

# Happy Days

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## THE FIRST CHRISTMAS.

NEARLY two thousand years ago, some shepherds were in the open fields of Palestine, watching their flocks by night, when suddenly a bright light shone around them, and soon a voice said—"Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy"—good news not only for you, but for every one on the face of the earth—Christ is born

As the shepherds returned to their work, they sang for joy.

One day some wise men, a long way off, saw a wonderful star. So they left their homes and went to Jerusalem to find out all about it. When they got there they asked, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews?" for they felt certain that Christ who had been talked about for so many

guided them to where he was, and they worshipped him and made presents to him. But that night, God told them not to go back to Herod; and they went to their own country another way. Such are some of the facts about the great Christmas gift God gave to man.

Look forward, then, to Christmas Day with joyful expectation, not because of



THE FIRST CHRISTMAS.

in Bethlehem. He for whom you have been looking so long.

The shepherds were so glad, that as soon as the angels were gone back to heaven, they hurried off to Bethlehem to see Jesus for themselves. Where do you think they found him? In a stable with Joseph, and Mary his mother. He had no soft bed such as you have, but was lying in a manger! There was no room for him in the inn. No room for Jesus! Oh, how sad!

years had at last come. Herod, who was then king, asked the Jews if they knew where Christ was born; and they told him what the Scriptures said.

He sent for the wise men, and told them to go and search for Jesus, and when they had found him to tell him, that he might go and worship him also! Wicked man! this was all pretence; he wanted to kill Jesus.

The wise men found Christ; for the star

anticipated gifts or merry-making, but because of the One Gift that makes the best of all our holidays a holy day.

The following beautiful hymn is on this subject:

### THE GUIDING STAR.

As with gladness men of old  
Did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light,  
Leading onward, beaming bright;