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FIFTY-TWO

Old Testament Lessons,

FOR

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

BY CHARLES BAKER,

Author of "The Book of Bible History, and Manuals";
The "Circle of Knowledge, and Manuals."

—
GRADATION I.
—

LONDON:

WERTHEIM, MACINTOSH AND HUNT, PATERNOSTER ROW,
AND HOLLES STREET, CAVENDISH SQUARE.

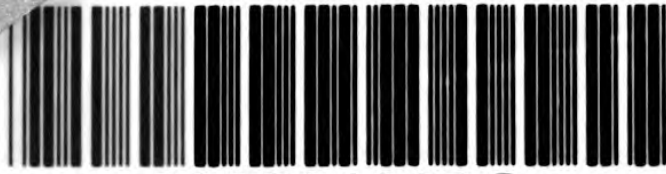
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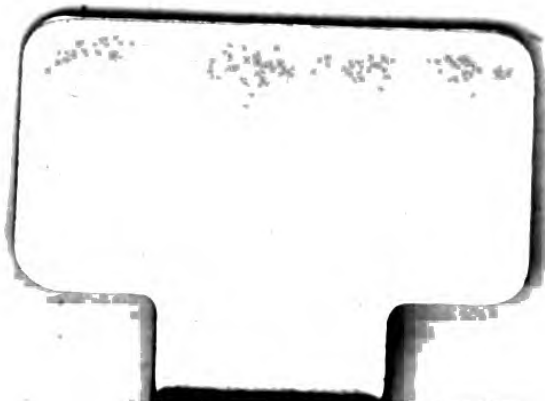
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ADDRESS.

THIS series of Lessons has been prepared to meet a demand which has frequently been made on the Compiler to furnish Sunday Schools with a suitable Work on Bible History, at once comprehensive and cheap.

Three books, for children in progressive stages of advancement are supposed to meet the respective attainments of the majority of Sunday Scholars. These degrees of progress are provided for by a method of graduating the lessons, which has been found advantageous in all schools where it has been applied, and which is applicable to all. Such graduation is effected, *not* by condensing the events recorded in the *higher* into a smaller compass for the *lower* gradations, but by abridging the matter of the highest book for the middle one, and shortening that again for the lowest. Thus, as a class advances from the *first* to the *second* gradation there is a repetition of the subject already gone through in a more extended form, together with new facts; and this process is repeated for the fuller development of each lesson in the *third* gradation. The VERSES at the end of the Lessons, in Gradation I., and the TEXTS in Gradations II., and III., all of which are illustrative of the Lessons, are to be committed to memory.

MANUALS FOR THE TEACHERS will shortly be issued. In the preparation of these Manuals the peculiar requirements of Sunday School Teachers, have been met, so far as they are known. Every Teacher is aware that he cannot teach effectively without some preparation, and it is to aid him in this previous exercise, *not to supersede it*, that the various features of the Manuals have been brought out, *viz.*; Illustrative Texts, Maps, Geographical Notes, Chronological Tables, Contemporary Characters, Explanations of Words, and Practical Lessons, adapted to each gradation and independent of the others; so that either of the books, and its Manual, or all the books and Manuals, may be introduced into a Sunday School, at the same time, or in three successive years.

For advanced classes, "THE BOOK OF BIBLE HISTORY," Gradation III., and its "MANUAL;" or, "CATECHETICAL EXERCISES," requiring reference to the bible for answers to the questions, might be employed.

CHARLES BAKER.

SUBJECTS OF THE LESSONS.

Lesson

1. The Creation. Fall of Man. Murder of Abel.
2. Enoch. Methuselah. Noah. The Deluge.
3. Ham's sin and punishment. Babel. Abram's Call.
4. Abram and Lot. Ishmael. Sodom and Gomorrah.
5. Birth of Isaac. Abraham's Faith. Isaac's Marriage.
6. Job. Isaac's History. Jacob's Deceit.
7. Jacob's Flight. Marriage. Return to Canaan.
8. Joseph's early history. Jacob goes into Egypt. Death of Jacob and Joseph.
9. Bondage of Israel. Moses' early history. Plagues of Egypt.
10. The Passover instituted. The Red Sea divided. The Egyptians drowned.
11. The murmurings of Israel. Manna given. The Moral Law delivered.
12. The Golden Calf. The Tabernacle. Nadab and Abihu.
13. Quails sent. Miriam's Leprosy. The Spies. Korah, &c.
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Lesson

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51. Of Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel and Belshazzar.
52. Of Haman and Mordecai. Rebuilding of Jerusalem &c.

LESSON I.

The Creation. Fall of Man. Death of Abel.

God created the heavens and the earth in six days. He made man in his own image—good and happy. God rested on the seventh day and blessed it. He placed Adam and Eve in the garden of *Eden*. They disobeyed God, and he said they should die. He then drove them out of *Eden*.

Cain and Abel were the sons of Adam and Eve. They offered sacrifices to God. God accepted Abel's offering and rejected Cain's. Cain was wicked; he killed his brother. God gave Adam another son who was named Seth.

The Child's Inquiry.

Will GOD, who made the earth and sea,
The night and shining day,
Regard a little child like me,
And listen when I pray?

Yes; in his holy word we read
Of his unfailing love;
And when his mercy most we need,
His mercy he will prove.

LESSON II.

Enoch. Methuselah. Noah. The Deluge.

Cain's children were numerous and wicked ; those of Seth were at first godly. Enoch, who was a descendant of Seth, pleased God, and God took him to heaven. Methuselah was the oldest man that ever lived. Noah, his grandson, was a just man.

When men became very wicked, God destroyed all people by a flood except Noah and his family. God saved them in an ark of wood that floated on the waters. When the waters were dried up, Noah and his family left the ark. God promised never again to destroy the earth by a flood. The rainbow is the sign of that promise.

The Judgment Hour.

Sudden as on that dreadful day,
The judgment hour shall come ;
Thousands shall then be swept away,
And meet an awful doom.

Let us not think these words a dream,
And still refuse to hear ;
However far the time may seem,
Each hour it draws more near.

LESSON III.

Noah's Vineyard. Babel. Abram's Call.

Noah planted a vineyard. He drank of the wine and was drunken. His son Ham mocked him, and Noah said that Ham's descendants should be servants to their brethren.

After the flood, the people came to the plain of *Shinar*; they began to build a city and a tower, so that they might not be scattered. God made them speak different languages, and they were dispersed. The city was called *Babel*.

