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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 II.

LONDON:

WERTHEIM, MACINTOSH AND HUNT, PATERNOSTER ROW,
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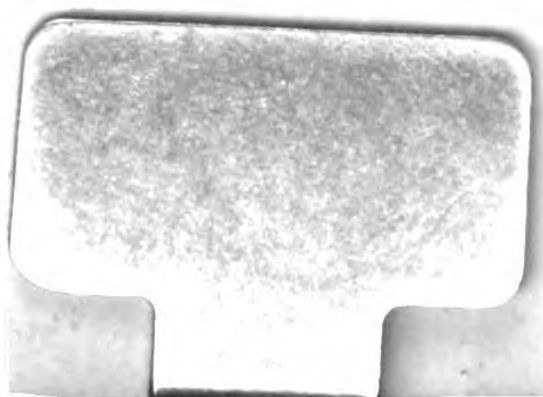
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ADDRESS.

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.

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LESSON I.

The Creation. Fall of Man. Death of Abel.

In six days God created the heavens and the earth and all things therein.¹ On the sixth day God created man, in his own image. He rested on the seventh day, and blessed it. God planted a garden in *Eden*; Adam, and Eve his wife, were placed therein to dress it and keep it.

God permitted Adam to eat of all the fruits that grew in *Eden*, except the fruit of the tree of knowledge. The serpent tempted Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit, and she gave also to her husband, and he did eat. God sentenced man to death, but promised a Saviour.² He expelled Adam and Eve from *Eden*.

Cain was the eldest son of Adam and Eve. Abel was their second son. Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. They both brought offerings to God. Cain's offering was of the fruits of the earth. Abel's offering was of the firstlings of his flock. God accepted Abel's offering, but he had not respect to Cain's offering. This caused Cain to become angry, and he rose up against Abel, and slew him. God said Cain should be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth.³ God gave Adam and Eve another son who was called Seth.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands."

Hebrews 1. 10.

² "By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

Romans 5. 12.

² "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it." *Ecclesiastes 12. 7.*

³ "The wicked is driven away in his wickedness; but the righteous hath hope in his death." *Proverbs 14. 32.*

LESSON II.

Enoch. Methuselah. Noah. The Flood.

The descendants of Cain were numerous and ungodly ; those of Seth were, at first, righteous. Enoch, a descendant of Seth, pleased God ; and God took him to heaven when he was 365 years old.¹ Enoch had a son named Methuselah, who was the oldest man that ever lived. Methuselah had a son named Lamech, who was the father of Noah. Noah was the father of Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

The wickedness of men increased in the earth. God said he would destroy mankind by a flood, but he would save Noah and his family, because Noah had found grace in the eyes of the Lord.² God commanded Noah to make an ark of wood. Living creatures of every kind were to be preserved with him in the ark. The waters increased and all flesh died, except Noah and his family, and the animals that were in the ark.

At the end of 150 days the waters abated. Noah sent forth a raven and a dove ; the raven did not return, but the dove returned. When Noah left the ark he offered a sacrifice to God.³ God accepted it, and said that henceforth, "seed-time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night should not cease." God promised never more to destroy the earth with a flood. The rainbow in the cloud is the token of his promise.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death ; before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God." *Hebrews* 11. 5.

² "The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God." *Psalms* 14. 2.

³ "Let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name." *Hebrews* 13. 15.

LESSON III.

Ham's sin and punishment. Babel. Abram's Call.

Noah planted a vineyard and drank of the wine and was drunken.¹ His son Ham, mocked him. When Noah awoke from his wine, he foretold that the descendants of Ham should be servants to the descendants of Shem and Japheth, whom he blessed, because they were dutiful.²

Some years after the flood the people began to build a city, and a high tower, to make themselves a name, and to keep them from being scattered. They all spoke one language. To punish them, and to stop their work, God made them speak various languages. They left off building the city and dispersed themselves far and wide. The place was called *Babel*.

Terah, a descendant of Shem, had three sons, Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Haran was the father of Lot. Terah lived at *Ur* in *Chaldea*.

God called Abram out of *Chaldea* to come into *Canaan*.⁴ God told Abram that his descendants should be very numerous, that they should possess the land of *Canaan*, and that among them the Saviour of mankind should be born. Abram obeyed the call of God, and came into *Canaan* with Sarai his wife, and Lot his nephew. He built an altar to God at a place on the east of *Bethel*.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging, and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." *Proverbs* 20. 1.

