

glimpse or two into His infancy and boyhood. Matthew, chs. 1, 2, contains a genealogy and the story of Jesus' birth: ch. 1, accounts of the visit of the Magi, and ch. 2 of Herod's persecution. Only the genealogy and the birth story are found in Luke.

### I. Seeking, 1-6.

Vs. 1-6. *When Jesus was born*; as narrated in ch. 1:18-25. *Bethlehem*; "House of Bread", a village about six miles south of Jerusalem. *Of Judaea*; not of Zebulun in Galilee (see Josh. 19:15). *Herod the king*; of all Palestine, B. C. 37-B. C. 4: called Herod the Great, "great in energy, in magnificence, in wickedness". *Wise men from the east*; properly Magi, originally a class of Persian priests, then, generally, astrologers, who read in the movements of stars the destinies of men and nations. Some say they came from Arabia, some from Babylonia, some from Persia; but no one knows for certain. *Where is he that is born King of the Jews?* They knew by the star that such a King had been born; they ask, "Where is He?" *Are come to worship*; prostrate themselves with face to the earth. *Herod was troubled*; at thought of a King who should be just and should fulfil the nation's hopes. Herod was looked on as a usurper, and the menial of the Roman government. *Chief priests and scribes*. The

Sanhedrin, composed of, (1) members of the high priestly family, many of whom had been high priest for a period, (2) scribes, men versed in the law, (3) elders, chief men of leading families, was to answer the Magis' question. *In Bethlehem*. For so the prophecy of Mic. 5:2 had declared,

### II. Finding, 7-10.

Vs. 7-10. *Herod learned what time the star appeared* (Rev. Ver.); when it appeared first. V. 16 explains the wicked king's cruel purpose. *Bring me word, that I also may come* (Rev. Ver.); not to worship, as he pretended, but to slay. *Star stood*, etc.; and now they were at the goal of their journey. *When they saw the star, they rejoiced*; either because they saw it again after it had been invisible for a time, or because it now marked the exact spot they were in search of.

### III. Worshipping, 11, 12.

Vs. 11, 12. *They offered gifts* (Rev. Ver.). An Oriental does not approach one in higher station without a gift. These bring the finest treasures of the East, gold and the sweet-smelling resins used for incense. The *gold* has been thought to indicate the Kingship of Jesus; the *frankincense* His divinity (see Ex. 30:6, 7) and the *myrrh*, used in anointing dead bodies, His humanity. V. 12 tells how Herod's plot was foiled.

## FOR TEACHERS OF THE LITTLE ONES

*Lesson Subject*—The birth of Jesus. We will be listening to the Christmas bells tomorrow. They will say to us, "JESUS IS BORN! JESUS IS BORN!" Yes, it is the birthday of our Saviour! Let us outline our CHRISTMAS bell.

*Lesson*—Recall the first Christmas morning and the finding of Jesus by the shepherds. (Use the blackboard.) To-day we are to hear of some Wise Men who were eagerly watching for Jesus and looking for some sign of His coming.

*The Star in the East*—Have you ever looked up into the starry sky and wondered what the stars are? These Wise Men from the East one night looked up into the sky and behold a new star! (Outline.) It is there to lead them to the place where Jesus is born. Read the Lesson story. Picture them follow-

ing the star till it stands over the village of Bethlehem.

*Guiding Others to Jesus*—We can be guiding stars.

*Repeat*—

We'll tell the wondrous story,  
About the guiding star,  
That led the holy Wise Men  
From Eastern lands afar.

*Our Gift to Jesus*—

What shall we bring to our Christ King,  
For our Christmas offering?  
Not gold, nor myrrh, nor frankincense,  
But loving hearts and penitence—  
To Thee, dear Christ, we bring.

Our bell rings out, "GIVE YOUR HEART TO JESUS!"

*Something to Think About*—I should give my heart to Jesus.