

=MISCELLANEOUS LESSONS=
Christmas - Lesson 2
The Christmas Story from Man's Viewpoint

AIM: to teach my pupils what Christmas means to man.

POINT OF CONTACT: Ask the pupils to share with you some gift that they received this year. If they have it on, let them show it. If they have it with them, they could show it to the class. This would be a good way to introduce the lesson and get everyone's attention and interest. By the way, that attention and interest may be hard to get this Sunday, so plan your lesson very carefully.

INTRODUCTION: Notice the words in Isaiah 9:6, "For unto us." These words mean that Christmas means something to us, and though spoken by the prophet 700 years before Christ, they present to us exactly what Jesus is from our standpoint. In others words, these words explain what He offers and is to us and what His birth offered and means to us.

I. ISAIAH 9:6, "FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN...."

This child had been promised for hundreds of years. As soon as Adam and Eve fell into sin in the Garden of Eden, God promised in Genesis 3:15 that the seed of woman should someday bruise the head of the serpent. That means that the Messiah is come to us. Christ is God's promised one. He is God's provision for our sin. He is God's acceptable sacrifice as an atonement for our sin. He is God's answer to God's justice, provided by God's mercy.

II. "...UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN...."

Notice John 3:16. Jesus is the Son of God. This means that to us He is God's only Son, given to us as our sacrifice for sin. John 3:16 gives this so beautifully. He is God's Christmas gift to us. You may want to discuss here the giving of gifts for Christmas—what some received, what some gave; then explain that the biggest Christmas gift of all was given by God when He gave His only Son. Discuss here that God gave us a Saviour, and that to us Christmas means a Saviour. This is the biggest thing about Jesus' coming. Luke 19:10 says, "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." This shows us that the purpose of His coming was to save the lost.

III. "...AND THE GOVERNMENT SHALL BE UPON HIS SHOULDER...."

Christmas means to us the fact that someday the world will know peace, and Jesus shall be in charge of the governments of this world. There have only been four world empires in the past; there will only be two more. The first empire that conquered the known world was the Babylonian Empire, second was the Medes and Persians, then the Grecian Empire followed by the Roman Empire. Since the Roman Empire, no known empire has conquered the known world. Under the leadership of the Antichrist, the Western nations will someday conquer the world, only to be defeated by the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall set up His kingdom of peace upon earth for one thousand years. So not only does Christmas mean a child born and a Son given, but it also means a ruler that shall rule the world in righteousness and peace.

IV. "...HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL...."

This word means "full of wonder" or "full of miracles." The birth of Jesus means the coming of a miracle-worker. His birth was miraculous in that it was virgin. His life was miraculous in that it was sinless. His death was miraculous in that He did not have to die, but laid down His life for us. His resurrection was miraculous in that He overcame the grave. His ascension was miraculous in that He overcame gravity. Indeed, He is full of wonder and full of miracles. The great miracle, however, is the miracle of the new birth, how that God can save a person from sin through Jesus Christ. Discuss salvation for a few moments and be sure that everyone in the class is saved. If a lost one is present, do your best to win him to the Saviour.

V. "...COUNSELLOR...."

Christmas means that we have a Counsellor. Jesus became flesh and in so doing, took upon Himself the likeness of sinful flesh. In other words, He learned to sorrow, He learned to be lonely, He learned to be

tired, He learned to be hungry, He learned to weep. That means He knows our problems, and knowing our problems He can counsel with us and help us. On Christmas, God gave us a Counsellor. What a privilege to avail ourselves of His expert advice. He is always with us to give us wisdom and leadership when we need counselling.

VI. “...THE MIGHTY GOD...”

Actually Christmas means to us that God gave us Himself. The words “mighty God” actually mean “the conquering God.” God was made flesh (John 1:14, Philippians 2:8, Hebrews 1:3, John 1:1-3, etc.) in Jesus.

VII. “...THE EVERLASTING FATHER...”

The words could be translated, “the Father for eternity.” We have an earthly father for a number of years and lose him, but in Jesus we have an everlasting Father who will always be with us. This certainly offers great security, doesn’t it? He is the only person in our family that will never die. He is everlasting, He is eternal, and He will be with us through eternity.

VIII. “...THE PRINCE OF PEACE...”

These are interesting words. Some commentaries seem to think it is the word “tranquilizer.” To say the least, it means that Jesus gives us peace and tranquillity. In times of fear, He is our tranquilizer. In times of nervous tension, He is our tranquilizer. In times of loneliness, He is our tranquilizer. He is the Prince of Peace. Let us lean upon Him for comfort and strength.

CONCLUSION: Now discuss for a few minutes the points to stress to each age level. The fact that Jesus is the child and Son of God should be stressed to all people, of course. The fact that He is Counsellor could well be stressed to young people who are so much in need of counsel and wisdom. The fact that He is the Mighty God, the Unconquerable God, could be stressed to people with the problems of life in the busy activities of middle age. The fact that He is the everlasting Father could certainly be an encouragement to older people. The fact that He is the Prince of Peace could certainly encourage every heart in this busy, troubled age. The fact that He is full of wonders and full of miracles should certainly lead us to help the lost be saved. Their lives can be miraculously changed. Let us remind them of this blessed fact.