God called Abram from *Chaldea* to live in *Canaan*. He came with Sarai his wife, and Lot his nephew. God promised Abram that he should have a son, and that the Saviour should be born of his descendants.

Abraham's Faith.

'Tis by the faith of joys to come,
We walk through deserts dark as night;
Till we arrive at heaven our home,
Faith is our guide, and faith our light.

So Abram by divine command,
Left his own house to walk with GOD;
His faith beheld the promis'd land,
And fired his zeal along the road.

LESSON IV.

Abram & Lot. Ishmael born. Sodom destroyed.

The herdsmen of Abram and Lot quarrelled, because there was not food enough for their flocks. Abram and Lot separated. Lot chose the plain of *Jordan*, near *Sodom*. The men of *Sodom* were very wicked. Hagar was Sarai's handmaid. Hagar's son was called Ishmael.

God changed Abram's name to Abraham, and said he should be a father of nations. He changed Sarai's name to Sarah. God said that he would destroy *Sodom* because the people were wicked. Two angels led Lot out of *Sodom*. *Sodom* was then destroyed with fire from heaven.

Shun wicked Companions.

If my companions grow profane,
I'll leave their friendship when I hear|
Young sinners take GOD'S name in vain,
And learn to curse, and learn to swear.

How will they stand before thy face,
Who treated thee with such disdain,
While thou shalt doom them to the place
Of everlasting woe and pain?

LESSON V.

Birth of Isaac. Abraham's faith. Isaac's marriage.

Isaac the son promised to Abraham was born. Ishmael mocked Isaac, and both he and his mother were cast out. Ishmael grew up in the wilderness. God commanded Abraham to offer up Isaac. Abraham was about to slay his son, but God provided a ram, which he offered instead of Isaac.

Abraham sent Eliezer his faithful servant, into *Mesopotamia* to bring Isaac a wife from among his own kindred. He brought thence Rebekah, a daughter of Bethuel, who was a nephew of Abraham. The brother of Rebekah was named Laban. Isaac married Rebekah.

Jesus the best Pattern.

No mocking jest, nor angry word,
Was ever from the Saviour heard ;
Holy he was, and meek, and mild,
A pattern for each wayward child.

LORD, help me by thy grace to be
Lowly, and kind of heart like thee ;
Gentle and peaceful, meek and mild,
Thy servant, though a little child.

LESSON VI.

Job. Isaac's History. Jacob's deceit.

Job lived in *Idumea*. He was a rich man, and one that feared God, He was sorely tried and tempted, he lost his children and his riches. He bore his trials with patience. God afterwards gave him more children and greater riches than he had at first.

Isaac and Rebekah had two sons — Esau and Jacob. When Esau was hungry he sold his birth-right to Jacob for a mess of pottage. When Isaac was old he called Esau to bless him. Rebekah and Jacob deceived Isaac, so that he blessed Jacob instead of Esau. He then blessed Esau.

Prayer for Truth.

O Father, bless a little child,
And in my early youth,
Give me a spirit good and mild,
A soul to love the truth.
May falsehood never in my heart,
Nor in my words abide;
But may I act the truthful part,
Whatever may betide.

LESSON VII.

Jacob serves Laban. Returns to Canaan. Benjamin is born.

Jacob fled to *Padan-aram*. God promised to keep him in all places, and to bring him again into *Canaan*. He kept the flocks of his uncle Laban. He married Leah and Rachel, the two daughters of Laban. Jacob had many children. God blessed him, and increased his riches exceedingly. Twenty years after, he returned to *Canaan*. On his way God changed his name to **ISRAEL**. Jacob met Esau, and they became friends.

Benjamin, Jacob's youngest son, was born at *Ephrath*; and Rachel his mother, died there.

Safety in God.

He that hath made his refuge GOD,
Shall find a most secure abode ;
Shall walk all day beneath his shade,
And safe at night shall rest his head.

Then will I say, ' My GOD ! thy power
Shall be my fortress and my tower ;
I that am formed of feeble dust,
Make thine almighty arm my trust. '

LESSON VIII.

Joseph Sold. His prosperity. Jacob in Egypt.

Jacob loved Joseph ; but Joseph was hated by his brethren. They sold him into *Egypt* to be a slave. He was falsely accused and cast into prison.

He was brought out of prison to interpret the dreams of the king, and made governor over the land. During a famine Joseph stored up much corn in *Egypt*. Jacob sent his sons into *Egypt* to buy corn. Joseph made himself known to his brethren. His father, his brothers, and their families came to live in *Egypt*.

Jacob blessed his sons, before his death and charged them to bury him in *Canaan*. Joseph told his brethren to carry up his bones with them out of *Egypt* into *Canaan*.

Brotherly Love.

The gentle child that tries to please,
That hates to quarrel, fret, and teaze,
And would not say an angry word ;
That child is pleasing to the LORD.

Great GOD! forgive, whenever we
Forget thy will, and disagree ;
And grant that each of us may find
The sweet delight of being kind.

LESSON IX.

Bondage of Israel. Moses. Plagues of Egypt.

The Egyptians made slaves of the Israelites. They also destroyed the male infants. The mother of Moses placed him in an ark of bulrushes on the river. The daughter of the king found him and brought him up. God appointed Moses to deliver Israel from bondage. Aaron was the brother of Moses.

God sent plagues on *Egypt*. He turned the waters into blood—he covered the land with frogs—he sent lice on man and beast—he sent swarms of flies into the houses—a murrain on the cattle—boils on man and beast—hail, rain, and fire on the land—locusts—and then a thick darkness. God said he would destroy the first-born.

Mission of Moses.

Rescued from a watery grave,
Moses lived to serve the LORD ;
Lived the chosen tribes to save,
And God's wondrous acts record.

He who cared for Moses thus,
Watches o'er our helpless years ;
Daily he provides for us,
And our guardian Friend appears.

LESSON X.

The First-born destroyed. Pharaoh's host drowned.

The Israelites killed a lamb by God's command, and sprinkled the blood on the sides of their doors. When the angel of God saw it, he *passed over* their houses. He slew the first-born of the Egyptians that night. Pharaoh arose, and told the Israelites to depart, with their flocks and herds.

God led the Israelites, by day in a pillar of cloud, and by night in a pillar of fire. The Egyptians pursued them. The waters of the *Red Sea* divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground. The Egyptians followed them and were drowned.

