

**International S. S. Lessons.**

*Adapted from the Westminster Question Book.*

**15 JULY. VISIT OF THE WISE MEN.**

Les. Matt. 2: 1-12. Gol. Text, Matt. 2: 11.  
Mem. vs. 9-11. Catechism Q. 84.

**HOME READINGS.**

M. Matt. 2: 1-12.....Visit of the Wise Men.  
T. John 1: 1-14.....The Word made Flesh.  
W. Isa. 9: 1-7.....Christ's Birth and Kingdom.  
Th. Isa. 11: 1-9.....Christ's Reign of Peace.  
F. Psalm 72: 1-20.....David's Royal Son.  
S. Phil. 2: 1-13.....in the Likeness of Man.  
S. Heb. 1: 1-14.....Above Angels.

*Time.*—B. C. 4; Augustus Cæsar emperor of Rome; Herod the Great king of Judea.

*Place.*—Bethlehem of Judea.  
*Opening Words.*—Matthew, the author of this Gospel, was one of the twelve apostles of our Lord. He is the same as Levi, the son of Alphaeus, Mark 2: 14. The events of this lesson occurred soon after the presentation in the temple.

*Helps in Studying.*—1. "Herod"—Herod the Great, king of Judea, a cruel tyrant. He died a few months after the birth of Jesus. "Wise men"—Magi, a class of learned men of great influence among the Persians and other Eastern nations. "The East"—Persia, Chaldea, or more distant countries. 2. "His star"—some miraculous appearance in the heavens which caused their journey. 4. "Chief priests"—heads of the classes into which they were divided. "Scribes"—writers who copied and taught the Scriptures. 5. "The prophet"—Mic. 5: 2. "Not the least"—a small town, but, to be great in renown. 11. "Worshipped him"—gave him both kingly homage and divine honor. "Frankincense"—a gum from a tree in Arabia and India. "Myrrh"—another gum obtained from a shrub in Arabia and other Eastern countries. Both were very precious.

*Introductory.*—What took place when Jesus was presented in the temple? Title? Golden Text? Lesson Plan? Time? Place? Memory verses? Catechism?

I. *Led by the Star.* vs. 1, 2.—Where was Jesus born? When? Who came to Jerusalem? What did they ask? Why had they come? How may we be led to Jesus?

II. *Guided by the Prophecies.* vs. 3-8.—What troubled Herod? Whom did he call together? What did he inquire of them? What was their answer? Where is this prophecy written? What did Herod ask of the wise men? Where did he send them? What directions did he give them?

III. *Worshipping the Child.* vs. 9-11.—What did the wise men then do? How were they guided? Where did they find the infant Saviour? Whom else did they see? What did they do? What gifts did they present? Why did they not return to Jerusalem?

**LESSONS.**

1. Jesus became a child to be the children's Saviour.
2. We should earnestly seek Jesus.
3. God will guide those who thus seek him.
4. We should rejoice when we have found him, and offer him our best gifts.
5. We should worship him with our hearts, lips and lives.
6. The only truly "wise men" of to-day are those who leave behind whatever would keep them from Christ, and who press on until they find Him.

22 July.

**THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT.**

Les. Matt. 2: 13-23. Gol. Text, Ps. 121: 1-3.  
Mem. vs. 13: 15. Catechism Q. 85.

**HOME READINGS.**

M. Psalm 2: 1-12.....The King in Zion.  
T. Acts 4: 18-31.....Against thy Holy Child Jesus.  
W. Matt. 2: 13-23.....Flight into Egypt.  
Th. Jer. 31: 10-17.....Rachel Weeping for her Children.  
F. Rom. 8: 32-39.....All Things with Christ.  
S. 1 Cor. 3: 11-23.....The Only Foundation.  
S. Col. 1: 9-20.....All Fullness in Christ.

*Time.*—B. C. 4; Augustus Cæsar emperor of Rome; Herod the Great king of Judea.

*Places.*—Bethlehem of Judea, Jerusalem, Egypt, Nazareth.

*Helps in Studying.*—13. "When they"—the wise men. "Joseph"—the foster-father of Jesus, a just man, of the lineage of David. "Egypt"—the north-eastern corner of Africa, then a Roman province with many Jewish inhabitants. 15. "Until the death of Herod"—only a few weeks later. "The prophet"—Hos. 11: 1. "Out of Egypt"—originally spoken of the nation of Israel led from the bondage of Egypt, but here applied to Jesus. 16. "Children"—male children. 17. "Jeremy"—Jeremiah. "Rama"—a town six miles north of Jerusalem. "Rachel"—the mother of Joseph and Benjamin. This prophecy (Jer. 31: 15) was first spoken of the captives carried off by Nebuchadnezzar when at Rama. Rachel, buried near Bethlehem, is poetically represented as looking forth from her grave and bewailing her children there slain. 22. "Archelaus"—the son of Herod. He governed Judea, Idumea and Samaria. "Galilee"—the northern province of Palestine, of which Herod Antipas became the ruler. 23. "Nazareth"—Sixty-six miles north of Jerusalem, and sixteen miles west of the Sea of Galilee. "Spoken by the Prophets"—the substance of what several said. "Nazarene"—one humble, despised.

**QUESTIONS.**

*Introductory.*—Where was Jesus born? Who came to visit him? How were they guided? What did they do when they found him? What should we give him? Title? Golden Text? Lesson Plan? Time? Place? Memory verses? Catechism?

I. *The Warning of the Angel.* vs. 13-15.—What warning did the angel give Joseph? What did Joseph do? How long did he remain in Egypt? What prophecy was fulfilled? Of whom were these words first spoken? How were they fulfilled in Christ?

II. *The Slaughter of the Children.* vs. 16-18.—Why did the wise men not return to Herod? What did Herod do? Why did he kill these children? What prophecy was fulfilled? To what did this prophecy first refer? How was it fulfilled in this event?

III. *The Return to Nazareth.* vs. 19-23.—What caused Joseph's return? Why did Joseph go to Nazareth? What do you know about Nazareth? About Archelaus? What was thus fulfilled? How? Why should the Saviour be dear to the children?

**LESSONS.**

1. God will take care of those who are very dear to him.
2. God can easily withdraw his children from the rage of their enemies.
3. He will give us help in our perplexities.
4. Places despised by men are often honored by God.
5. How vain the rage and pride and plans of those who are fighting against God.