² "Honour thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."
Exodus 20. 12.

³ "The memory of the just is blessed; but the name of the wicked shall rot." *Proverbs* 10. 7.

⁴ "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went." *Hebrews* 11. 8.

LESSON IV.

Abram and Lot. Ishmael. Sodom. Isaac.

There was a famine in *Canaan*, and Abram went down into *Egypt*. After his return to *Canaan*, his herdsmen and those of Lot quarrelled, because there was not food enough for their cattle.¹ Abram told Lot to choose a part of the land for himself. Lot chose the plain of *Jordan* near *Sodom*, because it was well watered. The men of *Sodom* were very wicked.²

Hagar was Sarai's handmaid; she despised her mistress, and fled from her. The angel of the Lord told her to return, and submit to her mistress. He said she should have a son, and that his name should be Ishmael.

God renewed his promises to Abram, and said he should be a father of many nations.³ He then changed his name to Abraham. He also changed the name of Sarai to Sarah. He said the name of their son should be Isaac.

Three angels visited Abraham. They told him that God was about to destroy *Sodom*. Abraham entreated God to spare the city. The angels went to Lot, and hastened him and his family from the city. God then rained upon *Sodom* and *Gomorrhah* brimstone and fire from heaven.⁴

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another." *Romans* 12. 10.

² "He turneth rivers into a wilderness, and the water springs into dry ground; a fruitful land into barrenness, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein." *Psalms* 107. 33, 34.

³ "God gave him none inheritance in it, no, not so much as to set his foot on; yet he promised that he would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him, when as yet he had no child." *Acts* 7. 5.

⁴ "Behold, God will not cast away a perfect man, neither will he help the evil doers." *Job* 8. 20.

LESSON V.

Birth of Isaac. Abraham's Faith. Isaac's Marriage.

Isaac, the son which God had promised to Abraham was born.¹ Ishmael mocked Isaac, and he and his mother were cast out. Hagar thought Ishmael would die of thirst in the *Wilderness*, but God provided water for them both. God promised Hagar that he would make of Ishmael a great nation. Ishmael grew up in the *Wilderness*.²

God commanded Abraham to offer up his son Isaac as a sacrifice. He went to a mountain which God had told him of, and was about to slay his son, but the angel of the Lord prevented him. God provided a ram, which he offered instead of Isaac. Sarah died at the age of 127 years; she was buried in *Machpelah*.

When Abraham was very old, he sent his faithful servant Eliezer into *Mesopotamia*, to bring Isaac a wife from Abraham's own kindred. Eliezer went and brought thence Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel, who was a son of Nahor. Rebekah became Isaac's wife, and he loved her.³ The brother of Rebekah was named Laban.

After Isaac's marriage, Abraham married Keturah, and had six sons. He died at the age of 175 years, and was buried in the cave of *Machpelah*. Ishmael became the father of twelve princes. Shem was the last of the race who lived before the flood. He died at the age of 600 years.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "I took your father Abraham from the other side of the flood, and led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his seed, and gave him Isaac." *Joshua* 24. 3.

² "As for Ishmael, I have heard thee; Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; . . . and I will make him a great nation." *Genesis* 17. 20.

³ "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding; in all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." *Proverbs* 3. 5, 6.

LESSON VI.

Job's history. Isaac's Sons. Jacob's Deceit.

Job lived in the time of Abraham, at *Uz*, in *Idumea*. He was a prosperous man, and one who feared God. He was sorely tried and tempted with loss of riches, the death of his children, and bodily disease. Three of Job's friends, who came to comfort him, distressed him greatly by telling him that his afflictions were sent as a punishment for some great sin. Job bore all his trials with patience. God afterwards healed Job of his disease, blessed him with greater riches, gave him another family of sons and daughters, and bestowed upon him a long life.¹

Isaac and Rebekah had two sons. Esau was the first-born, and Jacob was the younger son. Esau was a cunning hunter. Jacob dwelt in tents. Esau came from the field weary and faint. He asked Jacob for his pottage. Jacob would not give it to him except for his birthright. Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for a mess of pottage.²