The Passover.

O LORD! refresh thy flock!
Athirst to thee they cry;
Thou art the spiritual Rock
Whence they must drink, or die.

Preserve us LORD from death!
Thou art the Lamb whose blood
Sprinkled o'er Israel's doors in faith,
A token was for good.

LESSON XI.

The Manna. Water from the Rock. The Law.

At *Marah* the Israelites murmured because the waters were bitter. The Lord told Moses how to make them sweet. In the wilderness the people murmured for bread ; God sent them manna. At *Horeb* they murmured for water. God told Moses to smite the rock ; he did so, and water came out.

The ten commandments were delivered to Moses on *Mount Sinai* amid thunders and lightnings. They teach our duty to God, and our duty to one another. The people were round the mount, but were not to touch it. The commandments were written on two tables of stone.

Our Way in the Wilderness.

Our Manna is the living Bread,
Which hath come down from Heaven,
The Rock that follows, Christ, the LORD,
From whom our drink is given.

The Ten Commandments mark our way,
And teach us what to shun ;
And Pastors teach the road to Heaven.
As on our course we run.

LESSON XII.

The Golden Calf. The Tabernacle. Nadab & Abihu.

While Moses was on the mount, Aaron made the people a golden calf. They worshipped the calf, and God was angry with them. Many were slain for this sin. Afterwards the tabernacle was built. Aaron and his sons were appointed to be priests.

Nadab and Abihu did wrong in the tabernacle ; they were consumed with fire from heaven. God then commanded that the priests should not drink wine nor strong drink when they went into the tabernacle. God accepted the Levites to serve him in the tabernacle ; Moses consecrated them.

Holy Ground.

When on the sabbath-day of rest,
In each revolving week,
You hasten as a youthful guest
God's earthly house to seek ;
Do thankful feelings of his grace
In your young heart abound ?
And do you prize his dwelling-place,
And count it holy ground ?

LESSON XIII.

Quails sent. The Spies Moses' Sin.

The people murmured for flesh, and God sent them quails. Many died of a plague. Twelve spies were sent to examine *Canaan*. They returned with a large bunch of grapes, and said it was a land flowing with milk and honey. Ten of the spies spoke evil of the land; the people rebelled, and God said they should not enter *Canaan*, but wander forty years in the *Wilderness*. The unfaithful spies died of a plague.

The people murmured for water, and God commanded Moses to speak to the rock. He spoke angrily, and struck it. God was displeased and said Moses, should not enter *Canaan*.

Feeble Faith.

Our faith is feeble we confess,
We faintly trust thy word ;
But wilt thou pity us the less ?
Be that far from thee, LORD !
Remember him who once applied
With trembling for relief ;
" LORD, I believe," with tears he cried,
" Help thou my unbelief."

LESSON XIV.

The Brazen Serpent. Balaam. Moses' Death.

When the people again rebelled, God sent fiery serpents which bit them. Moses was directed to place a brazen serpent on a pole; those who looked on it were healed.

Balak, king of *Moab*, sent for Balaam, a wicked prophet, to curse the Israelites. He came to *Mount Peor*, and God caused him to bless them. The Israelites were enticed into idolatry with the Midianites in *Moab*; and many were smitten with a plague for this sin. They afterwards slew the Midianites in battle. Moses beheld the land of *Canaan* from *Mount Nebo*, and then died.

Israel's Rebellions.

We must not be like Israel's band
Who tempted God by deed and thought,
Who scorned the law His prophet taught,
Who loathed the precious food he brought,
And wished again for Egypt's land;
His holy faith they would not hold,
But loved the tales the heathen told,
And made them idol gods of gold,
Provoking God's almighty hand.

LESSON XV.

Joshua takes Jericho. Achan. The Gibeonites.

Joshua sent two spies to *Jericho*. The king heard of them ; but Rahab assisted them to escape. They promised to save her and her family, when the Israelites should take the city. Joshua received directions from God about taking *Jericho*. The city was taken and Rahab was saved.

Achan coveted and hid silver and gold of the spoil of *Jericho*, and was stoned for his sin. The people of *Gibeon* deceived the Israelites, and were made hewers of wood and drawers of water. Five kings of *Canaan* went against *Gibeon*, because the people had made peace with Israel ; they were conquered.

Joshua a Saviour.

When Joshua by God's command,
Invaded Canaan's guilty land,
Gibeon, unlike the nations round,
Submission made, and mercy found.

He from whose arm they ruin fear'd ;
Their leader and ally appear'd ;
An emblem of the Saviour's grace.
To those who humbly seek his face,

LESSON XVI.

Joshua's Death. The Israelites forget God.

Joshua did not conquer the whole of *Canaan*. The tabernacle was set up at *Shiloh*; and *Canaan* was divided among the tribes by lot. Forty-eight cities were given to the Levites. The bones of Joseph were buried in *Shechem*. Before Joshua's death he reminded the Israelites of God's great goodness towards them.

The people of Israel took *Bezek*, *Hebron*, and other cities of *Canaan*, but did not drive out all the inhabitants. The Israelites were reprov'd by an angel for disobeying God. They also forsook God, and worshipp'd idols; God then permitted the *Canaanites* to oppress them.

God our Guide.

Ten thousand snares beset our way,
To draw our helpless souls astray;
Our wants regard, our prayers attend
And with thy power, great GOD defend.

Through life may we perform thy will,
Our humble stations wisely fill;
Then join the friends we here have known
In endless songs around thy throne.

LESSON XVII.

Micah's Idolatry. The Danites. Servitudes of Israel.

The mother of Micah made a molten image, and Micah obtained a Levite to be his priest. Some men of the tribe of Dan, who were seeking a place of residence, took away the idol and the priest, and set up the idol at *Laiish*, which city they called *Dan*.

God suffered the Israelites to be oppressed for their idolatry; but when they repented he raised up Othniel to deliver them. He permitted the king of *Moab*, the *Philistines*, and the *Canaanites* to oppress them at different times; but whenever they repented and cried to him, he raised up valiant men to deliver them.

God Merciful.

O LORD, turn not thy face from us,
Who lie in woful state,
Lamenting all our sinful life
Before thy mercy gate;
A gate thou openest wide to those
That do lament their sin;
Shut not the gate against us, LORD,
But let us enter in.

LESSON XVIII.

Of Gideon. Abimelech. Jephthah.

