

the Child Jesus, were now in the inn or had found refuge, perhaps, in a friend's house. Saw . . . fell down . . . worshipped. In that little Child they recognized the King they sought. Presented . . . gifts. It was a usual Eastern custom to bring presents to a king. Gold . . . frankincense (a tree gum found in the East giving out a sweet smell when burned) . . . myrrh (a gum from a tree found in Arabia); all costly gifts, showing the givers' sense of Jesus' greatness. Being warned of God. Herod is no match for the Almighty Father. How simply God frustrates his purpose, and protects His own dear Son.

## DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association)

M.—The Wise Men find Jesus, Matt. 2: 1-12. T.—The prophecy, Micah 5: 1-4. W.—Scripture testimony, John 7: 32-44. Th.—“Thy light is come,” Isa. 60: 1-6. F.—Gifts and worship, Psalm 72: 1-15. S.—Simeon's blessing, Luke 2: 25-35. B.—Anna's thanksgiving, Luke 2: 36-39.

Prove from Scripture—That we should give for Christ's cause.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 2. What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him? A. The word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.

The Question on Missions—2. What has been the result of the labors of these early missionaries? The labors of these early missionaries, together with those of the faithful men who followed them, have made the Eastern Section of our church strong enough to support all its own work, besides contributing towards home missions in the Northwest.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, Ps. Sel. 114 (Supplemental Lesson); 31; 34; 5 (Ps. Sel.); 31 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 560.

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

Juniors—At what age was Jesus presented in the temple? What law commanded this?

1, 2. Who was king in Jerusalem when Jesus was born? Who came to Jerusalem? Whence did they come? For whom were they seeking? What had started them on their search?

3-8. Why was Herod troubled at hearing about a “King of the Jews?” Whom did he call together? What question did he ask? The answer? What

did Herod ask the Wise Men to do? His purpose? 9, 10. What went before the Wise Men? Where did it stop? How did they feel?

11, 12. What did the Wise Men do when they had found Jesus? Name the presents they gave.

Seniors and the Home Department—Upon what event in the life of Jesus did the visit of the Magi follow? For whom specially was Matthew's Gospel written? Luke's?

1, 2. Tell of Herod's origin, and describe his character. Who were the Magi? Tell of other Gentiles who came later to Jesus. (Mark 7: 25, 26; Luke 7: 2, 3; John 12: 20, 21.)

3-8. Explain why Herod was troubled. What did the people of Jerusalem fear? How was it known where Christ should be born? What other Herod was troubled when he heard of Jesus? (Luke 9: 7.)

9-12. How were the Wise Men guided to where Jesus was? Describe their gifts. What is the best gift we can offer to Christ? (Rom. 12: 1.)

## THE LESSON IN LIFE

1. The stars shining in the sky seem like openings through which the brightness of heaven shines through. But Jesus, the world's Light, brings right down into our homes and hearts heaven's brightness and joy, giving them to us as freely as the sunlight.

2. Step by step the Wise Men went forward, until they found the One whom they sought. In the same way our knowledge grows, by mastering one fact and then another. And we shall reach heaven, too, just by faithfully, patiently doing God's holy, loving will day by day.

3. Our debt is great to the East. It gave us the gospel that brings life to our souls. And now we have the opportunity of paying our debt. For the nations of the East are looking to us to-day for this blessed gospel.

4. Sin is a sorry, slinking thing. It seeks the cover of a lie, as the crawling creatures of the night hide from the light of day. It is the honest, upright heart that fears no exposure.

5. Because Herod was a murderer, he became a liar. Sin cannot be confined to any one part of the soul. If there is a worm anywhere in the root, all the leaves at the top will in time wither and wither. There is safety only in crushing sin wherever it may appear; and the sooner the better.

## FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. Explain the coming of the “Wise Men” to Jerusalem. ....

2. What directions did they receive there? .....

3. How did they find Jesus? What honors did they pay Him? .....