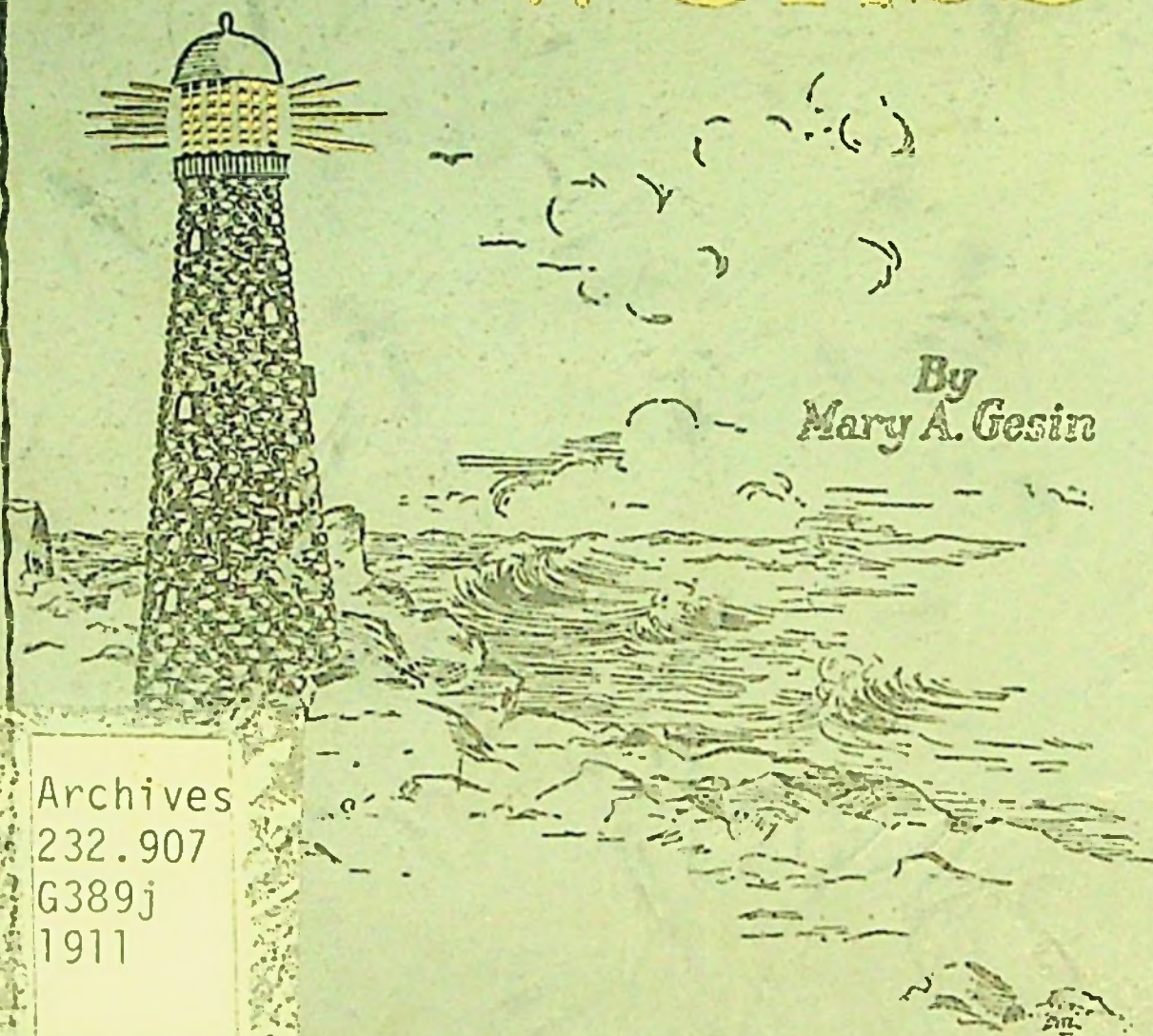


JESUS, ~~THE~~ LIGHT OF THE WORLD



By
Mary A. Gesin

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For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16.