God suffered the Midianites to oppress Israel for seven years but when they repented of their sins, God raised up Gideon to deliver them ; he conquered them with only 300 men. The Israelites wanted Gideon to be their ruler, but he refused, saying, "The Lord shall rule over you."

The men of *Shechem* made Abimelech their king. He slew all the sons of Gideon, except Jotham.

The *Ammonites* made war against Israel ; but God raised up Jephthah to deliver them. He made a vow before he went to battle, to fulfil which he had to sacrifice his daughter, if he conquered the Ammonites.

The Rule of Conduct.

To do to others as I would
That they should do to me,
Will make me honest, kind, and good,
As children ought to be.

We never need behave amiss,
Nor feel uncertain long,
As we can always tell by this
If things are right or wrong.

LESSON XIX.

Of Samson, Eli, and Samuel.

Samson was born to deliver the Israelites from the *Philistines*. Eli, the priest had two wicked sons, Hophni and Phinehas. He reprov'd them, but he did not restrain them from evil. Samuel, the son of Hannah and Elkanah, ministered to the Lord before Eli. All Israel knew that Samuel was appointed to be a prophet.

When Samson grew up to be a man he killed a lion as he journeyed to *Timnath*. On his return home soon after, he found honey in the lion's carcase. He put forth a riddle to some Philistines who could not answer it. His wife asked him its meaning, and then told his enemies the riddle.

The Throne of Grace.

When Hannah, press'd with grief,
Pour'd forth her soul in prayer,
She quickly found relief,
And left her burden there ;
Like her, in every trying case,
Let us approach the throne of grace.

When she began to pray,
Her heart was pain'd and sad ;
But ere she went away
Was comforted and glad ;
In trouble, what a resting place
Have they who know the throne of grace !

LESSON XX.

Acts of Samson. His Death.

Samson married a woman of the *Philistines*, but her father deceived him, and gave her to another. Then Samson destroyed the standing corn of the *Philistines*, by sending into it three-hundred foxes with fire-brands at their tails. Samson slew 1,000 *Philistines* with the jaw-bone of an ass; he was then faint and thirsty, but God answered his prayer for water. The place was called *Lehi*.

Samson carried away the gates of *Gaza*. He revealed the secret of his strength to a woman. His strength left him—the *Philistines* put out his eyes, and cast him into prison. His strength returned, he pulled down the temple of *Dagon*, and was slain with many *Philistines*.

Meekness inculcated.

To deal in blows and bruises,
Is surely very wrong,
And he who railing uses,
Will not escape them long.

But he who acts with meekness
Will find, when youth is past;
Though bad boys call it weakness
It makes most friends at last.

LESSON XXI.

The Ark taken. Eli's Death. A king desired.

The ark of God was taken by the *Philistines* in battle. The Israelites fled, and Hophni and Phinehas were slain. When Eli heard of these things, he fell backward and died. The *Philistines* were afflicted as long as they kept the ark; they sent it away to *Beth-shemesh*. It was fetched thence to *Kirjath-jearim*.

Samuel told the people to put away their strange gods, and serve the Lord. They obeyed him. The sons of Samuel did not judge justly, and when he became old, the people wanted a king. The Lord told Samuel to hearken to them and to make them a king, as they had rejected God for their king.

Ebenezer.

My helper GOD! I bless his name;
The same his power, his grace the same;
The tokens of his friendly care
Open, and crown, and close the year.

Thus far his arm hath led me on;
Thus far I make his mercy known;
And while I tread this desert land,
New mercies still new songs demand.

LESSON XXII.

Saul anointed—Rejected. David anointed.

Saul, the son of Kish, was the first king over Israel. Samuel anointed him at God's command, by pouring a vial of oil upon his head, saying, that God had chosen him to rule over his people. The people shouted, "God save the king." Samuel wrote the laws of the kingdom in a book. Saul led the people against the *Ammonites*, and conquered them.

Saul disobeyed God by offering a burnt-offering, which was only lawful for the priests to do. He again disobeyed by sparing Agag, king of the *Amalekites*. God sent Samuel to *Bethlehem*, to anoint David, the youngest son of Jesse, to be king. David was then taking care of his father's sheep.

Example of David.

Good David, whose psalms have so often been sung,
At first was not noble or grand,
But only a shepherd boy, when he was young,
Though afterwards king of the land.

He tended his flocks on the pastures by day,
And kept them in safety by night ;
And tho' a poor shepherd, he did not delay
To do what was holy and right.

LESSON XXIII.

David slays Goliath. Saul's Enmity to him.

Goliath was a Philistine giant who defied the armies of Israel. Saul promised to enrich the man who should slay him ; and he also promised to give him his daughter in marriage. David went against Goliath with only his sling and five smooth stones. He slang a stone which smote the Philistine, so that he fell. David then took Goliath's sword and cut off the giant's head.

Jonathan, the son of Saul, loved David and made a covenant of friendship with him. The women of Israel praised David in their songs. Saul became envious of him, and attempted to slay him, but the Lord preserved David.

Trust in God.

When hosts of enemies assail,
I seek thy face, O LORD ;
And though they say my help must fail,
I trust thy faithful word.

For thou, my GOD art ever nigh,
And wilt protect me still ;
Thy gracious ear hath heard my cry
From thine eternal hill.

LESSON XXIV.

Saul persecutes David.

Saul sent messengers many times to take David, but he always escaped from them. David fled to Ahimelech the priest at *Nob*, and asked for bread. The priest gave him hallowed bread. David took thence the sword of Goliath. One of Saul's servants named Doeg, was at *Nob* that day. David escaped to the cave of *Adullam*, and many joined him. He became captain over four hundred men.

Doeg told Saul of David's visit to *Nob*, and spoke falsely of Ahimelech. Saul sent, for Ahimelech and all the priests, and commanded Doeg to slay them. One only, Abiathar, escaped and joined David.

Lie not.

How dreadful is a lie
Or anything untrue,
Can you forget GOD'S searching eye,
That looks you through and through?

GOD hates the lying tongue,
And the deceitful look ;
The falsehoods of the old and young
Are written in his book.

LESSON XXV.

David Spares Saul's Life. Of Nabal.

David wandered about to escape from Saul, and Saul pursued him to many places. Once, in the cave of *Engedi*, David found Saul sleeping, and might have slain him; but he only cut off a part of his robe.

