

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON V.—FEB. 4, 1912. The Wise Men Led by the Star—Matt. 2: 1-23.

Commentary.—I. The Wise Men Seeking Jesus (vs. 1-8). 1. When Jesus was born the month and the day of Christ's birth are not definitely known, but the date now accepted, December 25, B. C. 4, corresponds to the facts which we have bearing upon the event. It appears inconsistent to say that Christ was born four years before Christ, but it must be borne in mind that during several centuries after the coming of Christ there was no uniformity among nations in reckoning time. Finally, in the sixth century, a learned monk, Dionysius Exiguus, was appointed to ascertain the time of Christ's birth, and it was ordered that history should be dated from that time. Dionysius, who first published his calculations in A. D. 526, put the birth of Jesus about four years too late. Bethlehem of Judea—Called in the Old Testament Bethlehem-judah to distinguish it from Bethlehem in Zebulun. It was a small village of shepherds of Jerusalem. Judea was the southernmost of the three districts, or divisions, of Palestine, the others being Galilee, at the north and Samaria between. Herod—Called after his death Herod the Great. He was a keen, cruel and powerful ruler, holding his position as king by the appointment of the Roman emperor. He reigned thirty-seven years and died shortly after the birth of Christ. Wise men—They are spoken of as magi. The magi were the learned men of the east, being acquainted with astrology, medicine and other sciences as they were known at that time. They had wealth, rank and influence, and were looking for better conditions in the world. The Persian magi believed in a Messiah of future Saviour, who should in the latter day appear and renew the world in righteousness.—Whedon. It is generally supposed that there were three who sought Jesus, from the east—Perhaps from Media, or Persia, or possibly from Arabia. 2. Where is he—It was natural for the wise men to suppose that the whereabouts of so prominent a personage as an infant king would be generally known. Their question served to bring the subject into prominence, born King of the Jews—This title was understood by the Jews to refer to the Messiah. Christ was King not by human appointment, but by birth, we have seen his star—we can not do better than to recognize the fact that it was "his" star, that is, a sign supernaturally provided to guide the wise men to the place where Jesus was. 3. Herod... was troubled—Herod had reason to be afraid. His oppression and cruelty had been sufficient to turn his subjects against him, and he was fearful that, if an occasion should arise to incite a rebellion against him, he would be speedily deposed. He feared that the King, whom the wise men sought might displace him. All Jerusalem with him—It was strange that while the Messiah was born not six miles off Jerusalem has her first news from strangers coming from, perhaps, a thousand miles. And no wonder the city is excited through all its depths.—Whedon. The people dreaded a fresh outbreak of Herod's cruelty or were afraid that they might become involved in war should a rival king displace Herod's right to the throne. 4. Had gathered—Herod was not a Jew by birth, but was a proselyte to the Jewish faith. He called the Sanhedrin together that he might learn from them something definite regarding the King that was to come. Chief priests—This expression probably comprehends the acting high priest and his deputy, those who had been high priests—for at this time the office was then transferred by the Roman authorities—and "the heads of the twenty-four sacerdotal tribes, which David had distributed into so many courses. 5. By the prophet—The prophecy is found in Mic. 5: 2. 6. Art in no wise least (R. V.)—Abraham says, "There is but little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel." This meant Bethlehem was the least. 7. Although Bethlehem was little, yet it was exalted above all the other cities of Israel. The princes—"The thousands" and over each subdivision there was a chieftain or prince—Moriah. A governor—To control and rule. Who shall be born of her?—R. V.—To feed and care for his flock as a shepherd. Christ is both Shepherd and King. My people Israel—Israel was God's people in a peculiar sense. 7. Privileged call—Herod desired to keep the time of Christ's birth as secret as possible lest the Jews, who hated him, should take occasion to rebel. Enquired of them diligently—Learned of them the exact time and received positive information as to the time the star appeared when the child was born, he would thus have some idea of the age of the child. 8. He sent them—He assumed control; but he followed the directions of the Lord. Search diligently—Herod was honest in making this charge to

