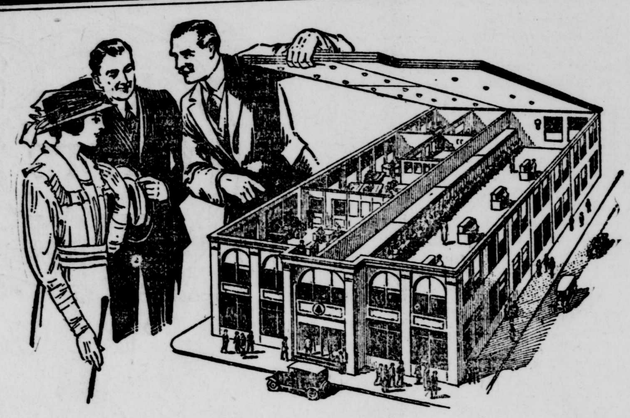

New telephones mean new buildings, new central offices, new equipment.

How Maryland's Growth Affects Us

MARYLAND'S telephone system is now growing at the rate of some 9,000 telephones a year. That means that each year additional telephone plant and equipment must be added to provide this extension of service.

During the war, telephone equipment for usual purposes was practically unobtainable; in the reconstruction period the demand for it from all parts of the country has been greater than the capacity of the manufacturing plants.

Notwithstanding these conditions, Maryland's telephone system is being constantly extended to keep pace with the development of the State.

In 1919 our expenditures for extensions in Maryland were $1,453,000, in 1920 more than $1,800,000, and for the first nine months of this year nearly $1,300,000. Our plans call for further large expenditures.

Our investment in the State is now nearly $21,300,000.

The Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company

R. C. HARRIS, Manager

(J)

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL

Sunday School Lesson

(By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D. D., Teacher of English Bible in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)

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LESSON FOR DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS LESSON—THE VISIT OF THE WISE MEN.

LESSON TEXT—Matt. 2:1-12.

GOLDEN TEXT—And when they had opened their treasures they presented unto him gifts; gold and frankincense and myrrh.—Matt. 2:11.

PRIMARY TOPIC—Wise Men Visit the Baby Jesus.

JUNIOR TOPIC—The Wise Men and the Star.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—The First Christmas.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—The Most Joyous Day in the Year.

I. The King Earnestly Sought (vv. 1, 2).

These Wise Men who sought Jesus were either Arabian or Persian astrologers—students of the stars. The appearance of an unusual star attracted their attention. Perhaps they were acquainted with the famous prophecy of Balaam (Num. 24:17). Doubtless through the influence of the Jews who remained in Chalden, or the direct influence of Daniel extending to this time, they had become acquainted with the hope of a Messiah. The light they had was dim, but they lived up to the best they had. To those who act upon the best light they have, God always gives more. To those who refuse to act upon the knowledge given, God not only refuses to give more, but brings into confusion that which they already possess (Matt. 25:28). These men were really wise. Let us learn from them:

1. That all true wisdom leads to the Savior, for He is the Logos—the fulness of wisdom.

2. That God's Word shall not return unto him void (Isa. 55:11). The seeds cast upon the waters of the East brought forth fruit after many days. No work done for the Lord eventually fails.

3. The grace of God calls men from unexpected quarters. Some who have the least opportunities give the greatest honors to Christ; while others, blessed with the richest opportunities, shut Him out.

II. Herod Seeking to Kill the King (vv. 3-8).

The news brought by the Wise Men struck terror to Herod's heart. He was not alone in this, for all Jerusalem was troubled with him. The news ought to have brought joy. A glimpse at the social customs in and about Jerusalem at that day will enable us to understand why this news brought uneasiness to the people. They were living in the greatest luxury. Fine dresses, sumptuous feasts, fine houses, etc., led to gross immoralities. They did not want a Savior who would save them from their sins—they wanted to continue in them. Herod demanded of the priests and scribes information as to where Christ should be born. They soon were able to tell him. These people had a technical knowledge of the Scriptures, but had no heart for the Savior set forth therein. They had no disposition to seek Him. This all occurred in Jerusalem, the city of the King—the place of all places where He should have been welcomed. It seems where the greatest privileges are, there is the greatest indifference shown as to spiritual matters.

III. The King Found (vv. 9-12).

The Wise Men having obtained the desired information, started immediately to find the King. As soon as they left the city, the star which had guided them from the East appeared again to lead them on. Not that it had disappeared from the sky, but the dwellings of the city, no doubt, shut out the sight of it. Oftentimes our spiritual vision is obscured or hidden by the things of this world. The star guided them to the place where the Christ was. Those who earnestly seek Jesus shall find Him, though all hell oppose. When they found Him they worshiped Him. In this they displayed true faith. They did not see any miracles, only a babe, yet they worshiped Him as King. "Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed" (John 20:29). Note God's overruling providence in all this. Many hundred years before, the prophet said that Christ should come from Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). God so ordered affairs that Mary should be brought to that city to give birth to Christ. God so ordered that these men should depart another way, thereby defeating Herod's wicked purpose. The Lord put gifts into the hands of Joseph and Mary before going to Egypt. Doubtless this served a good purpose in meeting their expenses during their stay there. Truly "All things work together for good to them that love God." (Rom. 8:28).

Dedicating the Wall of Jerusalem.

And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites out of all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem to keep the dedication with gladness, both with thanksgivings and with singing, with cymbals, psalteries, and with harps.—Nehemiah 12:27.

They Rebel Against the Lord.

Neither say they in their heart, Let us now fear the Lord our God, that giveth rain in his season; he reserveth unto us the appointed weeks of the harvest.—Jeremiah 5:24.

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Wishing all a Glad and Joyful
CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

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CENTRAL

There will be a Christmas entertainment at Central M. E. Church on Monday, December 26, given by the Sunday School.

Mr. M. Lee Wyatt was badly hurt last Saturday while cutting wood, when a stick struck him in the mouth. It required several stitches to close the cuts in his upper lip.

Mr. Dave Johnston's family had quite a serious time on Wednesday evening, when several were taken ill from eating canned salmon.

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