

## The Star and the Wise Men

At the time Jesus Christ was born there lived in a country far away three very wise old men. These wise men spent much of their time studying the stars at night.

One night the three wise men saw a star clearer and brighter than all the other stars. They understood that it must mean something very special, and they knew from the old holy books that a great King and Savior was to be born. This star was a message to tell them that the Great King was born. The wise men wanted to go and worship the Child.

It was a long way from the wise men's country to where the Savior was born. The camels were heavily loaded with all the things they needed for such a long journey. They also carried presents for the Christ Child. Every night as it grew dark the beautiful bright star in the sky showed them which way to go. They followed the star for many days.

At last the wise men reached the great city of Jerusalem.

"Where is He, the newborn King promised by God?" they asked over and over again as they rode through the crowded streets. "Where is the Savior whom we want to meet? We have seen His star in the east; and we have come to worship Him."

When the wicked king called Herod heard this, he became very worried. He called together some of the most important people in the city to find out what they knew about God's promise to send a Savior. And the learned men answered: "Our books tell us that the Savior will be born in Bethlehem."

Then Herod called the wise men and said: "Go to Bethlehem and look for the Child. When you find Him, let me know so that I too may go and worship Him." But he really wanted to find out where the Child was so that he could kill Him.

The three wise men left Jerusalem. The star which they had followed all the way from their country went on before them till

it came to rest over a small house in Bethlehem, where the little Child was. There it stopped.

The wise men were very happy. This, at last, was the end of their journey. This was what God wanted them to find. They entered the house, and there was Mary with the young baby Jesus in her arms. The three wise men fell on their knees and worshiped the Babe. Then they brought out the precious things they had carried with them and offered their presents to the Child.

When the wise men wanted to go back to Jerusalem, God told them in a dream not to return to Herod, so they went home by way of another road. Herod waited and waited for the return of the wise men. When at last he learned that they had escaped him, he was angry. He thought he could still kill Jesus, and he sent his soldiers to Bethlehem to kill all the baby boys there who were two years old or younger.

Before the soldiers came, an angel appeared to Joseph while he was sleeping and said: "Get up, take the young child and His mother to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you to come back because the king wants to kill the Child." So Joseph arose and awakened Mary and the baby Jesus and quickly gathered together whatever he could. They then started that very same night on the long journey to faraway Egypt. They stayed in Egypt until they learned that Herod, the king, had died.