MAGIC BAKING POWDER THE STANDARD AND FAVORITE BRAND



CONTAINS NO ALUM. IS THE WHITEST, LIGHTEST. MAGIC BAKING POWDER. NEW STYLE LABEL. MADE IN CANADA.

them; he greatly desired to receive definite word concerning the new King. And worship him also—Herod had no desire to worship Jesus. His only object in desiring to know about him was that he might put him to death. II. The wise men finding Jesus (vs. 9-12). 9. The star... went before them—The same star which they had seen in their own country now again appears. The star had disappeared for a time, and this led them to inquire in Jerusalem for the young King whom they sought. Supernatural helps should not be expected where ordinary means are to be had. Stood over—The star pointed out the very house.—Benson. 10. They rejoiced—The Greek is very emphatic. They rejoiced exceedingly because they saw they were about to find the child and because they had such unmistakable proof of being in divine order. That alone is enough to cause rejoicing. 11. Fell down—They prostrated themselves before Him according to the eastern custom. "In this act the person kneels and puts his head between his knees, his forehead at the same time touching the ground. It was used to express both civil and religious reverence."—Clarke. Gifts—The people of the east did not approach into the presence of kings without bringing them presents. The custom still prevails in many places. Gold, etc.—Gold would always be useful, while frankincense and myrrh were prized for their fragrance. 12. Warned of God in a dream—God communicated His purpose to them in a manner that they understood, and the impression or conviction was clear. III. The flight into Egypt (vs. 13-23). Joseph was warned by an angel to go into Egypt with "the young child and his mother" to escape the anger of Herod. The family went to Egypt and remained there about two years, and until after the death of Herod, when they returned to the land of Israel. Thus was determined to destroy the infant Christ, and his cruel decree to slay all Egypt had I called my son." Herod was fulfilled the prophecy, "Out of the male children in and about Bethlehem was carried into execution. Questions.—Where was Jesus born? When? Who was king of Judea? What was the character of this king? Who came to Jerusalem seeking for Jesus? From whence did they come? Why was Jesus called King of the Jews? How had the wise men been led in their search? Why was Herod troubled? Why was Jerusalem troubled? Whom did Herod gather together? For what purpose? What charge did Herod give the wise men? Why? How did they approach Christ? After leaving Jesus, what did the wise men do? What warning came to Joseph? What decree did Herod make? PRACTICAL SURVEY. Topic.—Religious inquiry. I. A sea cloak of maliciousness. II. As a means of cleared revelation. I. As a cloak of maliciousness. This history teaches what was the real object of inquiry made by Herod and by the magi. It brings to view sharp contrasts of character. It represents a picture of sin which ever attempts to arrest the progress of Christianity. It portrays the blind wisdom of worldly men as seen in Herod's persecution of Jesus. It sets in bold contrast the craft of Herod and the pious simplicity of the magi. Though a king, Herod was one of the most licentious and cruel monsters of antiquity. His attitude toward Christ is a most striking instance of opposition to God. He knew the prophecies, yet fought hard against their fulfillment. He treacherously indulged his malignant passions and self-seeking. He nervously employed his very great opportunities and knowledge of the scriptures concerning Christ. He took immediate measures against him, which were characterized by his usual cunning. What he could not do by craft he attempted to accomplish by force. His cruelty at Bethlehem stands recorded by both friends and foes. Not only is it related in the sacred pages, but it is also given to us by writers of that age whose undisputed words confirmed the truth. Yet his misery was apparent in his anguish through fear of Christ and in the folly of his attempts against his life. His devices of hypocrisy were mighty yet powerless before the power of God. Divine providence brought to naught all the designs of the wicked king against the life of the holy child. Evil is never so active or persistent as when it seeks the ruin of the young. God always raises up faithful servants to protect and promote his own kingdom, and with it the spiritual welcome