Nabal had large possessions in *Carmel*. David and his men had protected Nabal's flocks while they were in *Carmel*, and David sent to ask for refreshment for himself and his men. Nabal refused. His wife, Abigail, carried a large present to David, which he accepted. Nabal was very drunken when Abigail came home. He died soon after, and David married Abigail.

Gentleness Exemplified.

Let love through all your actions run
And all your words be mild;
Live like the blessed virgin's Son,
That sweet and lovely child,

His soul was gentle as a lamb;
And, as his stature grew,
He grew in favour both with man
And GOD his Father too.

LESSON XXVI.

David again spares Saul. Saul consults a Witch.

David again found Saul and his guards sleeping; he reproved Abner, the captain, for not keeping a better watch on the king's life. David fled with six-hundred men to Achish, king of *Gath*. After that Saul sought him no more.

Saul was afraid of the *Philistines*. He wanted friends to give him counsel, but he had none, and he had slain the priests of the Lord. He went to a witch at *Endor*, and desired her to bring up Samuel. Samuel made known to Saul that the *Philistines* should conquer the *Israelites*, and that on the morrow he and his sons should die.

God our only Succour.

Except the LORD our labours bless,
In vain shall we desire success;
Except his power the gates maintain,
The watchman waketh but in vain
Teach us in all our cares to flee
For guidance and for help to thee;
Thy blessing ask, whate'er we do,
And in thy strength our work pursue.

LESSON XXVII.

Death of Saul and his Sons. David anointed.

The *Philistines* conquered the Israelites at *Gilboa*. Among the slain were three of Saul's sons. Saul was sorely wounded; so he fell upon his sword and died. Then the people of Israel fled. The Philistines exposed the bodies of Saul and his sons at *Bethshan*; but the men of *Jabesh-gilead* fetched them away.

David mourned greatly for the death of Saul and Jonathan. The Lord commanded David to go up to *Hebron*, and there he was anointed king by the people of Judah. David promised to show kindness to the men of *Jabesh-gilead* for the respect which they had shown to the bodies of Saul and his sons.

God our Comfort.

When sorrows vex and foes invade,
My GOD, I cry to thee;
As thou art still a present aid,
O haste to succour me.

To thee, my GOD, the mourner's friend,
For timely help I pray;
On thee alone my hopes depend;
O LORD, make no delay.

LESSON XXVIII.

Of Ishbosheth and Abner. The Ark taken to Jerusalem

Abner proclaimed Ishbosheth, the only remaining son of Saul, king. Soon after, Abner quarrelled with Ishbosheth, and joined David. Abner was treacherously slain by Joab. Ishbosheth was slain by two of his own captains, who took his head to David. David put them to death.

David had the ark of God brought up from *Kirjath-jearim*. Uzzah was slain for touching it. David then left it in the house of Obededom for three months. It was afterwards brought up to *Jerusalem*. God prospered David, and he smote the *Philistines*, and burned their idols.

Exhortation to Praise God.

Let all the glad converted world
To GOD their homage pray ;
And scattered nations of the earth
One sovereign LORD obey.
With humble worship to his throne
Let all for aid resort ;
That power, which first their being gave,
Alone can give support.

LESSON XXIX.

David's resolve. His Sin. Of Absalom.

David resolved to build a temple for the Lord; but Nathan, the prophet, was sent to prevent him, and to say that his son should build it.

David took Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah into his house. Uriah was slain in battle that Bathsheba might become David's wife. Nathan reproved David, and the child of Bathsheba died. Some time after, Solomon was born.

Amnon, one of David's sons, behaved wickedly towards Tamar, Absalom's sister, and was slain by Absalom's command. Absalom won the hearts of the people, and was proclaimed king. Ahithophel, one of David's counsellors, joined him.

David's Fall.

“Thou art the man,” the prophet said,
Then David's conscience woke,
And when he own'd his sin, and pray'd,
The LORD forgiveness spoke.

Let those who think they stand, beware,
For David stood before;
Nor let the fallen soul despair,
For mercy can restore.

LESSON XXX.

David's flight. Absalom's Death.

David fled from *Jerusalem* with his own guard. As he went up *Mount Olivet* he wept. David sent Hushai, one of his old counsellors, back to *Jerusalem*. He was to send word to David of all that was done. Shimei cursed David and threw stones at him.

Ahithophel advised Absalom to pursue David immediately. Hushai counselled that all Israel, should be first assembled, and his advice was followed. A battle took place in the *Wood of Ephraim*. As Absalom was riding under an oak, his head caught in the boughs, his mule went from under him, and Joab slew him.

Honour your Parents.

Children, would you know the way,
Happy through your lives to be;
Always honour and obey,
Both your parents readily.

Even when youth has passed away,
Give them honour, watch their will;
Be their comfort, help, and stay,
For they are your parents still.

LESSON XXXI.

David's Return. He numbers the people.

David mourned exceedingly for the death of Absalom. He returned to *Jerusalem*, and forgave Shimei. A new revolt took place, which was led by Sheba. Joab pursued Sheba who took refuge in *Abel*. The people of *Abel* cut off his head, and it was thrown over the wall of the city.

David numbered his people, but the Lord was displeased with him, and sent a pestilence which caused the death of 70,000 of them. David confessed his sin, and prayed for the people. The pestilence ceased. David built an altar and offered sacrifices, which were acceptable to the Lord.

Slighted Warnings.

LORD when thine Israel we survey,
We in their crimes discern our own;
And, if thou turn our prayer away,
Our misery must, like their's, be known.

To us thy prophets have been sent
With words of terror and of love;
But not the vengeance, nor the grace
Ten thousand stubborn hearts will move.

LESSON XXXII.

Adonijah's Rebellion. Solomon Anointed.

David set masons to hew stones, he also prepared iron, and brass, and timber for the temple. He charged Solomon to build the house for the Lord. Adonijah rebelled against his father, saying he would be king. Then David had Solomon anointed king, by Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet. Adonijah feared, and fled to the altar, but Solomon forgave him.

David told the princes that God had appointed Solomon to reign after him, and to build the temple. The fathers of Israel gave, willingly, much gold, silver, brass, iron, and precious stones, and David rejoiced. David died full of days, and riches, and honour.

David's Charge.

O David's Son, and David's LORD!
From age to age thou art the same;
Thy gracious presence now afford,
And teach our youth to know thy name.

Like David, when this life shall end,
We trust in thee sure peace to find;
Like him, to thee we now commend
The children we must leave behind.

