

taken into Egypt. What was it that Herod wished to do to him? Why did he want to kill him? Think of the many mothers who must have wept because of the cruelty of this wicked king. [Let the teacher here quote the eighteenth verse of the lesson.] Show how God watched over the infant Saviour, and kept him from harm. Then speak of the angel who visited Joseph in a dream, and told him to take Jesus and his mother back into the land they had left, just as he had in a similar way told Joseph to take them into Egypt. It might be interesting here to refer to another angelic visitation in connection with the infancy of Jesus. Ask, Do any of you remember of any other time when an angel had something to say about the infant Jesus? When was it? What did he say? To whom did he say it? The angels loved Jesus, and were sent to watch over him. Let the class recite the Golden Text: "He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways." So God cares for us. Angels are good beings who are employed by God to help human beings. The Lord calls them "ministering spirits." Try to impress on the children the truth that God cares for them, and that he has many ways of doing this.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Prayer-Meeting Topic: The Lord will provide *Tests:* Gen. xxii. 14; Psa. lxxxiv. 11; Matt. v. 33; 1 Pet. v. 7. *Foster:* 135, 1433, 1435, 4157, 4170, 5173, 5313. *Blackboard:* Draw on board the map of Egypt and Palestine. Show the route that Joseph took when he went from Dothan to Egypt. Jesus from Bethlehem to Egypt. In both cases see the "Topic." *Blackboard Song:*

TUNE—"Warwick," C.M.

"Angels, where'er we go, attend
Our steps, whate'er betide;
With watchful care their charge defend,
And evil turn aside."

SUNDAY, JULY 20, 1873.

LESSON III.—The Baptism of Jesus.
Matt. iii. 13-17.

GOLDEN TEXT: Mark i. 11.

I. GENERAL STATEMENT.

From Galilee Jesus comes to Jordan to be baptized. The spirit of God descends upon

him, and a voice from heaven pronounces him well-beloved.

II. TOPICAL AND EXPOSITORY NOTES.

Topic: The Son of God fulfilling his Father's law.

1. THE BAPTISM AT THE JORDAN, vers. 13-15. From his childhood Jesus had lived in GALILEE, at Nazareth, being subject to his parents. Luke ii. 51. Probably he labored as a carpenter until the age of thirty. Matt. xiii. 55; Mark vi. 3; Luke iii. 23. In obscurity all these years, he increased in grace and wisdom. Luke ii. 40, 52. Now, in full manhood, he emerges from his long concealment, and suddenly appears at the JORDAN where JOHN was baptizing. John the Baptist, (ver. 1,) the eminent forerunner of the Messiah, now fulfils the ancient prophecy. Isa. xl. 3; Matt. iii. 3. Vast multitudes come to John's baptism "in Bethabara beyond Jordan." John i. 28. "When all the people were baptized," (Luke iii. 21,) then Jesus, apparently thus "separate from sinners," (Heb. vii. 26,) came out alone from the crowd to BE BAPTIZED. Hitherto John was not acquainted with the person of Jesus, (John i. 31-34; Luke i. 80); nevertheless he at once recognized this lone Stranger as the Messiah for whom he was sent to prepare the way. Hence JOHN FORBADE HIM, feeling his own vast inferiority to Jesus. I HAVE NEED . . . OF THEE. Christ needed not repentance, pardon, or purification, of which baptism was the sign—he needed nothing; but John felt his own need of any blessing Jesus might bestow. JESUS . . . SAID . . . SUFFER IT TO BE SO NOW. Jesus thus recognizes John as his superior in office for this occasion. Hence John must perform the ceremony; for thus will both FULFIL ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS, that is, every ordinance, every demand of the Law. Christ had been circumcised (Luke ii. 21) according to Jewish laws, (Gen. xvii. 12,) because he was a representative of sinners; now he submits to John's baptism, meekly setting an example of obedience to every legal demand. To Christ it was not a baptism to repentance, but a consecration to his kingship, to his high priesthood. (See *Illus. I.*)

2. THE DESCENT OF THE SPIRIT, ver. 16. When Jesus WAS BAPTIZED he WENT UP . . . OUT OF THE WATER. The Greek preposition here translated "out of" is with equal propriety translated "from." The mode