of mankind. He often protects his own by small means and humble instrumentalities as he protected Jesus through the instrumentality of Joseph, a humble carpenter. Cruel as was the slaughter of the infants and severe as was the discipline it brought upon the parents, yet it enabled Jesus to live in obscurity until thirty years of age. The Jewish scribes were successfully deceived by Herod's questioning concerning the expected Messiah. By making known the scriptures to him they unconsciously delivered the child into the power of the crafty monarch. He learned what their expectancy was. "He was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him." The people knew the character of Herod, and what the consequences would be to them or to any one who might be suspected of any sympathy with any claimant to the royal throne of David. II. As a means of cleared revelation. Turning away from the picture of Herod and his evil designs as they appear in this record, we discover something more beautiful in this same picture—the sages, the star and the Saviour. We study the seekers, the sign, the search and the success. We call the magi the illustrious seekers. Their title, their pursuit, their wealth and their character were illustrious. As seekers they were earnest, reverent, persevering and worshipping. Their inquiry at Jerusalem revealed an interest awakened, a belief avowed, an earnest knowledge admitted, further information entreated and a motive declared. From first to last they were divinely guided. In the simplicity of their hearts the magi addressed themselves in the first place to the official head of the nation. They were ultimately directed by the written word. Their diligence was rewarded and they reached the goal at Jesus' feet. They sought a king and found a child, Jesus, the beginner of a new era, the founder of a new kingdom. They hailed him as King and worshiped him, and their worship was devoid, believing, self-sacrificing, intelligent and obedient. In this character sketch the lines of contrast become more marked the closer we draw on the part of the magi and Joseph brought God's further guidance and blessing.

Skin All Covered With Eruption



N. Henri Tardif. Tried Many Remedies 3 or 4 Years. Cuticura Soap and Ointment Cured.

A Quebec man, N. Henri Tardif, of St. Casimir, writes in a letter dated Mar. 31, 1911: "I had a very bad skin, all covered with eruption, eight years ago. I have had all of both my shoulders covered with it, and the high part of my arms, and my face, but it was the worst on my shoulders. I tried many different remedies to cure it, but nothing was any good. At last I went to an apothecary. He asked me if I had ever used Cuticura Soap and Ointment. I told him no, and I bought a box of Cuticura Ointment and a cake of Cuticura Soap. I used three boxes of Cuticura Ointment, but I am glad of the same, for Cuticura Soap and Ointment completely cured me of my skin eruption. I spread the Cuticura Ointment on all my sore parts, and I think that in washing my face with the Cuticura Soap, it hindered my eruption from itching and burning. I tried many remedies during three or four years but Cuticura Soap and Ointment cured me." (Signed) N. Henri Tardif. Cuticura Soap and Ointment are sold throughout the world, but to those who have suffered much, a liberal sample of each with a 32 p. booklet on the skin and scalp will be mailed free, on application. Address: Potter Drug & Chem. Corp., 50 Columbus Ave., Boston, U. S. A.

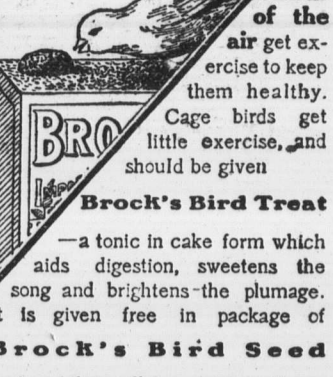
MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS. FARMERS' MARKET. Dressed goods to choice... Butter, good to choice... Eggs, new laid, dozen... Ducks, lb... Poultry... Cabbage, dozen... Beef, hindquarters... Pork, forecuts... Do, choice, carcass... Do, medium, carcass... Veal, prime... Mutton, prime... Lamb, Spring...

LIVE STOCK. Toronto despatch.—Western Cattle Market—Common and medium cattle are again plentiful for the demand and prices are off considerably. Choice butchers are a little firmer and more plentiful. Heavy steers are in strong demand and prices are decidedly firmer. Sheep and lambs are very plentiful, but prices are not out of the ordinary. Hogs have a slight tendency to be weaker to-day. Receipts 118 cars, consisting of 1,640 cattle, 650 hogs, 1,931 sheep and lambs and 150 calves. Latest quotations: Butcher cattle, choice... Do, do, medium... Do, do, common... Butcher cows, choice... Do, do, medium... Do, do, common... Feeding steers... Stockers, choice... Do, light... Milk cows, choice, each... Springers... Sheep, ewes... Bucks and culls... Lambs... Hogs fed and... Hogs, f.o.b... Calves...

