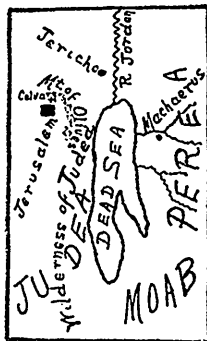


camel's hair, worn by prophets (see Zech. 13:4). ... of . . . skin; of untanned skin; used to fasten up the outer robe for vigorous action. **Locusts**; insects found in the desert. **Wild honey**; plentiful, being found in the clefts of the limestone of the desert. **There cometh one.** John's mission is to point to some one else. **Latchet of whose shoes.** To undo the thong binding the sandals and remove the sandals was the duty of the lowest slave. John was not worthy to do this for the Messiah. **With water . . . Holy Ghost.** John administered the outer rite. Jesus brought in himself the inner reality.

**III. THE MESSIAH.—9-11.** **Nazareth**; where Jesus spent his life up to this point, Luke 2:51. **Baptized of John.** Matthew tells that John was unwilling to baptize Jesus, but Jesus said, "suffer it to be so" (see Matt. 3:14, 15). **Straightway**; forthwith or immediately; one of Mark's favorite words. **The heavens opened**; a sign for John that Jesus was the Messiah; also a sign for Jesus of his entrance into his ministry. **Spirit like a dove**; to bestow gifts for his ministry. **My beloved Son.** God himself claims Jesus as his own Son. The same heavenly voice spoke at the Transfiguration (Luke 9:35), and when the Greeks came seeking Jesus, John 12:28.

## THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



Standing on the Mount of Olives near Jerusalem, and looking east, you will see the WILDERNESS OF JUDEA, distant by a journey of only two hours. This wilderness, lying on the eastern side of Judea, stretches to the western shore of the Dead Sea. It is about fifteen miles long and five miles wide. It is made up of endless bare hills and steep ravines with no streams, trees or villages, and with a very scant growth of

grass. It was here David found refuge from king Saul. Here John the Baptist found his training and Jesus his great temptation.

## LESSON QUESTIONS

**1-3** What does the word "gospel" mean? What does the title "Son of God" teach about Jesus? What title indicates the true humanity of Christ? (Matt. 18:11.) What two prophets does Mark quote?

**4, 5** Name the wilderness where John preached. What does repentance mean? Who came to hear John? Where were they baptized?

**6-8** How was John clothed? What was his food? What did John say of him who was to come after? What was John unworthy to do for him? In what other way does he express the Messiah's superiority? (John 3:29, 30.) What was the difference between the baptism of John and that of the Messiah?

**9-11** Where did Jesus come from to be baptized? What form did the descending spirit take? What did the voice from heaven say? Why was John unwilling to baptize Jesus? (Matt. 3:14.)

## FOR DISCUSSION

1. Ought we to confess our sins to others?
2. Can one be a Christian without publicly confessing Christ?

## A PRAYER

Father, we thank thee for the gift of thy Son, for forgiveness of sins through his blood, for new life in him, and for the privilege of sharing with others the joy he gives to us. Make us unselfish like John and full of the grace of John's master, and ours. For his sake. Amen.

**Prove from Scripture—That Mark was helpful to Paul.**

**Shorter Catechism—Quest. 1.** What is the chief end of man? A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

**The Questions on Missions—(First Quarter, Our School Homes in Canada)—1.** What is a School Home? A School Home is a house, in a central place having a good school, under the care of a Christian lady, where the children of foreigners in the West, and of French Protestants in Quebec, whose own homes are far away from any school, can board while attending school.

## FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. To what does Isaiah liken the forerunner of Jesus? .....
2. What was the purpose of John's baptism? .....
3. How do we know that Jesus was the Son of God? .....

SIGN NAME HERE .....