LESSON XXXIII.

Solomon's vision. The Temple Built.

God appeared to Solomon by night, and said, "Ask what I shall give thee." Solomon asked for an understanding heart to judge wisely. God promised to give him wisdom, and riches, and honour; and length of days also, if he kept his statutes. Adonijah again conspired against Solomon, and was put to death.

Hiram, king of *Tyre*, sent Solomon, cedar trees and fir trees from *Lebanon*, for the temple; Solomon gave Hiram wheat and oil in exchange. Solomon desired king Hiram to send him an artificer who was skilful to work in gold, silver, brass, and iron. He sent Hiram, a widow's son, to Solomon.

"Ask what I shall give thee."

The LORD invites his people still,
He first instructs them how to choose,
Then bids them ask whate'er they will,
Assured that he will not refuse.

More of thy presence LORD, impart,
More of thy image let me bear;
Erect thy throne within my heart,
And reign without a rival there.

LESSON XXXIV.

The Temple built and Dedicated.

The temple was built on *Mount Moriah*, at *Jerusalem*. Within, it was overlaid with gold, and garnished with precious stones. It was seven years in building. The ark of God, and the holy vessels were brought into the temple by the priests and Levites.

Solomon dedicated the temple to God. He assembled the elders and princes of Israel. They praised the Lord, and offered sacrifices. The glory of the Lord filled the house, and the king kneeled down, and prayed for the people. God appeared to Solomon by night, and told him that he had accepted the temple for his house of prayer.

The Temple of God.

How lovely is thy dwelling-place,
O LORD of Hosts most High!
The tabernacles of thy grace,
My soul would fain be nigh.

My spirit faints thy courts to see,
Which joyful once I trod;
My heart and flesh cry out for thee,
The ever-living GOD.

LESSON XXXV.

Solomon's Wisdom. Offences. Death.

The queen of *Sheba* came to visit Solomon bringing him large presents. She asked him many hard questions which he answered. She said she did not believe all she had heard of his wisdom, till she came and saw it.

Solomon's wisdom exceeded the wisdom of all other people. His people were very numerous, and all were happy, and dwelt safely. When he became old, he served idols, and married wives from strange nations. God told Ahijah, the prophet, to say that he would rend the kingdom out of Solomon's son's hand and give ten tribes to Jeroboam, his servant. Solomon reigned forty years over Israel.

Gospel Wisdom.

We heard and were slow to believe,
But now with our eyes we behold
Much more than our hearts could conceive
Or language could ever have told.

How happy thy servants must be,
Who always before thee appear!
Vouchsafe LORD! this blessing to me,
I find it is good to be here.

LESSON XXXVI.

Revolt of the Ten Tribes. Jeroboam's Idolatry, &c.

The people complained to Rehoboam of their burdens. He answered them roughly. Ten of the tribes then made Jeroboam their king, and Rehoboam reigned over two tribes, only. Jeroboam set up calves, at *Bethel* and at *Dan*, to prevent his people from going up to *Jerusalem* to worship. A man of God from *Judah* reproved Jeroboam.

Rehoboam and his people forsook the Lord. Shishak, king of *Egypt* invaded *Judah*, and spoiled the temple.

Abijah, Rehoboam's son, prevailed against Israel, because he relied upon God. Asa reigned after Abijah. Jeroboam was succeeded in *Israel* by his son Nadab. Baasha slew Nadab, and became king.

The Lord, the only God.

The LORD is king alone,
Let all the nations fear,
Let sinners tremble at his throne,
And saints be humbled there.

In meek submission own
Jehovah for your king;
And still before his righteous throne
Your prayers and praises bring.

LESSON XXXVII.

Asa's Government. Of Baasha, Omri &c.

Asa put away all the idols in *Judah and Benjamin*. Asa and Baasha were at war. Asa sent the silver and gold of the temple to the king of *Syria*, and he came and helped him. Baasha's son, Elah, reigned only two years; Zimri, his servant, slew him. Omri was then made king; he built *Samaria*, which became the chief city of *Israel*. His son Ahab reigned after him.

Asa died, and his son Jehoshaphat succeeded him; and did that which was right, therefore the Lord prospered him. He sent his princes, and the Levites and priests, through all the cities of *Judah*, to teach the people the law of God. And no king made war against him.

Divine Instruction.

Instruct me in thy statutes, LORD;
Thy righteous paths display;
That I from them through all my life,
May never go astray.

Do thou true wisdom from above;
And inward strength impart;
That to thy perfect laws I may
Devote my willing heart.

LESSON XXXVIII.

Elijah's Mission. The Sacrifice on Carmel.

Elijah the prophet, was sent to declare God's judgments against Ahab. He was then to hide himself by the brook *Cherith*. After many days he was told to go and show himself to Ahab. At that time there was a famine in the land, for there had been no rain for years. Ahab gathered all Israel, to a sacrifice on *Mount Carmel*. The prophets of Baal were there, and Elijah also. The false prophets called on their gods, but they did not answer. Elijah called on the Lord, who sent fire from heaven upon his sacrifice. The people said that Jehovah was the true God. God then sent rain on the earth.

Elijah's Appeal.

Methinks I see Elijah stand,
His features glow with love and zeal ;
In faith and prayer he lifts his hand,
And makes to heaven his great appeal.

LORD, if thy servant speak the truth,
If he indeed is sent by thee ;
Confirm the word to all our youth,
And let them thy salvation see.

LESSON XXXIX.

Elijah's Grief. Elisha is called. Siege of Samaria.

Jezebel, the wicked wife of Ahab, said she would put Elijah to death. Elijah thought all *Israel* had forsaken the Lord; but God assured him that there were 7,000 men in *Israel*, who had not bowed to Baal. At God's command he called Elisha to be a prophet.

Benhadad, king of *Syria*, laid siege to *Samaria*. A prophet assured Ahab of victory. Many of the Syrians were slain, others fled, but the king escaped.

Benhadad came again with a large army. 100,000 of the Syrians were slain. Ahab afterwards made a covenant of peace with Benhadad for which he was reprov'd.

God our Defence.

Hear us, O LORD, in time of need
And let thy Name our cause defend ;
Grant that our efforts may succeed ;
And victory on our steps attend.
On horse and chariot some rely ;
And some in numbers make their boast ;
Our trust is in the LORD most high ;
His favor is itself a host.

LESSON XL.