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FOREWORD

This little book is published because of an urgent demand on the part of many parents who love their children and wish to have them enjoy the truth of the story of Jesus in its simplicity, without error or man's theory.

Because of excessive cost of picture plates this present edition is published without illustrations and sold strictly on its merits as to subject matter.

With the earnest hope that many children will be brought to know and to love "The Light of The World" more, this book is now sent out.

**Committee
for
The National Berean Society**

The Angel

ONCE upon a time in the long, long ago, an angel came to a young woman named Mary, who lived in the little town of Nazareth in Galilee. Mary was a little frightened at first, as any of us would be if an angel came to talk to us. But the angel said, “Fear not, Mary.”

Then the angel told her that she had found favor with God and that she was to have a little Son, whose name would be Jesus. That little Son was to be the Son of God and some day He would be King over all the earth and His kingdom should last forever and ever.

Don't you think this was wonderful news for Mary? She could not understand all of it, but she believed it

never-the-less and was very happy to think she had been so much favored by God. Perhaps she sang a little song as she went about her work, planning for the time when she could hold the dear little Babe in her arms and care for Him and watch Him grow. How glad she must have been to know that some day her Son was to be the Saviour of the world!

“He shall save His people from their sins.”

Matthew 1:21.

The Babe

S OON it was time for Joseph, who was Mary's husband, to go to Bethlehem to pay his taxes. He took Mary with him, and when they arrived all the hotels were crowded with visitors. Mary was very tired and Joseph looked and looked for a nice, quiet place for her but he could not find any. At last he found a stable that was not occupied and here that night the little Son came that Mary had waited for so long.

In those days they did not have all the pretty little garments we have for our little babies. They had only one long piece of fine white cloth, called swaddling clothes, which they wrapped round and round. Then they put some nice clean straw in the manger and laid the Baby on it. Just think of the Saviour

of the world and the One who is to be King over all kings, sleeping in such a modest bed! While Mary and the Babe slept, Joseph sat near by and watched over them.

“There was no room for them in the inn.”

Luke 2:7.



The Shepherds

WHILE Mary and the Babe were sleeping God tenderly watched over them to keep them from harm. This Child was a very, very precious One, for He was to be the Saviour of the world. How dearly every one loved Him, who came to see Him.

Some shepherds were out in the fields near Bethlehem watching their flocks by night. Suddenly in the quiet starlight, an angel appeared and a bright light shone upon them. How it frightened them at first, coming so suddenly on the still night air!

The angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour which is Christ, the Lord."

After the angel told them where to

find the Babe, the shepherds heard a chorus of angels singing, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace, good will to men."

It must have been beautiful music! The shepherds were so happy over this good news, that they said to each other, "Let us go at once to Bethlehem and see this Babe the Lord has told us about."

They left their flocks and hurried into the village, looking into all the empty stables until they found Mary and the Babe. They stood quietly for a little while looking at the sleeping Child and thinking of the wonderful song the angels sang. Then they went out and told all their friends about it. They could not keep such good news to themselves. Finally they remembered their sheep and returned to their work, thanking God for all they had seen and heard.

"For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:11.

The Three Wise Men

NOW, at the same time, when the shepherds found the Saviour, three wise men came to Jerusalem to ask their ruler, Herod, where He was who was born to be King of the Jews. They had seen His star in the east and had come to worship Him. This worried Herod very much. He was king and he did not want anyone else to take his throne. He was also a wicked man. He called his men together and asked them where Christ should be born. They said, "In Bethlehem of Judaea; for out of thee shall come a Governor, who shall rule my people Israel."

Then Herod called the three wise men to him and told them to return to Jerusalem after they had found the Child and tell him so he could also go and worship Him. They started on their journey and lo, the star which they saw in the east, went before them and led

the way. How happy they were, as they hurried along the way. When the star stood still in the sky, they found the place where Mary and Jesus were.

