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God *with* man—God *in* man. He is God with us to comfort, enlighten, protect, and defend us in time of temptation and trial, and in the hour of death, and God *with* us, and *in* us, and we *with* and *in* Him to all eternity. (*A. Clarke, LL.D.*) Behold at once the deepest mystery and the richest mercy. By the light of nature we see the eternal as a God above us: by the light of the law we see Him as a God against us; but, by the light of the gospel, we see Him as a God with us, reconciled to us, at peace with us, interested for us, interceding in our behalf. Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift! (*Dr. Hughes.*)

CHAPTER II.

VER. 1. Wise men from the East.—They were wise, not so much for their learning, but because they sought God diligently. Wisdom does not make unbelievers, but folly. (*Wilmot Buxton.*) *Philosophy and the Babe*:—I. The wise men **SEEKING** Christ. 1. They are presented to us here as seekers. 2. They were earnest seekers. 3. They sought Christ reverently. 4. God assisted them in the search. II. The wise men **FINDING** Christ. 1. They were seeking a person. 2. That person must be a king. 3. They sought a king and found a child. 4. Having found the child their seeking came to an end. 5. They worshipped Him. (*J. C. Jones.*) Jesus was the beginner of a new era, the founder of a new kingdom, hailed as a King alike at His birth and on His cross. I. **THE SEEKERS.** Magi, not magicians; astronomers, not astrologers; scientists, not wizards. The coming of these wise men prophetic of the time when all the trophies of science should be laid at the Saviour's feet. II. **THE SIGN.** "His star." Various conjectures. God never lacks the means to guide earnest inquirers. III. **THE SEARCH.** Earnest. Gave up friends and home, and took a wearisome journey. Every follower of Christ must have the same spirit. No earthly joy is entirely satisfactory. Men will not earnestly seek Christ till firmly convinced of the unsatisfactory nature of other things. Persevering: many discouragements. IV. **THE SUCCESS.** Not where they expected it, in the capital; not even in the best place in Bethlehem, yet where their soul-hunger was satisfied—the "house of bread." They came not empty-handed, but presented first themselves, then their gifts. The typical nature of these gifts. Around the manger was gathered a prophetic group. (*Richard Roberts.*) *The Sages, the Star, and the Saviour*:—I. **THEIR INQUIRY,** "Where is He?" &c. 1. Interest awakened. 2. Belief avowed. 3. Ignorance admitted. 4. Information entreated. 5. A motive declared. II. **THEIR ENCOURAGEMENT.** 1. To see His star was a great favour. 2. It was a great responsibility. 3. They did not regard it as a matter to be rested in. 4. They did not find satisfaction in what they had themselves done to reach the child. III. **THEIR EXAMPLE.** 1. They saw the young child. 2. They worshipped Him. 3. They presented gifts. (*C. H. Spurgeon.*) *The Eastern Sages led to Jerusalem*:—I. **THE WISE MEN HERE REFERRED TO.** The gospel sometimes triumphs over the world where it is most influential, and reduces the wise, rich, and great into a willing subjection to Christ. II. **THE COUNTRY FROM WHICH THEY CAME.** III. **THE MEANS BY WHICH THEY WERE CONDUCTED TO BETHLEHEM.** How great are our advantages compared with theirs; they had a star, we a sun. IV. **THE LIGHT WHICH IS THROWN BY THIS PASSAGE ON SOME OF THE PERFECTIONS OF GOD.** 1. On His wisdom, particularly in adapting means to an end. 2. On His power as seen in the star. 3. On His faithfulness as seen in the prophecy now fulfilled. 4. On His knowledge as displayed in revealing the true intention of Herod. 5. A remarkable illustration of God's superintending providence. The hearts of kings are in His rule; God provides for the safety of His servants. (*D. Rees.*) *The illustrious seekers*:—1. Their title was illustrious. 2. Their pursuit was illustrious. 3. Their wealth was illustrious. 4. Their character was illustrious. (*D. C. Hughes, M.A.*) I. **A MODEL OF SOUND WISDOM FOR ALL TRUE CHRISTIANS.** Examine the character of their faith. 1. In its commencement: promptitude to follow the call of heaven. 2. In its progress: in their well-supported constancy when the star disappeared. 3. In the perfection of their faith. II. **A PORTRAIT OF THE BLIND WISDOM OF WORLDLY MEN, AS SEEN IN HEROD'S PERSECUTION OF JESUS CHRIST.** 1. This false wisdom is at

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