Naboth's Vineyard. Of Jehoshaphat.

Ahab coveted Naboth's vineyard, but Naboth refused to sell it. Naboth was stoned by Jezebel's command. Elijah met Ahab in the vineyard, and told him that dogs should lick his blood, and eat the flesh of Jezebel.

Jehoshaphat, went with Ahab to battle against the Syrians at *Ramoth-gilead*. A man drew a bow at a venture, and smote Ahab. His blood flowed into his chariot, and dogs licked it up, as Elijah had foretold.

Jehoshaphat was reprov'd for aiding Ahab. The *Moabites*, and *Ammonites* invaded *Judah*. The king proclaimed a fast, and prayed to God for help. God caused their enemies to destroy each other.

Against Covetousness.

Guard my heart, O GOD of Heaven,
Lest I covet what's not mine ;
Lest I steal what is not given,
Guard my heart and hands from sin.

Theft will not be always hidden,
Though we fancy none can spy ;
When we take a thing forbidden,
GOD beholds it with his eye.

LESSON XLI.

Elijah's Translation. Elisha succeeds him.

When Elijah was about to be taken to heaven; Elisha went with him from *Gilead* to *Jordan*. Elijah smote the waters with his mantle; they divided, and the two prophets went over. A chariot of fire and horses of fire parted them, and Elijah went up to heaven. Elijah's mantle fell from him, which Elisha took up.

Elisha returned from *Jordan* and the sons of the prophets said, "The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha," and they bowed before him. Elisha healed the bitter waters at *Jericho*, by casting salt therein. At *Bethel* Elisha was mocked by some children and they were destroyed by two she-bears.

Children Mocking.

A man of GOD to Bethel came,
Holy and true, and old;
But Israel had forgot GOD'S name,
And worshipped calves of gold.
Alas! the godless children flocked
To scoff with one accord;
Despised the aged head, and mocked
The prophet of the LORD.

LESSON XLII.

Miracles of Elisha.

At *Shunem* Elisha restored to life the child of a good woman. At *Gilgal* he healed some poisonous pottage by casting meal into it.

Naaman, a *Syrian* leper, was sent to Elisha to be cured of his leprosy. Elisha told him to wash in the *Jordan* seven times. He did so, and was healed. Elisha refused gifts from Naaman ; but Gehazi, Elisha's servant, received presents in his master's name, and was stricken with the leprosy of Naaman. Jehoshaphat died, and his son Jehoram succeeded him. He slew all his brethren, and many of the princes. He followed the evil ways of the kings of Israel. His wife was a daughter of Ahab.

Naaman, the Leper.

You have read in the Bible,
In GOD'S most holy word,
Of the little maid and Naaman,
The leprous Syrian lord.

He went unto Elisha,
And bathed in Jordan's wave ;
And his haughty heart then learn'd
That GOD alone could save.

LESSON XLIII.

Siege of Samaria. Jehu anointed. Of Athaliah.

Benhadad again besieged *Samaria*, which caused a famine. Elisha told Joram that food should be abundant and cheap the next day. The Lord caused the Syrians to flee in the night; their spoil was brought to *Samaria*, and food was abundant and cheap.

Jehu slew Joram, and Ahaziah. By his command Jezebel was thrown from a window, and dogs ate her flesh, as Elijah had predicted.

Athaliah, the mother of Ahaziah, slew all the royal family of *Judah*, except Joash, an infant, who was concealed. After six years, Jehoiada, the priest, proclaimed Joash king. Athaliah was put to death. The people covenanted to serve God.

God's Justice and Mercy.

In all the ways and works of GOD,
His justice and his love we trace;
We bend to his avenging rod,
Or kiss the sceptre of his grace.

Around his saints, who fear his name,
In endless streams his mercies flow;
But all the fruit of sin is shame,
And present grief, and future wo.

LESSON XLIV.

Ingratitude of Joash. Of Amaziah.

After the death of Jehoiada, Joash and the princes of *Judah* served false gods. Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada, reprov'd them, and was stoned by the king's command. Joash and his people were delivered into the hands of the Syrians because they had forsaken the Lord.

Hazael invaded *Jerusalem* and Joash gave him the hallowed things from the temple to purchase peace.

Joash was slain by two of his own servants. His son, Amaziah succeeded him. He subdued the *Edomites*, and afterwards worshipp'd their idols. He went to war against *Israel*, but his army was defeated, and himself taken prisoner.

Blessedness of the Righteous.

How blest is he, who ne'er consents,
By ill advice to walk ;
Nor stand's in sinners ways, nor sits
Where scornors love to talk ;
But makes the perfect law of GOD
His study and delight,
Devoutly reads therein by day,
And meditates by night.

LESSON XLV.

Uzziah's reign. Jonah. Uzziah's Transgression.

Uzziah prospered as long as he sought the Lord. He had much cattle and husbandmen, and vine-dressers, for he loved husbandry.

God commanded Jonah, the prophet, to go to *Nineveh*, and reprove the people for their sins. He was afraid, so he went in a ship another way. He was cast into the sea, and a great fish swallowed him; but he prayed to God, and the fish vomited him out on the dry land. He then went and cried against *Nineveh* and the people repented.

Uzziah was angry with the priests, because they said it was unlawful for him to burn incense. He was smitten with leprosy, and his son Jotham ruled the kingdom.

A Plea for Mercy.

O LORD, turn not thy face away
From them that lowly lie,
Lamenting sore their sinful life,
With tears and bitter cry.

Mercy, O LORD, mercy we seek;
This is our only prayer;
In mercy, LORD, is all our hope,
O! let thy mercy spare.

LESSON XLVI.

Of Jotham. Ahaz and Hezekiah.

Jotham reigned well, he became mighty, and God prospered him.

Ahaz succeeded Jotham, and reigned wickedly. He followed the idolatries of *Israel*, and those of heathen nations also. God suffered the kings of *Syria*, and *Israel*, to invade *Jerusalem*. Ahaz entirely forsook God ; he and his people were taken captive to *Damascus* for their sins.

Ahaz was succeeded by his son Hezekiah, who began to destroy all kinds of idolatry throughout the land. The temple was cleansed and sanctified, and a great feast of the passover was kept in it. The people came to the temple gladly and God heard their prayers.

Prayer for Guidance.

Order my footsteps by thy word,
And make my heart sincere ;
Let sin have no dominion, LORD,
But keep my conscience clear.
Help me to walk in thy commands,
And love the heavenly road ;
Nor let my lips, or heart, or hands
Offend against my GOD.

