

the light they knew they came at last to him who is the light of life, and when they saw that central star of glory which is the hope of all mankind, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. A preacher approaching his new appointment asked a boy, "Do people at M— enjoy religion?" "Them that has it, does," was the neat reply. Let us go to him with all our gifts and fall down and worship him and the joy of the Lord will fill our hearts.

Christianity is worthy of our best gifts (Golden Text). If the Son of God was willing to be our Saviour, how willing we should be to open our treasures before him,—all the gold and the frankincense and myrrh of this life. J. Campbell White, in a lecture at Nashville, said, "Would it not be Christlike to take the attitude that my friends Mr. and

Mrs. Paton did over at Pittsburg three years ago, when their only child, a beautiful, clever, tender girl came to them one day and said she wanted to be a missionary out in Africa. They were so much in sympathy with Christ that they said, "We shall be very glad to have you go." Then they decided that they could not let anybody else support their daughter, and so they sent word to the Mission Board that they wished to have the privilege for the rest of their lives of paying their daughter's salary while she worked over yonder in Africa. And when friends protested against this madness of sending an only child to bury her life in the heart of Africa, their simple answer was, "Our Lord has given his best to us, and our best is none too good for him."

THE LESSON GRADED

This section embraces teaching material for the various grades in the School.

For Teachers of Bible Classes

In the lessons of this Quarter we have been studying some important events in Jewish history. In the vicissitudes of the Jews we see that they were still looking for the light which should be revealed, Isa. 60 : 1. The great teacher who should give the final revelation of God was still awaited, Isa. 42 : 1-4. In this lesson we see the fulfilment of the hopes of Jewish history. Let the teacher briefly indicate how Jesus filled up that which was lacking in the Jews' knowledge of God. Has every hope of the Jews been fulfilled? (Read, for example, Isa. 60 : 5-22 ; Ezek. ch. 47.) Explain.

1. *Seeking the king.* Who were the Magi? They represent the world's search for a Messiah (compare John 12 : 20, 21.) For more peoples than the Jews were seeking a revelation of God. Plato had taught that our final knowledge of the truth must come through one from above. Vergil, in his fourth Eclogues, says that a child was looked for, who would restore the golden age and take away sin. Confucius also prophesied a deliverer. The wild confusion of religions at the time of Jesus' birth was an evidence of the world-hunger for a living voice from God.

This lesson indicates that earnest seekers

after truth shall find truth. Moreover, it suggests that God meets men where they are. The Magi were men of science, seekers after truth, according to their age, and astrology and dreams were subjects of their study. So God speaks to them by a star and by a dream. To the shepherds a revelation came in another form. "The wise woman of Medina traveled many years and over many countries to find God, but she sought in vain and returned home to her daily duties. But there in the midst of her duties God appeared to her and showed her that he was ever near, if only she could see." See Henry Van Dyke's story, *The Other Wise Man*. What are the stars which guide men to-day to Christ?

2. *Enemies of the king.* Why were Herod and Jerusalem troubled? What were the political conditions of Palestine which seemed to justify official interest in a Messiah? Is Matt. 2 : 8 a good index of the character of Herod? Why did the Jewish authorities seem indifferent to the quest of the Magi? In this lesson we see, as some one has said, four types of men : (1) those who earnestly seek truth, as the Magi ; (2) those who are guardians of the truth, as the parents of Jesus ; (3) those who hate the truth ; (4) those who are indifferent to the truth. Of the last two classes which proved to be the worst enemy of Jesus? Have they modern counterparts?

3. *Worshipping the king.* The Magi alone