The three wise men kneeled down in worship before the Babe. They had brought Him some beautiful presents to show their love for Him. They had read in the old Testament that a Saviour was to come some day and now they had found Him and they were very glad.

When they started homeward God told them in a dream, not to return to Jerusalem and tell Herod where Jesus was, but to go home another way, which they did. The reason for this was that God knew Herod was a wicked man and that he did not really want to worship, but to do Jesus harm. So the wise men returned to their home east of Jerusalem without stopping to see Herod.

“When they saw the star,
they rejoiced with ex-
ceeding great joy.”

Matthew 2 : 10.

A Wicked Ruler

NOW Herod was very angry because he had not found out from the wise men where the Baby Jesus was, so he sent out word over all the country that every little boy under two years of age must be killed. He was jealous when he heard that this new Baby was to be King and he was determined to get Him out of the way. Wasn't that a dreadful thing to do? Think of all the sad mothers and fathers weeping because of that terrible law!

Now God was watching over His dear little Son, the Baby Jesus, and He told Joseph to take Mary and the Babe down to Egypt and hide them. So they arose during the night, dressed the little Child and quietly slipped away so no one would know it. They stayed there a long time and one night God told Jo-

seph he could take Mary and her Son home again, because the wicked ruler, Herod, was dead.

Then they came to live in a little village called Nazareth of Galilee, the same little town where Mary lived when the angel first appeared to her. The Baby Jesus grew to be a fine Boy, obedient to His parents in all things.

“Out of Egypt have I
called My Son.”

Matthew 2:15.

In The Temple

WHEN this dear Boy, Jesus, who came to be our Saviour, was twelve years old, He went with His parents to Jerusalem to keep the feast of the passover. And this is how they came to keep this feast.

Long, long ago when the children of Israel were slaves in Egypt, God brought great punishment on the wicked masters, because they were so cruel to these Israelite slaves. The last great punishment was that the oldest child was found dead in each family, unless they had the blood of a lamb sprinkled on the door posts. God told the Israelites about it and they all did as He told them, so none of their children was found dead. Only in the homes of the wicked masters, were the children

found dead. The angel of death passed over the homes of the Israelites so they called it the "passover." They were so thankful to God for saving their children in this way, that once every year they went to Jerusalem to thank God for His goodness to them. We must never forget to thank God for His goodness to us.

Now when Joseph and Mary were returning home from keeping this feast, after they had travelled for a day, they discovered that Jesus was not with them. Do you know how they travelled in these days? Very slowly indeed, in long rows of camels. They thought Jesus was riding with some of the folks. When they did not find Him among the company, they turned back to Jerusalem. After searching anxiously for three days, they found Him in the temple. And what do you suppose He was doing? Talking with lawyers and doctors and educated men, a mere Boy of

twelve! And they were all surprised at His wisdom and understanding.

When His mother asked Him why He had stayed behind, He said, “Did you not know I must be about My Father’s business?” In the days that followed Mary often thought over the words that Jesus said to her and also the message that the angel had brought her before He was born.

The others did not know that Jesus was learning about the work God wanted Him to do when He grew to be a man.

“Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.”

Luke 2:52.

“Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbade Him, saying, I have need to be baptized of Thee, and comest Thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered Him. And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him: and lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”—Matthew 3: 13-17.

The Baptism of Jesus

NOW while Jesus was growing up, He was studying and learning about the work He was to do for His Father. When He was about thirty years old, He heard that John, the Baptist was near by, and that he was baptizing many people to wash away their sins. Although Jesus was without sin, He went to John to be baptized also, to set an example for us.

