

Lesson, Hebrews 1: 1-9. Read Luke 2: 1-20. Commit vs. 1, 2.

1. God, who at sundry times, and in divers manners, spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,
2. Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds,
3. Who, being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;
4. Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.
5. For unto which of the angels said he at any time,

Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?

6. And again, when he bringeth in the first-begotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

7. And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.

8. But to the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever; a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.

9. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."—Luke 2: 11.

LESSON PLAN.

1. How Divine Revelation has been given.
2. The greatness of Jesus who completed Divine Revelation

DAILY READINGS.

- M. A Christmas Lesson, Heb. 1: 1-9.
- T. A Saviour given, Isaiah 9: 1-7.
- W. Sent of God, 1 John 4: 9-15.
- T. Head over all, Col. 1: 9-19.
- F. The Guiding Star, Matt. 2: 1-11.
- S. The Angel's message; Luke 2: 1-14.
- S. Seeing and rejoicing, Luke 2: 15-20.

REVIEW.**LESSON HYMNS.**

Nos. 301, 556, 548, 474, 477.

The main purpose of this Epistle was to prevent Jewish believers from falling away from Christianity. It remains one of the most interesting and valuable parts of the New Testament because of the exposition it gives of old dispensation ceremonies. The following excellent account of the purpose of the Epistle is given by Dr. Marcus Dods, in his Introduction to the New Testament.

"They," the Hebrew Christians, "had been twitted with adopting a religion which had neither temple, priest, nor altar; with choosing as their king and leader, one who had suffered an ignominious death; with abandoning a religion which had been ordained by God, mediated by angels, administered by Moses.

"And, although they still adhered to Christianity, they were so moved by this "contradiction of sinners," that they had admitted questioning whether they were not perhaps making sacrifices and exposing themselves to privations for a mistake. The writer knows that if they can only once see the real glory of Christ and his religion, all these doubts will vanish; and accordingly he proceeds to send them such an exposition of that glory as is, in point of fact, a magnificent apologetic for Christianity from the Jewish point of view."

Our lesson deals with the Person of the great

Redeemer, and incidentally introduces an account of the way in which divine revelation has been given to men.

I. The Method of Revelation.

1. At sundry times, and in divers manners.—It helps us to understand the Bible when we know how it was composed. It is not one treatise, but many. It was not written by one man, but by many. It was not composed in one age. The writing of the Old Testament extended through many centuries. More than a thousand years intervened between the composition of the first portion by Moses and the production of the last part by Malachi.

The men who wrote are called prophets. Between 30 and 40 authors were engaged in producing the Old Testament. But they were all under one and the same guidance. God "spoke unto the fathers by the prophets."

Hence, although there is great variety of subject and of style in the Old Testament, there is no discord or contradiction. From one point of view it is a library of literature. From another point of view it is one Book, because it has really one Author.

2. In these last days—by his Son.—The New Testament is a continuation of God's speaking to men. But it is on a differ-