

there came wise men from the east to Je-ru'-sa-lem,

2 Saying, 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.

3 When Her'od the king had heard *these things*, he was troubled, and all Je-ru'-sa-lem with him.

4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

5 And they said unto him, In Beth'le-hem of Ju-de'a: for thus it is written by the prophet,

6 And thou Beth'le-hem, *in the land of Ju'dah*, art not the least among the princes of Ju'dah: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Is-ra-el.

7 Then Her'od, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

8 And he sent them to Beth'le-hem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found *him*, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

9 When they had heard the king, they departed; and lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Ma'ry his mother, and fell down, and worshiped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

12 And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Her'od, they departed into their own country another way.

2 saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we saw his star in the east, and are

3 come to worship him. And when Her'od the king heard it, he was troubled, and all Je-ru'-

4 sa-lem with him. And gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he

inquired of them where the Christ should be

5 born. And they said unto him, In Beth'le-hem of Ju-de'a: for thus it is written by the

prophet,

6 And thou Beth'le-hem, land of Ju'dah, Art in no wise least among the princes of Ju'-dah:

For out of thee shall come forth a governor, Which shall be shepherd of my people Is-ra-el.

7 Then Her'od privily called the wise men, and learned of them carefully what time the star

8 appeared. And he sent them to Beth'le-hem, and said, Go and search out carefully concern-

ing the young child; and when ye have found *him*, bring me word, that I also may come and

9 worship him. And they, having heard the king, went their way; and lo, the star, which

they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child

10 was. And when they saw the star, they re-

joiced with exceeding great joy. And they came into the house and saw the young child

with Ma'ry his mother; and they fell down and worshiped him; and opening their treasures

they offered unto him gifts, gold and frankin-

12 cense and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Her'od, they departed into their own country another way.

TIME.—B. C. 4. **PLACE.**—Jerusalem;

Bethlehem. **ENVIRONMENTS.**—Old King Herod sat on the Jewish throne. Brainy, magnificent, tyrannical, perfidious, morbidly suspicious, his was a reign of gold and iron. By the date of Herod's death, which is definitely known, it has been ascertained that the birth of Jesus occurred at least as early as B. C. 4. The wise men seem to have come from the East several months (perhaps a year) after the birth of Jesus.

HOME READINGS.

M. The Birth of Christ. Matt. 2. 1-12.

Tu. The sojourn in Egypt. Matt. 2. 13-23.

W. The angel choir. Luke 2. 8-20.

Th. Simeon's prophecy. Luke 2. 25-35.

F. Filled with wisdom. Luke 2. 36-40.

S. Sent to save. 1 John 4. 7-14.

S. The incarnate God. John 1. 1-14.

LESSON HYMNS.

No. 301, New Canadian Hymnal.

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King,
Peace on earth, and mercy mild;
God and sinners reconciled."

No. 304, New Canadian Hymnal.

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;

Let earth receive her King;

Let every heart prepare Him room,

And heaven and nature sing.

No. 296, New Canadian Hymnal.

Angels, from the realms of glory,

Wing your flight o'er all the earth;

Ye who sang creation's story,

Now proclaim Messiah's birth.

QUESTIONS FOR SENIOR SCHOLARS.

1. The King Sought, v. 1-8.

What is the story of the wise men as told in legend?

What was the course which they had taken?

How long would a journey from Persia to Judea take?

For what had the East for centuries been famous? (1 Kings 4. 30.)

If these men were led by a star, why did they, uncertainly, go to Jerusalem?

Where was Jesus born?

Who was now ruler of Judea?

What question did they ask?