

THE THEOCRAT

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Christmas Exercises

Of Zion Educational Institutions, Given in the College Chapel, on Friday, December 20, 1918

(C. B. W.)

The Christmas Exercises of Zion Educational Institutions, held in the Chapel of Zion College Building, on last Friday afternoon, far exceeded the expectations of those in attendance. The drills, executed with utmost precision, were indescribably beautiful. Parts of the program were sacred and touching in the extreme, and many people in the audience were moved to tears.

The exercises consisted of something higher than mere entertainment for the eye: they conveyed a message, real, living and intense—the story of the Savior's Birth, the rejection of the Messiah, and the message of Zion's hope of His Second Coming for which we are looking with great anticipation.

Despite the inclemency of the weather, the large auditorium was well filled, several hundred people having come through the rain and storm.

All parts of the exercises worked together in perfect harmony, making a unit of the entire program. Practically every portion was original.

It was a distinctly Zion program, such as could be found nowhere but in Zion Schools—lofty in conception, uplifting and inspiring.

One of the most marked features of the occasion was the spirit of reverence with which each student performed his part. To them and to all Zion, the message conveyed was real—part of their teaching and belief and part of their very lives.

After the invocation had been offered by Vice President Darms, the carol, "Glory to God in the Highest," was sung by the Senior Preparatory Chorus. "O List to the Voice of the Prophet of Old" was then sung by the entire school.

Meeting of the Wise Men

The prophecy of the Savior's Birth was brought out in a vivid and striking manner.

First, one of the Wise Men of the East entered, dressed in a richly colored oriental robe of the time, with ermine fur trimming. Scanning the sky, he exclaimed:

"Once more the daylight fades and this is the night which will bring the star to guide us on. It was the Hebrew, Daniel, the mighty searcher of dreams, a prophet of sure things and a reader of the thoughts of the Eternal, who wrote, 'Know, therefore, and understand that from the going forth of the commandment to restore Jerusalem, unto the anointed one, the Prince, the time shall be seven and three score and two weeks.'

"My two companions and I have searched the ancient tablets of Chaldea and computed the time. It falls in this year. We have studied the sky, and in the spring of the year we saw two planets draw near together.

"We also saw a new star there, which shone for one night and then vanished. Now, again, the two planets are meeting. This night is their conjunction."

Shading his eyes, he peered toward the East. His two companions, the other Wise Men, entered.

Second Wise Man: "Peace be with thee, O servant of the true God!"

First Wise Man: "And to thee, O brothers of the true faith—to thee peace and welcome!"

Third Wise Man: "Peace to you, O my brother!"

First Wise Man (to Third): "Thou, too, hast seen His star in the east!"

Third Wise Man: "Yes, and have come to worship Him."

First Wise Man: "What knowest thou of the One we seek? In that distant land, what knowledge gainedst thou to guide us on?"

Third Wise Man: "Hath it not been foretold by the prophet, Micah, that though Bethlehem be small among the thousands of Judah, from there shall He come forth that is to be ruler of Israel?"

Second Wise Man: "Yes,—A light to the Gentiles and a salvation unto the ends of the earth."

First Wise Man: "His name shall be Immanuel—'God with us.'"

Third Wise Man: "And He shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Second Wise Man: "He cometh to preach good tidings to the meek, and to bind up the broken-hearted."

Third Wise Man: "Is it not He of whom Isaiah prophesied, He shall bear our sins and heal our sicknesses?"

First Wise Man: "Moreover, He is to preach repentance unto the remission of sins."

Second Wise Man: "And oh! the mighty miracles that will be wrought; for Isaiah said that the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped; then shall the lame man leap as an hart and the tongue of the dumb sing!"

Suddenly, the three Wise Men looked joyfully toward the East and exclaimed:

"The Star! The Star! It is the sign! The Promised One is coming. Our eyes shall behold Him!"

Following their gaze, the audience beheld a brilliant star suspended overhead.

Immediately following, the Girls' Chorus of nineteen voices sang sweetly and impressively, "Holy Night, Silent Night."

Discussion Among Jewish Women

Four Jewish women, of the humbler class, entered, carrying water jugs on their shoulders and attired in the highly colored drapery of the East. Stopping at a well, they were met by several richly dressed Jewish women of the wealthy class, who resided in Jerusalem.

The following discussion took place:

Women to Water Carriers: "Greetings, sisters, and peace."

All Water Carriers: "The Lord's peace to you."

First Woman: "You have news today!"

First Water Carrier: "Have you not heard of the three great kings who came to Jerusalem this morning?"

First Woman: "We saw them going by, but knew not who they were."

Second Woman: "They seemed very rich and grand. They dressed in royal robes."

Second Water Carrier: "They stopped at the well to drink. They said they were bearing gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh to someone they called the King of the Jews."

All Women: "The King of the Jews!"

Third Woman: "Can they mean the promised Messiah?"

Fourth Woman: "What more did they say?"

Second Water Carrier: "They said, 'Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: He is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon a colt.'"