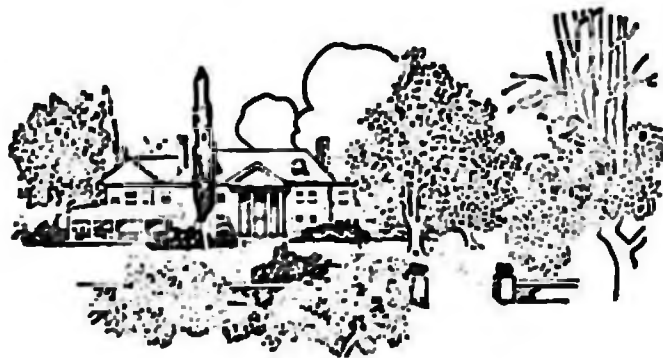
But John hesitated, for he thought he was not worthy enough to baptize the Saviour. John thought rather that the Saviour ought to baptize him. But Jesus persuaded him and so they both went down into the river Jordan and John baptized Jesus. Just as they came up out of the water, a wonderful thing happened! A dove alighted upon Jesus, a voice from heaven said, "This is my be-

loved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

Many, many people were standing on the banks of the river and they must have realized that this was indeed the Son of God!

“Prepare ye the way of the Lord. Make His paths straight.”

Luke 3:4.



Calling His Helpers

S OON after His baptism Jesus was walking along the seashore one day and He saw two brothers, Peter and Andrew, fishing. He called to them to follow Him and immediately they left their work and followed Him.

He walked on a little farther and saw two more brothers fishing. These were James and John. He called them and they also followed Him. In this way Jesus picked out the ones who were to help Him in His work, preaching and teaching the people, healing the sick and doing all the wonderful things they did for the people near them.

Jesus told them that there was a time coming when every one would love God and His Son, Jesus our Saviour. When there will be no sin in the world, no sorrow and no tears. When Jesus will be King over all the earth with His throne in Jerusalem. When there will be no

wild animals, nothing to hurt us, no weeds and no thorns! Everything will be as beautiful as it was away back in the Garden of Eden.

Won't that be a happy time, and don't we all want to be there? If we are obedient to Him and to our parents and love and serve Jesus all of our lives, we will be! In His Book, the Bible, He has told us what He wants us to do.

“They forsook all and followed Him.”

Luke 5:11.



A Very Sick Man

NOW when Jesus was on earth, teaching the people of the wonderful love of His Father, they brought many sick and lame folks to Him to be healed. Sometimes they crowded round Him so closely that others could not get near.

There was a man who had been very, very sick and his friends had heard of the wonderful things Jesus had done for others. So they knew if they could only carry him to Jesus, he would be healed.

One day they heard that Jesus was near by so they thought this would be their best opportunity. But there was such a crowd around Him, they could not get near. How sad they felt at first, for they thought they would have to take their sick friend back home.

One of their number spied the flat

house top and they carried their friend up there. When they had made an opening in the roof, they gently let down the sick man on his couch, so that he was just in front of the dear Saviour. As soon as Jesus saw the sick man, He said, "Arise, take up thy couch and go into thine house."

This man who had been so sick and weak he could not help himself, arose at once and did as Jesus bade him. How could Jesus heal this man whom the doctors could not help? Because He was the Son of God.

How gladly the man arose and thanked Jesus for His goodness to him. I think he loved Jesus the rest of his life and told others about it, don't you?

"The Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins."

Luke 5:24.

The Widow's Son

LONG, long ago, when Jesus was on earth, going about doing good to all, He was walking slowly along the country road one day. As He came near to the gate of the city, He saw some people walking along with down-cast heads, looking so sad! A poor widow was burying her only son! No wonder she was weeping.

Jesus was very sorry for her and told her to dry her tears. Then He stepped up to the young man who was lying there so still and said, "Young man, I say unto thee, arise." At once he that was dead, sat up and began to speak. And Jesus led him to his mother.

Wasn't that a wonderful thing for Jesus to do for this poor mother? How thankful she was, for this son had been

so good to her. Before they met Jesus, she had been thinking how lonely she would be and perhaps cold and hungry sometimes, too, without this big boy of hers to work for her. But now all was well again, and how gladly they returned to the city.

