

"Word" was Christ? Look at the fourteenth verse, "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us," there is the birth at Bethlehem. So Mary's babe, the child Jesus, was God! But when we pray to God as "Our Father," do we mean Jesus? No: there are God the Father and God the Son; and also God the Holy Ghost. What! three Gods? No; see Deut. 6. 4; 1 Cor. 8. 4. Three persons in one God—all equal, for see how they are mentioned together. Matt. 28. 19; 2 Cor. 13. 14.

Then, in what way did God the Son become Man? We cannot understand it all, but we know this—

(n) He laid aside his glory. Phil. 2. 6, 7. See a picture of what that glory was. Isa. 6. 1-6. Compare John 12. 41. What made him give it up to come down here? See 2 Cor. 8. 9.

(b) He took a human body. He was really born, and had a real mother. Gal. 4. 4. His body grew. Luke 2. 52. He was hungry, Matt. 4. 2; thirsty, John 4. 7; tired, John 4. 6. He really died. Mark 15. 44, 45.

(c) He took a human soul. Do not think of him as God in a human body. He thought and felt as a man; had a man's will. Luke 22. 42; was glad, Luke 10. 21; sorry, Mark 3. 5; Luke 19. 41; John 11. 35; surprised, Matt. 8. 10; Mark 6. 6. One thing he had not—sin. See 2 Cor. 5. 21; Heb. 4. 15; 1 John 3. 5.

(d) Yet he was God all the while. See what was predicted, Isa. 7. 14; 9. 6—the "child" should be "the Mighty God," and what does "Emmanuel" mean? See Matt. 1. 23. See what he said about himself—spoke of God sending his only begotten Son into the world, (John 3. 16, 17)—made himself "equal with God," (John 5. 18)—said all "should honour the Son even as they honour the Father, (John 5. 23)—said, "Ye are from beneath; I am from above," (John 8. 58)—"I and my Father are one," (John 10. 30)—and many other like sayings.

Let us all adore him as Thomas did, (John 20. 28), and say "My Lord and my God!"

BEREAN METHODS.

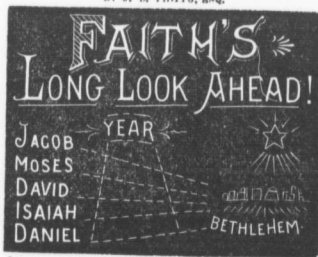
Hints for the Teachers' Meeting and the Class.

Draw or show on the map the journey of Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem. ... Explain the purpose of their coming, the inn, the manger ... A picture, (1) Of the night watch; (2) Of the night song, (coming of the angel, his message, the heavenly host); (3) Of the night visit. ... The persons of the lesson, their traits, and lessons from each, (1) The angels' joy; (2) The shepherds' faith; (3) The mother's thoughtfulness; (4) The hearer's wonder. ... What is here taught concerning Christ: (1) His humanity; (2) His humility.

References. FOSTER'S PROSE: Vol. I. 3237, 696, 712. Vol. II. 7119, 9828, 10009. POETICAL: 257, 2123. FREEMAN: Swaddling clothes, 751; Manger, 751.

Blackboard.

BY J. R. PHIPPS, M.D.



Place the diagram as it is on the board. By questions bring out the time of the prophecies that looked toward Bethlehem. As the answers are given, write them opposite the names, have the prophecies read, and sing appropriate songs of praise.

Primary and Intermediate.

BY M. V. M.

REVIEW. Call back the prophecy of Zacharias. Who was coming to visit his people? What did he do? See that the words "deliver" and "redeem" are understood. What did he give? A few crayon strokes to indicate the sun's rays will recall the teachings on light.

LESSON THOUGHT: Jesus is God's Goodwill.

INTRODUCTORY. Ask how many remember Mary's song. Talk about her gladness and its cause, and sketch vividly that journey to Bethlehem, the stay at the humble house which was the only stopping-place they could find, and the coming of the Lord of heaven to this lowly spot.

1. Talk about shepherds. Some of them were men who knew and loved God, as David, who was made a king. These were men loved by God, or he would not have sent word to them first of the coming of Jesus. Make the story clear and simple—the angel, the bright shining, the fear of the shepherds, and the glad announcement by the angels. Tell what he meant by the "City of David," and let class rise and recite (unless it can be chanted) the angelic song:

"Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace,
Good-will toward men."

2. What the shepherds did. They had heard of a wonderful Babe, and they set out at once to see him. What good can a help-