

Wise Men Today Have Faith in Jesus

IN celebrating Christmas our minds may stretch no further than to note the birth of an extraordinary child at Bethlehem long ago.

It is appropriate to remember this miraculous birth of a unique personality, but it also is desirable that we consider the life purpose of Baby Jesus, who He really was and what He did. The Holy Scriptures provide our information on these subjects.

Because mankind is spiritually weak, people found it impossible to keep the laws of God well enough to merit fellowship with God. So a Messiah was promised as the redeemer of sinful man.

The 53rd chapter of Isaiah in the Old Testament foretells the birth of the Messiah and describes the purpose of His life on earth:

"Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for

our well-being fell upon Him and by His scourging we are healed.

"All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him."

In the New Testament book of Luke the physician who became an apostle reports that after Jesus was tempted by Satan He returned to Nazareth where he had grown up. On the Sabbath, Jesus went to the synagogue where He read from the Book of Isaiah.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are downtrodden, to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord."

Jesus sat down and told His listeners: "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." Some believed; others didn't.

During the few years of his ministry, Christ performed many mira-

cles of healing and raised a number of people from the dead.

Ultimately, Jesus Christ was killed by crucifixion, the prevalent mode of execution at the time. He was buried and, as had been foretold, on the third day He arose, demonstrating power over death. After being seen by and conversing with hundreds of witnesses, Christ later ascended into heaven as some of His disciples watched.

The reason for the Life of Christ on earth as the divine Son of God was plainly stated by Jesus Himself: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believe in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

Nearly 2000 years ago humble shepherds and highly educated men sought out the baby Jesus to worship Him. Wise men today do the same.