence

The love of the Christ in my heart is the free gift of God to me.

(Next Sunday's lesson, "The Sure Path," is from Eccles. 1:2, 3, 13; 2:1, 18; 3:16; 4:1; 5:10-12; 12:1, 13, 14.)

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To walk with Thee is heaven.
—Whittier.

AS A CHRISTMAS GIFT

"Daily Word magazine first came to me as a Christmas gift and as I am a shut-in, the readings mean a great deal to me. For such daily spiritual food I am very grateful.

"I wonder if you realize what a wonderful message without words you send out each month on the lovely colored covers of the magazine. The scenes from God's beautiful world in their soft natural colors are restful, and silently speak of the love and power of God. When I look at them I always hear, 'Be still, and know that I am God.' Please never stop sending out such beauty and inspiration."

This particular letter came from a Unity friend in Ohio, but each year *Daily Word* receives many letters as full of warm gratitude as this one. Therefore, we can assure you that *Daily Word* magazine is a gift that is always appreciated. Containing a meditation, an affirmative prayer, and a Bible verse for each day of the month, along with short articles and inspiring poems, *Daily Word* is priced at \$1 a year.



UNITY SCHOOL OF CHRISTIANITY

LEE'S SUMMIT, MO.

VOL. XLVI



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