When Isaac was old, his eyes were dim, and he could not see. He called his son Esau, to bless him, Rebekah wished Jacob to have the blessing, and she and Jacob deceived Isaac.³ Isaac gave Jacob the blessing of the first-born. He afterwards knew that he had been deceived, and he blessed Esau also. Esau hated Jacob for having obtained their father's greatest blessing. He said he would slay Jacob.⁴

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully; he shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation." *Psalm 24. 4, 5.*

² "He shall acknowledge . . . the firstborn, by giving him a double portion of all that he hath; for he is the beginning of his strength; the right of the firstborn is his." *Deuteronomy 21. 17.*

³ "The lip of truth shall be established for ever; but a lying tongue is but for a moment." *Proverbs 12. 19.*

⁴ "For thy violence against thy brother Jacob shame shall cover thee, and thou shalt be cut off for ever." *Obadiah 10.*

LESSON VII.

Jacob's Flight. His Marriage. Return to Canaan.

Jacob fled to the country of Laban, his mother's brother, at *Padan-aram*.¹ On his way thither God appeared to him at *Bethel*. When he came to *Padan-aram* he kept the flocks of Laban, his uncle. He served Laban seven years for his daughter Rachel. Laban deceived him, and gave him Leah. He served again other seven years for Rachel.² So he married both Laban's daughters, and he had many children. God blessed Jacob, & his riches increased exceedingly. Laban and his sons envied him, because of his riches.

Jacob left Laban, and took with him his wives and children. Laban followed him, and overtook him on *Mount Gilead*. He would have done Jacob harm, but God prevented him. Jacob reminded Laban that he had served him twenty years. Laban and Jacob covenanted not to do harm to each other.³

Jacob heard that Esau was coming to meet him, and he feared to meet his brother. He sent messengers before him, with a present.⁴ At *Peniel* God changed Jacob's name to ISRAEL. The two brothers met, and were reconciled to each other. Jacob journeyed to *Bethel*, and built an altar there; at this place God had appeared to him when he fled from Esau on his way to *Padan-aram*. As Jacob journeyed from *Bethel* to *Ephrath*, Benjamin was born. Rachel died, and was buried at *Ephrath*. Esau became very rich, and had many children; his descendants were called *Edomites*.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "And Jacob fled into the country of Syria, and Israel served for a wife, and for a wife he kept sheep." *Hosea* 12. 12.

² "Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised." *Proverbs* 31. 30.

³ "Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me." *Psalms* 50. 15.

⁴ "O our God, . . . we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do; but our eyes are upon thee." *2Chronicles* 20. 12,

LESSON VIII.

History of Joseph. Death of Jacob.

Jacob loved Joseph more than his other children, but his brothers hated him, and sold him to some Midianites, who took him into *Egypt*; he became a slave to Potiphar, an officer of the king, who made Joseph overseer in his house. Potiphar's wife spoke falsely of Joseph, and had him cast into prison.

God was with Joseph in prison and blessed him. Joseph was released from prison to interpret the dreams of Pharaoh.¹ The king's dreams were to show him that there would be seven years of great plenty in *Egypt*; and then seven years of grievous famine. Pharaoh made Joseph governor over all *Egypt*. Jacob sent his sons, except the youngest, from *Canaan* to *Egypt* to buy corn. Joseph knew his brothers, but they did not know him. They came again bringing with them their youngest brother; Joseph then made himself known to them. He forgave them, and sent waggons for his father and their families.²

When Jacob was about to die he blessed his sons and charged them to bury him with his fathers, in *Canaan*. They obeyed his dying instructions, and then returned into *Egypt*. After the burial of Jacob, Joseph nourished his brethren and their families. Before he died he told them to carry up his bones with them into *Canaan*, when God should bring them out of *Egypt*.³

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "There is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, . . . but as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart." *Daniel* 2. 28, 30.

² "Thy fathers went down into Egypt with threescore and ten persons; and now the Lord thy God hath made thee as the stars of heaven for multitude." *Deuteronomy* 10. 22.

³ "A Syrian ready to perish was my father, and he went down into Egypt, and sojourned there with a few, and became there a nation, great, mighty, and populous." *Deuteronomy* 26. 5.

LESSON IX.