OTHER MARKETS. WINNIPEG GRAIN MARKET. Open, High, Low, Close. Prev. Wheat—No. 1 hard... No. 2 hard... No. 1 northern... No. 2 northern... Oats—No. 1 white... No. 2 white... Rye... Barley... Flour—First patents... Second patents... DULUTH GRAIN MARKET. Duluth—Close—Wheat, No. 1 hard... No. 2 hard... No. 1 northern... No. 2 northern... Oats—No. 1 white... No. 2 white... Rye... Barley... Flour—First patents... Second patents... MONTREAL LIVE STOCK. Montreal—At the Canadian Pacific Live Stock Market the offerings this morning were 300 cattle, 400 sheep and lambs, 1,500 hogs and 200 calves. There was no change in the condition of the market for cattle, prices being firm owing to the continued demand for good to choice stock; in fact, there was none of the latter obtainable, and only a few loads of the former, and buyers generally were short of beef. They were obliged to turn their attention to the lower grades, consequently the demand was good and a fairly active trade was done. The top price realized for good steers was \$6.50, but buyers would have paid \$6.75 to \$7 for choice of the type they could have had. Sales of choice cows and bulls were made at \$4.25 to \$5.00. The market was also bare of choice sheep, lambs and calves, and in consequence the prices realized were \$4.00 to \$4.50 for choice of the type they could have had. A weaker feeling prevailed on the market for hogs on account of the increased supplies, and prices declined 10 cents per cwt. and even at this reduction price drovers found it impossible to make a clearance, but the stock that was cleared was of a poor quality. Butchers' cattle, choice, \$6.75 to \$7; do, medium, \$5 to \$6; do, common, \$4 to \$5; hogs, \$4.25 to \$4.50; butchers' cattle, choice cows, \$5.25 to \$5.50; do, medium, \$4 to \$4.50; do, common, \$3 to \$3.50; sheep, choice, each, \$7 to \$7.50; common and medium, each, \$4.50 to \$5; springers, \$3 to \$3.50; sheep—Ewes, \$4.50 to \$4.75; bucks and culls, \$4 to \$4.25; lambs, \$6.50 to \$7; Hogs—F.o.b., \$4. Calves, \$3 to \$4.25.

Birds of the air get exercise to keep them healthy.



Cage birds get little exercise, and should be given Brock's Bird Treat—a tonic in cake form which aids digestion, sweetens the song and brightens the plumage. It is given free in package of Brock's Bird Seed or two cakes will be sent free if you fill in the coupon below and mail it to us. We know it will improve your bird in every way. NICHOLSON & BROCK, 9-11 Francis Street, Toronto. For this coupon, please send me, free of charge or obligation on my part, two full-size cakes of Brock's Bird Treat, and oblige. 47

Well, Well!



THIS IS A HOME DYE that ANYONE can use. I dyed ALL these DIFFERENT KINDS of Goods with the SAME Dye. I used DYOLA. ONE DYE FOR ALL KINDS OF GOODS. CLEAN and SIMPLE to Use. NO chance of using the WRONG Dye for the Goods one has to color. All colors from your Druggist or Dealer. FREE Color Samples on request. The Johnson-Richardson Co., Limited, Montreal.

CATTLE DYING.

Not Enough Hay in Colorado to Feed Them. Denver, Col., Jan. 28.—Cattle, rabbits and quail are dying by thousands in northeastern Colorado and across the line in Western Kansas, said Rudolph Borchardt, deputy state ward, last night, on his return from a trip of investigation in that section. Borchardt said that he counted hundreds of cattle on each side of the highway lying dead in the fields. He said he could see no prospect of relief, as not enough hay was being taken into that section of the country to relieve the starving animals.

