

King?" Now King Herod was very wicked and cruel, and he did not want any other king because he thought that would mean that he could not be ruler any more. So he asked the Wise Men all about the star, and told them to come back and tell him when they found Jesus. But God told the Wise Men not to go back, so when they had found the baby Jesus and had given him the rich gifts which they had brought, they went to their own country another way.

God knew that King Herod would try to find the Baby, so in a dream he told Joseph to take Mary and Jesus and go away down into

Egypt. How their friends in Nazareth must have wondered about them, but they dared not come back from Egypt for many months—not until God told them that the wicked Herod was dead.

At last they were free to go back to Nazareth. There the little Jesus grew as the other Jewish boys did, helping take care of the younger brothers and sisters when they came; working in the carpenter shop with his father, and going to school. The school was in the church, and only boys went to it, and the one book they studied was the part of the Bible which we call the Old Testament.

FROM THE PLATFORM

GOD'S GIFTs TO US OUR GOD

Begin with a little talk about the gifts which the Wise Men brought to Jesus. The scholars will explain what these were. Refer to the Eastern custom of bringing gifts to a king. Turn to 1 Cor. 16 : 2, to see what Paul says about giving (it should be regular and in proportion to our ability). Print OUR GIFTs TO GOD. Now turn to 2 Cor. 9: 15 (Read). Who is the "unspeakable Gift?" Of course it is Jesus Christ, God's own Son, and our blessed Saviour. Print GOD's GIFT TO US. Why did God bestow this gift upon us (Recall John 3: 16)? Impress the greatness of God's love and his eager desire to save us all. What shall we do with God's gift? Two things, surely. First, accept it with grateful hearts, and secondly, allow it to influence us so that out of gratitude we shall work and give willingly for God's cause.

Lesson II.

BAPTISM AND TEMPTATION OF JESUS

October 10, 1920

Matt. 3 : 13 to 4 : 11.

GOLDEN TEXT—This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.—Matt. 3 : 17.

13 Then cometh Je'sus from Gal'ilee to Jor'dan unto John, to be baptized of him.

14 But John forbid him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

15 And Je'sus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now : for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

16 And Je'sus, 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 :

17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Ch. 4 : 1 Then was Je'sus led up of the Spirit into

the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.

3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,

6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down : for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee : and in their hands they