Bondage of Israel. Moses' early History. The Plagues.

A new king ruled over *Egypt* who knew not Joseph. He made the Israelites work like slaves, and ordered their male infants to be destroyed.¹ Just before this decree Aaron was born. The parents of Aaron had another son born. His mother hid him three months. She then placed him in an ark of bulrushes, on the brink of the river *Nile*. The king's daughter found the child, and called his name Moses.

When Moses was grown up, he one day saw an Egyptian smiting an Israelite, and he slew the Egyptian, and then fled into *Midian*. God appeared to Moses in a burning bush, and appointed him to go into *Egypt*, and demand the release of the Israelites. Aaron went with him to Pharaoh. Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go although God sent plagues to punish him and his people.²

God turned the waters of *Egypt* into blood. God sent frogs, and when they died the land stank. God caused the dust of the land, to become lice. God sent swarms of flies, and the land was corrupted. God sent a grievous murrain on the cattle. God sent boils and blains on man and beast. God sent hail, rain, and fire on the land of *Egypt*. God sent locusts, which ate up every herb. God sent a thick darkness over *Egypt* for three days.³

The Israelites were free from all the plagues.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, . . . they have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance."

Psalm 83. 3, 4.

² "I have seen, I have seen the affliction of my people which is in Egypt, and I have heard their groaning, and am come down to deliver them." *Acts 7. 34.*

³ "Thou . . . shewedst signs and wonders upon Pharaoh, and on all his servants, and on all the people of his land; for thou knewest that they dealt proudly against them. So didst thou get thee a name, as it is this day." *Nehemiah 9. 10.*

LESSON X.

The Passover The Departure. Pharaoh's host drowned.

God told the Israelites to kill a lamb, and sprinkle the blood on the sides of their doors; the lamb was to be roasted, and they were to be ready to depart when they ate of it. God said he would smite all the first-born in *Egypt*, but he would *pass over* the doors of the Israelites when he saw the blood of the lamb upon them. God smote the first-born of the Egyptians that night; and there was throughout *Egypt* a great cry, for the first-born in every house was dead. Pharaoh and his people then let the Israelites depart with their flocks and herds. Moses took the bones of Joseph with him from *Egypt*. God led the Israelites on their way—by day in a pillar of cloud, and by night in a pillar of fire.¹

The Egyptians repented that they had let the Israelites go, and Pharaoh and his host pursued them. They overtook them encamping by the *Red Sea*. The angel of God went behind the Israelites, and the cloud gave them light, but it was darkness to the Egyptians. According to God's command Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, the waters divided, and the children of Israel passed through the sea on dry ground. The Egyptians went in after them, into the midst of the sea. Moses again stretched his hand over the sea; the waters returned, and Pharaoh and his host were drowned. The Israelites sang a song of praise.²

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "In the daytime also he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a light of fire." *Psalm 78. 14.*

² "We were Pharaoh's bondmen in Egypt; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand; and the Lord shewed signs and wonders, great and sore, unto Egypt, upon Pharaoh, and upon all his household, before our eyes; and he brought us out from thence, that he might bring us in, to give us the land which he swore unto our fathers." *Deuteronomy 6. 21-23.*

LESSON XI.

The Israelites murmur. Water from the Rock.

The Law given.

When Israel came to *Marah*, the waters were bitter, and they murmured. The Lord showed Moses a tree, which he cast into the waters, and they were made sweet. In the *Wilderness of Sin* they murmured for bread, and the Lord sent them manna from heaven.¹ At *Horeb*, the Israelites again murmured because they wanted water. God told Moses to smite the rock and water should come out of it, Moses did so, and the Israelites drank. When the Israelites came into the *Wilderness of Sinai* the Lord commanded Moses to sanctify the people, and to assemble them round *Mount Sinai*. God then delivered to Moses the ten commandments.

The 1st commandment enjoins the worship of the true God—the 2nd forbids idolatry—the 3rd forbids the taking of God's name in vain—the 4th requires the sabbath to be kept holy—the 5th enjoins honour to parents—the 6th forbids murder—the 7th forbids adultery—the 8th forbids theft—the 9th forbids false witness—the 10th forbids covetousness.²

The people trembled when they saw the law delivered amidst thunders and lightnings, and the voice of a trumpet. The glory of God was on *Mount Sinai* six days, and on the seventh day God called Moses up to the mount, where he remained forty days and forty nights. God gave him the two tables of stone, with the ten commandments written on them.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat." *John* 6. 31.