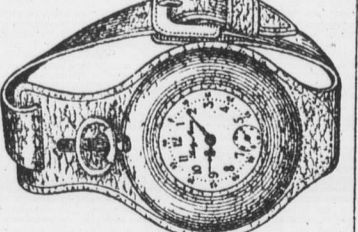
FARMERS' DEMAND

Western Grain Growers Want Lower Freight. Brandon, Man., Jan. 28.—The annual meeting of the Grain Growers' Association opened this morning with 455 farmers present. The address of the president gave special emphasis to the demand for lower freight rates, which, he declared, were to-day most exorbitant and a burden on the entire Canadian wheat. Further, the address declared the intention of the grain growers to press the Dominion Government for terminal elevators under government ownership and operation at Fort William and Montreal. The cement merger was also criticized for advancing price of a necessary building material in the west. From the attendance and enthusiasm displayed, the organization is an all-powerful political force in the west.

SAW ITALY'S KING

Mexican Ambassador Presented Thanks of People. Rome, Jan. 28.—Don Francisco de la Barra, the special Ambassador from Mexico, with the members of his suite, drove to-day to the Quirinal in gala carriages sent from the Royal stables. He was received by King Victor Emmanuel to whom he presented the thanks of the President of the Mexican Republic as well as of the Mexican people for the participation of Italy in the centennial celebration of Mexican independence in 1910. King Victor Emmanuel was most kind. He showed great interest and an intimate knowledge of Mexican affairs. He has invited Don Francisco de la Barra to a state dinner at the palace this evening. "Eh, eh—So you don't agree that the age of miracles is past, eh?" Subtly, not of your life. There's a man out my way who has had the same ooz for nearly a year.

WRIST WATCH FREE



LADIES! here is a splendid chance to win a lovely small size Highly Polished Gunmetal Watch with Gold Face and Crown. Stem wind and set, and a beautiful leather bracelet. This is a very stylish and safe way to wear the watch. We give both these splendid premiums FREE for selling only \$4.50 worth of beautiful Lithographed and Embossed Picture Post Cards at 6 for 10c. These cards are the latest designs in Views, Floral, Birthdays, Comets, also Valentine, St. Patrick and Easter in season. Write today and we will send you a package of cards which you can sell in every house and soon be the proud owner of this elegant Watch and bracelet. Our agents are delighted with these premiums. COBALT GOLD PEN CO., Dept. 99, Toronto, Ont.

FREE MAGNIFICENT DOLL PIANO AND STOOL AND LOVELY IMPORTED DOLL



GIRLS. Don't miss this wonderful chance to obtain absolutely free this great big handsome Piano, lovely doll and matching magnificent imported Doll, and this lovely sparkling jewel Doll. This is the handsomest Piano ever seen, it has two full octaves and fourteen keys, metal soundings board all beautifully decorated in blue and gold with a lovely tone and touch to match. It plays real music and you can easily play any number of lovely tunes. The magnificent Doll goes with the Piano and is a real Princess, fully jointed arms, legs and head, curly hair, pretty complexion, her picture hat to her dainty shoes. This is not a little cheap doll, but a high quality imported beauty nearly 14 inches in length. YOU CAN GET ALL THREE PRESENTS and in addition this handsome jewel Doll, a present if you will, for only three dollars worth of the loveliest jewelry you have ever seen. We read handsome ladies' dresses, beauty pin sets, ash trays, pens, cuff links, collar fasteners and tie pins all really good and never finished and set with lovely jewelry, and all sell at only 10 cents each. They are worth twenty-five cents, so they just sell like hot cakes at our wonderful price of only 10 cents each. Return us the three dollars after you sell them, and you will promptly receive all three presents and the extra present of a handsome ring if you will answer this advertisement promptly. Don't miss this chance. Write today and in a few days you can be playing lovely music on your piano. We arrange to stand payment of all charges on your premiums. Address, NATIONAL SALES CO., LIMITED, DEPT. P 114 TORONTO, ONTARIO.

