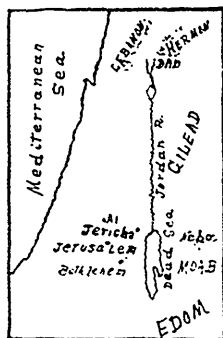


12, 13. As many as received him; into their hearts with love and trust. Gave he the right (Rev. Ver.); the authority and ability. To become children of God (Rev. Ver.). Receiving Christ starts a new and growing life. Believe on his name; trust Him and yield the life to Him,—our part in salvation. Born... of God; receive spiritual life,—God's part.

III. THE WORD MADE FLESH.—14-18. Made flesh; became truly man (see S. Catechism, Ques. 22). Dwelt; "tabernacled," tented, as the Lord in the tabernacle of the Hebrews, Ex. 25:8; 2 Sam. 7:6. Glory; the Saviour's beauty, likened to the cloud of Ex. 40:34, 35. Only begotten; God's true and only son, Luke 1:35; Heb. 1:3. Grace and truth. We deserve nothing, Christ gives us all things,—that is "grace." We are ignorant, Christ teaches us about God and eternal life,—that is "truth." All we; all Jesus' followers add their witness to John's. Grace for grace; grace succeeding grace in endless abundance. Moses... Jesus Christ. The one made God known partially, the other fully, Matt 11:27.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



BETHLEHEM, the birthplace of Jesus lies about 5 miles south of Jerusalem. It is built on a rocky ridge about a mile long, with higher hills on every side. The inhabitants are Christians, and wear a peculiar kind of dress. At the eastern end of the town stands the Church of the Nativity (the Birth of Christ). Beneath the floor is a rock-hewn cave, like those still used in the neighborhood as stables. This cave is supposed to be the place where Jesus was born. On one side is a recess cut in the rock which may have been a manger. Over the spot where our Lord is said to have been hang sixteen beautifully wrought lamps which are kept continually burning.

LESSON QUESTIONS

1, 2 Explain "the beginning." Who existed then? Why was Jesus called "the Word?" Show that "the

Word" was a person. What do we know of His nature? With whom was He "in the beginning?" With whom did He afterwards come to be? Where does Paul call Christ "the beginning?" (Col. 1:18.)

3-5 How did "the Word" reveal His energy? In what special form did His life appear in man? By what was Christ's mission opposed? Was this opposition successful?

6-11 Who was the first witness to Jesus? Whom did the risen Saviour appoint as His witnesses, and where were they to witness for Him? (Acts 1:8.)

12, 13 What is it to receive Jesus? What right does receiving Him give? What is our part in salvation? What is God's part?

14-18 Explain "made flesh." What is meant by "grace for grace?" What Epistle teaches that Christ is greater than Moses? (Heb. 3:3.)

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Is Jesus a mere man?
2. Are all men God's children?

A LESSON FOR LIFE

This story is told of a beautiful picture which once hung in a Roman palace and which crowds went to see. Amongst these was a young painter who wished to copy the picture, but he was sternly refused permission. Copy it, however, he must. So he came each day and gazed upon the picture until he got it into his very soul. Then one day he began to paint in his studio. Bit by bit he reproduced the picture, going back again and again to look at it until he had made so wonderful a copy, that every one who looked at it wished to see the original. It is by constantly looking at Jesus and trying day by day to live as he lived, that, at last, others will behold His beauty in us and desire to see Him for themselves.

Prove from Scripture—That God will provide for us.

Shorter Catechism—Review Questions, 80, 81.

The Question on Missions—12. What are the special immediate needs in our Mission? The most pressing needs are the increase of the staff of the older stations and the opening of a new station at Yong Jung in Kando, that we may train the Christians and thus speed the work of preaching the gospel.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise: 129 (Supplemental Lesson), 34, 28, 2 (Ps. Sel.), 30 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY) 31.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What is said about "the Word?"
2. Describe two ways of treating the Saviour
3. How do people become children of God?