Fourth Woman: "Surely they mean the Prince of the House of David!"

First Woman: "Where did they go?"

Fourth Water Carrier: "They asked of many: 'Where is He that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the east and are come to worship Him.'"

Second Water Carrier: "No one knew, and they seemed surprised and disappointed."

Third Water Carrier: "They said they came from the East and had traveled far, following a star. It disappeared as they came near Jerusalem, and they thought they would find the Messiah here."

First Water Carrier: "But the star again appeared this evening and they went on toward Bethlehem."

All Women: "Come, let us learn more of them."

Thus it was seen that the Star had not stopped over Jerusalem, but had led the Wise Men beyond to Bethlehem, the City of David.

The Boys' Chorus, consisting of sixteen lads in white cottas, then sang the Christmas hymn, "O Little Town of Bethlehem."

The carol, "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear," was next sung.

Glad Tidings to the Shepherds

Luke 2:1-5, 8-15:

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenus was governor of Syria.)

And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, * * * * And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto 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.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

Illustrating these beautiful passages of Scripture, several lads appeared, carrying crooks and staves, attired as shepherds of Bethlehem's plains on the night of the Birth.

First Shepherd: "The inns of Bethlehem will be full tonight. Have you seen the crowds passing all day, going up to the city?"

Second Shepherd: "Yes, they are of the house of David, and are going up to the city of David, our Bethlehem, yonder, to pay their taxes and be numbered among his descendants."

First Shepherd: "David, the mighty king?"

Third Shepherd: "Yes, he was the youngest son of Jesse. When he was a boy taking care of his father's sheep, here in these very fields, he was anointed by the Prophet Samuel to be future king of Israel."

Second Shepherd: "Through him the Lord

ZION CITY

One Leader One People
Shiloh Tabernacle
One Faith One Place of Worship
Lord's Day, December 29, '18

6:30 a. m. Praise, Prayer, and Testimony Meeting

9:30 a. m. Bible School

Lesson: St. John, Chapter 20.

2:30 p. m. Principal Meeting

Processional and Recessional { Junior White-Robed Choir
Senior White-Robed Choir
Robed Officers
Uniformed Guard

ADDRESS BY

The General Overseer

8:00 p. m. Meeting in Prayer Room

1918 - Zion's All Night with God - 1919

From

8:00 p. m. December 31st to Sunrise, January 1st.
in SHILOH TABERNACLE

Divine Healing Meeting, Zion Home Assembly Room

Friday, 10:00 a. m.

ALL WELCOME
FREE-WILL OFFERINGS ONLY RECEIVED

ALL SEATS FREE
"CHRIST IS ALL, AND IN ALL"

All Night with God in Zion

1918 1919

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST, AT 8:00 P. M., TO NEW YEAR'S DAY,
AT SUNRISE

To be held in

Shiloh Tabernacle
Zion City, Illinois

Program

7:15 p. m. Music by Zion Senior Band

8:00 p. m. Processional
Junior White-robed Choir
Senior White-robed Choir
Robed Officers
Uniformed Guard

SPECIAL MUSICAL PROGRAM

"All Men, All Things, Sing to the Lord" (From "Hymn of Praise")
(Chorus)—Zion Choir and Orchestra Mendelssohn

"Providence" (Sacred Fantasia) Moses-Tobani
Zion Orchestra

"I Waited for the Lord" (Ladies' Voices) Mendelssohn
Selection (From Hymn of Praise)
Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Mayfield, Miss Reynolds, Mrs. Steel, Mrs. Carnes,
Mrs. LaRose and Miss Farrar.

"Hallelujah" Chorus (From the Messiah) Handel
Zion Choir and Orchestra

Duet—Selected Conductor and Mrs. John D. Thomas.

Address by the General Overseer

11:00 p. m. Sacrificial Offering
The Sacrificial Offering will be devoted entirely to
Zion Educational Institutions.

11:30 p. m. Right Hand of Fellowship to New Members
Ordinance of the Lord's Supper

2:30 a. m. Praise, Prayer and Testimony
Sunrise Hymn—"God be With You Till We Meet Again."

Benediction

All Welcome

Free Will Offerings Only Received
"Christ is All, and in All."

All Seats Free

promised us a Savior, and that the kingdom of David should be established forever."

First Shepherd: "When shall this be?"

Second Shepherd: "According to the Prophet Daniel, we may expect Him soon."

Third Shepherd: "One of the prophets said, that in that day, they shall come seeking Him riding on camels, and they from Sheba shall come bringing gold and incense."

First Shepherd: "And David said: 'The kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.'"

After a brief pause, the First Shepherd ex-

claimed: "Here, where David tended his sheep, we will say his prayer."

All knelt, holding their crooks, and recited the Twenty-third Psalm, slowly and with expression.

While the chief shepherd kept watch, the others reclined on the platform, as if asleep. Accompanied by orchestral music, the Girls' Chorus, in the background, sang softly, "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night."

Suddenly, the watchman exclaimed, "Look! Look!"