The people with them wondered at the power of Jesus to wake the dead. Some day He is coming back to earth again and then He will wake all the dead. What a glad time that will be!

“And they glorified God.”

Luke 7 : 16.

The Ruler's Daughter

THE story you just read was about the only son of a poor widow and now we will learn about the only daughter of a rich man. He was a ruler and his name was Jairus. His little girl, about twelve years of age, had been very sick. All the best doctors in the land could not heal her and her father was very sorrowful, for he loved her dearly.

When Jairus heard that Jesus had raised the poor widow's son, he thought "Perhaps He will heal my little daughter." So he hurried to Jesus and begged Him to come and say the word and his daughter would be well and happy once more.

Jesus started at once, but the crowd was so great around Him, that He had to walk very slowly. Before they reached the ruler's house, some one came out and told Jairus not to bother

the Master because the little girl had just died. Oh how heavy was the father's heart at this news! But Jesus said to him, "Be not afraid, only believe."

They hurried on into the house and to the room where the little child lay. The mother and grandmother and some other folks were standing near weeping and hardly saw Jesus at all. He went up to the little girl and took her hand and told her to arise. At once she sat up and opened her eyes!

Can't you imagine how happy her father and mother were? There must have been great rejoicing in that house that day. They must have loved Jesus more than ever and tried to serve Him all the rest of their lives.

"I say unto thee, arise,
and straightway the
damsel arose."

Mark 5 : 41 - 42.

Feeding the Multitude

LONG, long ago, when Jesus lived on the earth, He not only healed the sick and raised the dead, but He also fed the hungry. One day He had been teaching a great many people of the wonderful love of God. They had been listening to Him all day and they began to be hungry. The disciples said, "Let them go home, so they may get something to eat."

Jesus asked them if any one had anything to eat with him and they found a boy who had just five small loaves and two little fishes.

Jesus seated the great multitude on the grass and the disciples passed the food around. With this little lunch the boy had, there was enough for all and when they had finished eating, they

picked up twelve baskets of crumbs!

How was it that Jesus could feed five thousand people on such a little bit of food? Because He was the Son of God. And why did He do all these wonderful things? To show them the power and love of His Father.

“And looking up to heaven, He blessed and brake and gave the loaves to His disciples and the disciples to the multitude.”

Matthew 14:19.



A Servant Healed

WHILE Jesus was on earth doing good to rich and poor alike, one day a centurion came to Him. Now a centurion was an officer in the Roman army, who had many men to do his bidding. He told Jesus that his servant was at home very, very sick. And Jesus said, "I will come and heal him."

The soldier felt that Jesus was so much better than he, that he was not worthy of having Jesus enter his house. So he told Him that he knew if Jesus would only speak the word, the servant would be healed.

The centurion surely believed that Jesus was able to do all that he asked. He did not think it necessary for Jesus to see the man in order to heal him. And Jesus said, "Go thy way; as

thou hast believed so be it done unto thee.” The centurion hurried home and was so rejoiced to find his servant had been healed in the selfsame hour that Jesus spoke the word.

“Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.”
Matthew 8:10.



A Little Man

HAVE any of you little folks ever been in a large crowd, waiting to see some great man? If you have, you will understand and enjoy this story. Haven't you wished you were tall and could see over the heads of the others standing round you? That is just what happened to Zacchaeus, for he was a very short man.

Jesus was walking down the streets of the city of Jericho one day and Zacchaeus heard of it and wanted very much to see Him. But there were very many others taller than he who crowded round and Zacchaeus felt disappointed. What do you suppose he did?

A little to one side he saw a sycamore tree. Quickly climbing to its topmost branches, he had a good view of Jesus as He passed down the street. And, best of all, Jesus glanced up just

as He came near and saw the little man. He called Zacchaeus by name and told him to come down for He was going to be his Guest that day.

How joyfully the little man climbed down and led the way to his house! Zacchaeus was a rich man and no doubt had a very comfortable home. I think he offered the very best of everything he had to his wonderful Guest.

