

# The Lessons of the First Quarter, 1895.

**To the Scholar.**—Study the lesson carefully, turning up all the marginal references. Then give your Bible and answer in writing the questions on the lesson, without accepting aid from any quarter after you have begun to write. Detach, carefully, the half page on which you have written, and hand it to your teacher on the day of its date. If you cannot come to Sabbath School on that day, fill out one of the "Excuses for Absence" and send it, with your written answers, to your teacher by some friend, or by mail, and you will receive credit for the work done as if you had been present. If your excuse is satisfactory, you will not lose in record of attendance.

## LESSON I—January 6th,

### John the Baptist Beheaded. MARK 6: 17-29.

(Commit to memory verses 26-28.)

#### GOLDEN TEXT.

"Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul." Matt. 10: 28.

#### PROVE THAT

Integrity sometimes brings trouble.  
Dan. 3: 19.

#### SHORTER CATECHISM.

Quest. 1. *What is the chief end of man?* A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

#### LESSON HYMNS.

CHILDREN'S HYMNAL, Nos. 248,  
117, 205, 40.

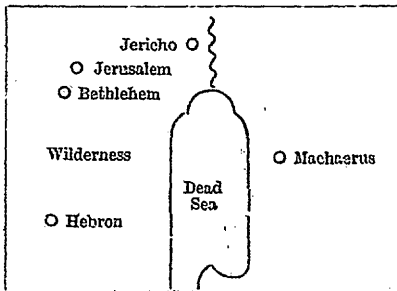
**DAILY PORTIONS.** *Monday.* John the Baptist Beheaded; Mark 6: 14-29. *Tuesday.* The Witness of John; John 1: 19-27. *Wednesday.* John's Teaching; Luke 3: 7-14. *Thursday.* Christ's Testimony; Matt. 11: 7-15. *Friday.* Fear and Fearlessness; Luke 12: 1-12. *Saturday.* Martyrs for God; Heb. 11: 32-40. *Sabbath.* The Crown of Life; Rev. 2: 8-11.

### HELPS IN STUDYING.

**INTRODUCTORY.** The mission of the Twelve had greatly extended the fame of Jesus, and the preaching of a "kingdom" had led some to inform Herod regarding him, lest the new movement should have political importance. Herod, however, quite understood its purely religious character, but his conscience and his superstitious fears led him to declare that Christ was John the Baptist, whom he had beheaded, risen again from the dead. This remark of Herod's is explained in our lesson, which gives an account of the martyrdom of the great Forerunner. Parallel passages, Matt. 14: 1-12; Luke 3: 19-20; 9: 7-9.

**LESSON PLAN.** I. The Fearless Preacher. vs. 17-19. II. The Birthday Banquet. vs. 20-25. III. The Martyred Prophet. vs. 26-29.

**I. THE FEARLESS PREACHER. 17. Herod**—Herod Antipas, son of Herod the Great (see Bible Dictionary). He ruled over Galilee and the country east of the Jordan. (See map.) **Laid hold on John**—This arrest took place about a year before (Matt. 4: 12; Mark 1: 14), **in prison**—The castle of Machaerus about nine miles east of the Dead Sea. (See map.)



It was both a palace and a fortress. **Herodias**—a granddaughter of Herod the Great (see Bible Dictionary). **Philip**—He was dis-

inherited by Herod, and lived in privacy at Jerusalem. He is not the tetrach Philip. **18.** It is not lawful—(1) He had a wife; (2) she had a husband; (3) she was too nearly related to him, being his niece (Lev. 18: 16; 20: 21; 18: 14; 20: 20). Luke tells us that John fearlessly and faithfully reproved Herod for "all the evils which he had done" (Luke 3: 19). He was a true prophet (Ezek. 2: 5-7). **19.** **Had a quarrel**—held a grudge in her heart against John, and watched for a chance to have her revenge.

**II. THE BIRTHDAY BANQUET. 20.** **Feared John**—a bad man's dread that any harm done to him would be punished by God. Matthew says that he feared the multitude (Matt. 14: 5; 21: 26; Luke 20: 6.) Both fears restrained him. **Observed him**—R. V. "kept him safe" from the malice of Herodias. **Did many things**—tried to quiet his conscience by many good deeds, but he would not give up his sinful course of life. The R. V. reads "was much perplexed;" his sense of duty was at war with his inclinations. **Heard him gladly**—He felt himself a better man in