

3, 4. **Philistines**... **discomfited**... **smitten**; thrown into a panic by the fierce storm. **Israel**.. **pursued**.. **until**.. **Beth-eor**; apparently some high ground where the Philistines rallied. **Stone**.. **Eben-ezer**; that is, stone of help. The precise site of "Shen" is unknown. **Philistines**.. **came no more**; so strong a ruler did Samuel prove to be.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



Between the Maritime Plain where the Philistines dwelt and the Central Range of Palestine, lies a lower range of hills called the Shephelah. These hills are pierced by several valleys, leading into the heart of the country. It was up one of these valleys, that the Philistines brought the ark to Beth-shemesh, a town of the Shephelah. Here, however, it did not long remain, but was taken to Kirjath-jearim, the "Town of the Woods", which was the nearest town on the Central Range. Five miles northwest of Jerusalem is a conspicuous eminence called Neby Samwil. This is the ancient Mizpeh, meaning "Watchtower."

CHRISTMAS LESSON—Matt. 2: 1-12.

AN ALTERNATIVE LESSON

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

On the eighth day after His birth Jesus was circumcised, and received His name (Luke 2: 21), which is the same as Joshua, the name of Moses' successor as leader of Israel. It means "Jehovah is salvation" (see ch. 1: 21). When forty days had passed since His birth, Mary presented herself with Him in the temple at Jerusalem, and then returned to Bethlehem, Luke 2: 22-38.

I. JESUS SOUGHT.—1, 2. **Bethlehem of Judaea**; the place where Ruth had found a home and a husband (see Lesson X., Ruth 1: 14-22). Her great descendant, the world's Saviour, was now born here. **Herod, the king**; called the great, wicked and cruel ruler, who reigned in Jerusalem from B.C. 40 to B.C. 4. Jesus was born perhaps in B.C. 5, possibly as early as B.C. 6 or 7. **Wise men**; that is, Magi, who were skilled in knowledge, especially of the stars, and professed to be able to foretell events by the appearance of the heavenly bodies. **From the east**; from beyond the Euphrates, the land from which Abraham had come. **To Jerusalem**; the capital of Judaea, where they would most

LESSON QUESTIONS

What was the fate of Eli's two sons? What happened to the ark? What effect had all this upon Eli? Why did the Philistines send the ark back to Israel?

1-4 Where had the ark been? Who took it away from this place? To whose house was it taken? Why did Israel "lament"? What does Paul say of godly sorrow? (2 Cor. 7: 10.) Show that sin must be forsaken if it is to be forgiven? (Isa. 1: 18-18.)

5-9 Where did Samuel gather Israel? How did they show their sorrow for sin? Who prepared to attack them? What means of defence did Samuel employ?

10-13 How was Samuel's prayer answered? What effect had the storm on the Philistines? How complete was Israel's victory over them?

Prove from Scripture—That only forsaken sin is forgiven.

Shorter Catechism—Review Questions 79-81.

The Question on Missions—12. What are the Chinese in Canada doing for missions among their own countrymen? They contribute about \$3,000 a year in support of the mission in Macao, China. This amount comes from about 1,000 Chinese in 50 Sunday Schools.

naturally look for a new born king. **His star**; the strange, bright star which had guided them from their eastern home.

II. JESUS FOUND.—3-10. **Herod**.. **troubled**; fearing the loss of his throne. **All Jerusalem**. The people did not want a king who would interfere with their sinful, selfish lives. **Chief priests and scribes**; the religious leaders and teachers amongst the Jews. **Prophet**. See Mic. 5: 2. **Not the least**; but of much importance as the Messiah's birthplace. **Princes**; heads of families in Israel. Bethlehem is pictured as a person standing amongst these. **Privily**; secretly.

III. JESUS WORSHIPED.—11, 12. **Opened**.. **treasures**; that is, the caskets or chests containing the "treasures". **Presented unto him gifts**; according to the Eastern fashion, still in vogue, of approaching kings. **Warned of God**; who had his own way of defeating Herod's cruel purpose. **Departed**.. **another way**; thus giving time, while Herod awaited their return, for Joseph and Mary to escape with Jesus into Egypt, v. 13.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What did Samuel require Israel to do?.....

2. Describe their victory over the Philistines.....