They had a long talk and Jesus told Zacchaeus before He left, "This day is salvation come to this house."

"The Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Luke 19:10.

Jesus' Friends

DURING the time that Jesus was on earth, preaching and teaching and doing good, He had no home of His own. But He had some good friends who loved him dearly and often cared for Him when He was tired and weary. Among these was Lazarus with his two sisters, Mary and Martha, who lived in the little town of Bethany.

Once when Jesus was away, Lazarus was very sick. He grew worse and in a few days he died. How sad and lonely the two sisters were! They thought of their dear friend, Jesus, and sent word to Him to come. As soon as they knew He was near, Martha ran out to meet Him and told Him she was sure her brother would not have died, if He had been there.

Jesus told her that her brother would live again, and she said, "I know

that he shall live again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus answered, "I am the resurrection and the life."

Martha ran into the house and called her sister and told her that Jesus was coming and wanted to see her. Mary went out to meet Him, weeping so sadly for her brother that Jesus wept also when He saw her.

They took Him to the grave and He called Lazarus to come forth and lo! he, that was dead, came forth from the grave! What a happy family they were once more. Many that were standing near believed that Jesus was truly the Son of God, when they saw the wonderful things He could do.

"Jesus said unto her,
Thy brother shall rise
again."

John 11:23.

The Death of Jesus

AFTER reading all these stories telling about the wonderful things that Jesus did while He was on earth, healing the sick, opening the eyes of the blind, raising the dead, you would think that every one must have loved Him, but no! There were some wicked people, mostly rulers, who were jealous of Him and found fault with all He did.

One day they took Him to the judgment hall and held a mock trial. They could not find anything wrong in Jesus, so they had to tell lies about Him. They whipped Him, spit at Him, mocked Him and put a crown of thorns on His head. Finally they put Him upon the cross and left him there to die.

Was Jesus angry at these wicked men for treating Him so terribly? O, no,

He only felt sorry for them and just before He died, He said, "Father, forgive them." What a kind and loving heart He had! It is easy to love our friends, but when we can do good to our enemies that is very much harder and better.

Jesus' mother and two other Marys stood weeping at the foot of the cross. The disciples thought that was the end and went very slowly and sadly away.

"Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. And the writing was, Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."

John 19:19.

The First Easter Day

THE last story you have read must have made you feel very, very sad, but this is just the happiest one in all the book.

Early in the morning the third day after Jesus died, Mary Magdalene went to visit His grave and found the grave open and Jesus gone! She ran to tell Peter and John about it and they came to see also. They thought some one had stolen His body. He had told them He would rise again the third day, but they had not understood.

The disciples went back to their homes, but Mary stood by, weeping. She looked into the grave and saw two angels, one at the head and one at the foot. They asked her why she was weeping and she told them some one had tak-

en away her Lord.

As she turned away from the grave she saw some one standing near, whom she took to be the gardener. He also asked her why she was weeping. "Tell me where you have laid Him," she said.

Then He called her by name in that loving voice of His and she knew Him. She fell at His feet and said, "Master." How glad she was, happier than she had ever been in all her life. She ran quickly to the disciples and told them all about it.

"Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord."

John 20:20.

Coming Again

FOR forty days after Jesus arose from the dead, He stayed on earth with His disciples, teaching them about the kingdom He is going to set up on this earth.

He ate with them sometimes, He helped them in their work, He showed them the prints of the nails in His hands, so that they knew He was really the same Jesus they had known and loved before. How they must have enjoyed those forty days with Him, and afterwards they thought of every word and look He gave them, just as we do when a dear friend leaves us.

One day when He was with His disciples on the Mount of Olives, just outside Jerusalem, while they watched Him, He was taken up into heaven. Two angels appeared and said to them, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus

which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go.”

And so we know that He is coming again some day. What a glad time that will be, no more sickness, no more sorrow, no more death!

Even so, come Lord Jesus, come quickly.

“These are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, ye might have life through His name.”
John 20:31.