

Questions on the Lesson

1. What heathen people again made war upon Israel? 2. Why did the Israelites send for the ark? 3. Why was this wrong? 4. What happened to it? 5. Who were punished in this battle? 6. Why did the Philistines return the ark? 7. Where was it kept for twenty years? 8. During this time how

did the Israelites suffer? 9. Whom did God send to help them against their enemies? 10. What did Samuel first make the people promise to do? 11. How did they show their sorrow for their sins? 12. How did God deliver them? 13. How did Samuel mark the place of the victory? 14. What is the Golden Text?

I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

God hears my prayer

Primary Catechism—129. What is the last prayer in the Bible? The Bible closes with the prayer,

"COME, LORD JESUS."

130. What is the last promise in the Bible? The last promise in the Bible is,

"I COME QUICKLY."

Shorter Catechism—56. What is the reason annexed to the third commandment?

A. The reason annexed to the third commandment is, That however the breakers of this commandment may escape punishment from men, yet the Lord our God will not suffer them to escape his righteous judgment.

Lesson Hymn

More like Jesus when I pray,
More like Jesus day by day,
May I rest me by His side,
Where the tranquil waters glide.

By the Spirit's grace renewed,
By His love my will subdued,
Rich in faith I still would be—
Let my Saviour dwell in me.

Amen.

—Hymn 524, Book of Praise

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Luke 2: 8-20.

Some of the best pasture-fields in the land of Israel were just outside the town of Bethlehem. It was here that King David lived when as a boy he had taken care of his father's sheep, and for this reason the town was afterwards called the "City of David."

One winter's night a long time after David and all his people were dead, some shepherds were sitting in these same sheep-fields watching that no evil beast came near to harm their flocks, which were sleeping on the hill-side near by.

Suddenly out of the darkness they saw all around them a bright light like the shining brightness of the Lord, and they were much afraid.

Then an angel stood beside them, saying, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ

the Lord. And this shall be a sign to you that the news is true; you shall go to Bethlehem and there you shall see the Holy Child, wrapped as any other babe in swaddling clothes, but lying in a manger."

And immediately the air was filled with angels singing a heavenly song,—*"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."*

When the singing had stopped and the angels were gone back into heaven, the joyful shepherds arose, and going in haste to Bethlehem, they found the child Jesus lying in a manger as the messengers had said, with Mary and Joseph watching beside Him.

When Mary heard the angel's message she wondered much what it might mean, but the shepherds went out and began to spread abroad the good news of the Saviour's birth, giving praise and glory to God.