FREE TO YOU.

The best premiums and biggest values ever offered. Gold and Silver Watches, Gem and Brooches, Lingerie, Perfumery, Moving Picture Machines, Beautiful Tea Sets, Silverware, Accordeons, Lovely Dressed Dolls and many other beautiful premiums given FREE for selling our high class Gold Embossed Picture Post Cards at 6 for 10c. Our cards are the very latest designs in Floral, Birthdays, Holiday, Views, Comets, etc. In artistic colors and of such superior quality that they will have no trouble selling. JUST SHOW THEM AND TAKE IN THE MONEY. If you can sell any of these splendid premiums by selling \$2.00 worth and upwards, and if you will send today you can also win one of the Extra Premiums we are giving to those who are prompt. Send us your name and address, plainly written, and we will forward you a package of cards and our premiums. WE CAN'T MAKE OUR PREMIUMS ANY BETTER. COBALT GOLD PEN CO., Dept. 99, Toronto, Ont.

STOPPAIN OF BURNS AND CUTS

Really Wonderful How Zam-Buk Gives Ease. This is the verdict of all who have tried Zam-Buk. The woman in the home knows best its value. A burn from the stove, from a flat iron, or a hot pan, is instantly soothed by Zam-Buk. When the little ones fall and cut or scratch themselves, Zam-Buk stops the pain, and incidentally, the crying. The best proof of this is the fact that children who have once had Zam-Buk applied come to it again. For more serious burns, too, it is unequalled. Mr. John Johnston, of 734 South Marks street, Fort William, a moulder in Copp's foundry, says: "Some time ago I burned the top of my foot severely by dropping some molten iron from a ladle I was carrying. A large hole was burned through my shoe and into the top of my foot. I was taken home and Zam-Buk was applied to the burn directly. It was surprising what relief this balm afforded. The burn was so deep and so serious that it required careful attention, but Zam-Buk prevented other complications arising, and as it was daily applied, soothed, and as other complications arising, the burn and allayed the inflammation. In the course of two weeks the hole burned in my foot had been well healed." Mr. W. B. Gibson, of Belleville, writes: "We have tried Zam-Buk often on cuts and sores, and I think there is nothing that can equal it." Zam-Buk will also be found a sure cure for cold sores, chapped hands, frost-bite, ulcers, blood-poison, varicose veins, piles, scald sores, ringworm, inflamed patches, babies' eruptions and chapped places, and skin injuries generally. All druggists and stores sell at 50c box, or post paid from Zam-Buk Co., Toronto, for price.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK.

Cattle—Receipts estimated at 5,000. Market—Steady to weak. \$4.80 \$5.50. Texas steers... Western steers... Stockers and feeders... Cows and heifers... Calves... Hogs—Receipts estimated at 35,000. Market—Weak, to lower. \$5.25 6.20. Light... Mixed... Heavy... Rough... Pig... Bulk of sales... Sheep—Receipts estimated at 18,000. Market—Steady. Native... Western... Lambs, native... Western... Corn—Spot, American mixed, new, 6s 6 1/2d; do, old, 6s 1 1/2d. Futures, steady; Jan. 6s 1 1/2d, Feb. 5s 11 1/2d. Wheat—Spot, steady; No. 1 Manitoba, 8s 5 1/2d; No. 2, Manitoba, 8s 4 1/2d; No. 3 Manitoba, 7s 11 1/2d. Futures, March 7s 7d, May 7s 4 1/2d, July 7s 4 1/2d. Flour—Winter patents, 28s 3d. Hops—In London (Pacific coast), £10 15s to £11 10s. Pork—Prime mess, western, 86s 3d. Hams—Short cut, 14 to 16 lbs., 54c. Bacon—Cumberland cut, 26 to 30 lbs., 45s; short ribs, 16 to 24 lbs., 49s; clear bellies, light, 28 to 34 lbs., 47s; long clear middles, light, 28 to 34 lbs., 46s 9d; short clear backs, 45s; shoulders, square, 11 to 13 lbs., 44s 6d.