

II. THE CHILD FEARED. 3. He was troubled—Herod was a usurper and feared that the lawful king would dethrone him. The people feared the cruelty and bloodshed by which Herod would try to keep his throne. 4. Chief priests—These were the heads of the twenty-four courses into which the priests were divided. (1 Chr. 24: 26.) Scribes—These copied and taught the Law. A number of them were associated with the chief priests to form the Sanhedrim, or supreme court of the Jews. If anybody knew, these should be able to tell where their king was. The Christ (R. V.)—It is evident from this question that Herod knew what sort of a king the wise men meant. He did not welcome the Messiah, the "Consolation of Israel," like Simeon and Anna. 6. They had no difficulty in answering a question out of the Bible, but did not seem to care to come to Him of whom the Bible spoke. Micah 5: 2; John 7: 42; read John 5: 39, 40. Princes—Malachi says "thousands" that is the numerous divisions of the nation each with its prince, or head. That shall rule—R. V. "Which shall be shepherd of," shall rule in love and mercy. John 10: 11; Isa. 40: 11. 7. Privily—Privately. He did not want anyone to know that he had consulted with them. He thought that the star probably appeared just when the Child was

born, and thus he would have some clue to his age, so he made very particular enquiries on this point. From the information he obtained he judged that if he slew all under two years old he would certainly slay Jesus. 8. Worship him also—Herod had a heart like that of Judas. He would pretend to worship when he meant to kill.

III. THE CHILD WORSHIPPED. 9, 10. The star seems to have disappeared for a time and now again gives its guiding light. It must have been a supernatural appearance close to the earth, or else it could not have marked out the particular house. 11. The house—The throng of visitors had left Bethlehem and the "Holy family" were more comfortably lodged than on their arrival about six weeks before. Fell down—A reverent attitude. Worshipped—A reverent heart. Presented—A willing gift. They gave no homage to Mary. Treasures—Treasure-chests? Gifts—They treated him like a king. God intended these gifts to defray the expense of the coming journey to Egypt. Gold—Ps. 72: 15. Emblematic of his royalty. Frankincense—Used in religious rites and emblematic of his divinity. Myrrh—Used in embalming and emblematic of his death. These were fragrant gums very precious. 12. There is no plot of villany so secretly laid but God knows all about it and can frustrate it.

To the Scholar.—Study the lesson carefully, turning up the marginal references and reading the "Daily Portions." Then close your Bible and try to answer in writing the questions following *without accepting aid from any quarter* after you have begun to write. Then bring this leaflet to Sabbath School with you on the day of its date. If you cannot come, fill out the blank and send the leaflet (with the answers written out) 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.

- 1.—Who came seeking Jesus and what did they ask? (4)
- 2.—Why were Herod and the people of Jerusalem troubled? (6)
- 3.—Whom did Herod call together and what did he ask them? (4)
- 4.—What did he inquire of the wise men and what did he tell them to do? (4)
- 5.—How were the wise men guided to the house where Jesus was? (3)
- 6.—What did they do when they came in? (4)

Name, _____

Dear Teacher,—Please excuse my absence from Sabbath School to-day, I cannot come because _____ I have read the "Daily Portions" and answered the questions as well as I could. I have committed to memory _____ verses in addition to the Golden Text, and _____ Questions in the Catechism and have recited them to _____ I was at church _____ I send with this my Weekly Offering of _____ cents.