LESSON XLVII.

Captivity of Israel. Hezekiah's Illness.
Sennacherib's Invasion.

Shalmaneser, king of *Assyria*, cast Hoshea, the king of *Israel*, into prison. He then besieged *Samaria*, and carried the people of Israel away captive into *Assyria* and *Media*.

Sennacherib, king of *Assyria*, came against *Judah*. Hezekiah prepared for a siege, but he afterwards paid tribute to Sennacherib. Hezekiah became sick, and Isaiah announced to him that he would soon die. Hezekiah prayed and wept. God heard his prayer, and said he would heal him, and add fifteen years to his life.

Sennacherib again invaded *Judah*, but God smote his whole army. He returned to *Assyria*, and was slain by his sons in the house of his god.

Praying.

What is praying—can you tell?

Have you ever thought it o'er?

Lips may speak the words right well,

But there needeth something more.

What you ask within your heart,

Wishing God to give or do,

That's your prayer; the speaking part

Oft is empty, or not true.

LESSON XLVIII.

Of Isaiah's Prophecies. Manasseh. Josiah.

Isaiah prophesied of the coming of John the Baptist, as the messenger of Christ, and of the spread of the Gospel. God prospered Hezekiah, to the end of his days. When he died, he was buried in the chief of the sepulchres of the kings.

Manasseh, the son of Hezekiah, encouraged idolatry. God punished him, by allowing the king of *Babylon* to take him captive. On his repentance God restored him, he cast out the strange gods, and served the Lord.

Josiah was a very young king; he destroyed the images and altars of idolatry throughout the land. A book of the law of the Lord was found, and Josiah caused it to be read. The people covenanted to obey the Lord.

Idolatry and Repentance.

GOD of Manasseh! wilt thou scorn
To own that humble name;
While sinners so remote as we,
Thy grace to him proclaim.

From the dark dungeon where he lay
Thou heardst his doleful cry;
Thou raised the suppliant from the dust,
And brought salvation nigh.

LESSON XLIX.

Josiah's Death. Jeremiah's Prophecies.

Josiah was slain in battle against Necho, king of *Egypt*, who was at war with the Chaldeans, a people with whom Josiah was friendly.

Jeremiah predicted the speedy captivity of the Jews, and the desolation of their country. The priests and the people accused Jeremiah to the princes, but he called on them to repent. The princes would not consent to Jeremiah's death.

Jeremiah again declared that Nebuchadnezzar king of *Babylon*, would make the land desolate. Jeremiah wrote in a book the words of the Lord against *Israel & Judah*. Nebuchadnezzar came against *Jerusalem*, as Jeremiah had foretold.

Christians Warned.

LORD, when thine Israel we survey,
We in their crimes discern our own ;
And, if thou turn thy face away,
Our misery must, like their's be known.
To us thy prophets have been sent
With words of terror and of love ;
But neither grace, nor punishment,
Ten thousand stubborn hearts can move.

LESSON L.

Of Dan'el. Zedekiah's Rebellion.

God blessed Daniel and his friends in their captivity, because they still served him. Jehoiakim was succeeded by his son Jehoiachin, whom Nebuchadnezzar dethroned and took to *Babylon*. He then made Zedekiah king. He also rebelled; and Nebuchadnezzar again invaded *Jerusalem*, and burned the Temple to the ground. Zedekiah fled, but he was overtaken, his eyes were put out, and he was carried to *Babylon*, and imprisoned. Nebuchadnezzar made Gedaliah governor of *Judah*, but he was murdered.

The people of *Tyre* rejoiced when *Jerusalem* was destroyed, but God threatened to make *Tyre*, desolate.

God the Protector of his Servants.

How are thy servants blest O LORD!

How sure is their defence!

Eternal wisdom is their guide

Their help Omnipotence.

In midst of dangers, fear and death,

Thy goodness we'll adore;

We'll praise thee for thy mercies past,

And humbly hope for more.

LESSON LI.

Of Nebuchadnezzar. Belshazzar and Daniel.

Nebuchadnezzar set up an image of gold, and commanded all people to worship it. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, refused, and were cast into a fiery furnace, but God saved them from destruction.

Belshazzar, made a great feast; he and his lords drank wine from the sacred vessels of the temple, and praised their idols. While they were feasting, a hand appeared writing on the wall. None of the wise men could read the writing, but Daniel declared it. That night Belshazzar was slain.

The enemies of Daniel got a decree by which he was cast into a den of lions; but he came out unhurt. Cyrus decreed that the Jews should return to their country.

The Creature subject to the Creator.

The creatures only can fulfil
Their great Creator's sovereign will;
And when his servants need their aid,
His purposes must be obeyed.

At Daniel's feet the lions lay
Like harmless lambs, nor touch'd their prey
And ravens which on carrion fed,
Procured Elijah flesh and bread.

LESSON LII.

Of Haman and Mordecai. Rebuilding of Jerusalem.

Ahasuerus, king of *Persia*, married Esther, a Jewess, whose cousin, Mordecai, had discovered a plot against the king's life. Mordecai was hated by Haman, one of the princes of *Persia*. Haman wished to contrive the destruction of all the Jews because he hated Mordecai. Esther declared his designs to the king, and he was hanged. Mordecai was promoted to honour.

The rebuilding of the temple at *Jerusalem* was opposed by the Samaritans, and delayed for fourteen years. It was at length completed.

When the walls of *Jerusalem* were finished the people rejoiced. They made a solemn covenant not to forsake the house of their God.

The new Jerusalem.

Jerusalem, my happy home,

Name ever dear to me!

When shall my labours have an end,

In joy, and peace, and thee?

When shall these eyes thy heaven-built halls

And pearly gates behold;

Thy bulwarks, with salvation strong,

And streets of shining gold?



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16. The Book of Bible History, Gradation III. - - - - -	1	6	
17. Manual for Gradation III. (for Pupil-teachers, &c.)	3	0	
18. Tablet Lessons, Bible History, Gr. I., in frame -	4	6	
19. Catechetical Exercises in Bible History - - - - -	1	0	
20. Tabular View, Old Testament, mounted on rollers	3	0	
21. Ditto ditto ditto, in large type for schools	10	0	
22. The Bible Class Book, with Notes and Poems -	3	6	

May be had of all Booksellers.