² "The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength; this is the first commandment; and the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these."³

Mark 12. 29-31.

LESSON XII.

The Golden Calf. The Tabernacle. Nadab & Abihu.

When Moses was on the mount, the Israelites desired Aaron to make them gods to go before them, and to lead them. Aaron made a golden calf, and the people worshipped it.¹ When Moses came down from the mount, and saw the people worshipping the calf, he was greatly grieved. God threatened to destroy the people. He commanded the Levites to punish the Israelites for this sin. Three-thousand of the idolaters were slain by the Levites. Moses besought the Lord to pardon the sin of the people. At first God refused to pardon them. The people mourned for their sin, and Moses again entreated the Lord to forgive them.

The tabernacle was erected in the *Wilderness of Sinai*, and Moses consecrated it. The pillar of cloud abode on it, and the glory of the Lord filled it. God chose Aaron and his sons to be priests. Two of Aaron's sons named Nadab and Abihu offered strange fire before the Lord; and there went out fire from the Lord, which consumed them.² God then commanded that the priests should not drink wine nor strong drink when they went into the tabernacle, lest they should die. The descendants of Levi were called Levites. God said the Levites were to serve him in the tabernacle. He accepted them instead of the first-born of the Israelites. Moses consecrated them.³

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "They made a calf in Horeb, and worshipped the molten image; thus they changed their glory into the similitude of an ox that eateth grass." *Psalm 106.* 19, 20.

² "God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him."

Psalm 89. 7.

³ "We will go into his tabernacles; we will worship at his footstool; let thy priests be clothed with righteousness; and let thy saints shout for joy." *Psalm 132.* 7, 9.

LESSON XIII.

Miriam's Leprosy. The Spies. Of Korah, &c.

As the children of Israel journeyed from *Mount Sinai* they murmured for flesh. God was angry and sent them quails. The people ate them and were afflicted with a great plague; and many died.¹ Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses, because he had married an Ethiopian woman. The Lord punished Miriam with leprosy.

Twelve men were sent to *Canaan*, and after forty days they returned. They said that *Canaan* was a land flowing with milk and honey. Caleb and Joshua, two of the spies, wanted the people to go up at once and take possession of it; but the other ten men told them they were not able. The people believed this evil report of the land, and murmured against Moses and Aaron. God then said they should not go into *Canaan*, but wander forty years, and die in the wilderness, and that their children should possess the land.² Joshua and Caleb, were to go into the land. Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and On, rebelled against Moses and Aaron. The earth opened and swallowed them up.³

At *Kadesh* the people murmured for water. God commanded Moses to speak to the rock, and water should come forth. Moses smote the rock twice; he thus displeased God; who told him he should not take the Israelites into *Canaan*. At *Mount Hor* Aaron died, and his son, Eleazar, was appointed high priest.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted." *1 Corinthians* 10. 6.

² "Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness." *Psalms* 95. 8.

³ "This Moses whom they refused, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge? the same did God send to be a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the angel which appeared to him in the bush." *Acts* 7. 35.

LESSON XIV.

The Fiery Serpents. Balak & Balaam. Death of Moses.

The Israelites again became rebellious, and God punished them by fiery serpents. They were sorry they had sinned. Moses was then directed to make a brazen serpent and put it on a pole. All those who had been bitten by the fiery serpents, when they looked up to the brazen serpent were healed.

Sihon, king of the *Amorites*, and Og, the king of *Bashan*, came against Israel with their armies. They were defeated, and the Israelites took their countries.¹

Balak, the king of *Moab*, sent for Balaam to curse the Israelites. When Balaam was come to Balak he blessed the Israelites, and foretold their greatness. Balaam blessed them a second time, and Balak said to Balaam, neither curse them, nor bless them, but he answered, "All that the LORD speaketh, that I must do." At *Shittim* they were ensnared into idolatry with the *Midianites*, by the advice of the wicked prophet, Balaam. For this sin God sent a plague on them, and 24,000 of the people died. To punish the Midianites, God commanded Moses to take 12,000 men, and make war with them. The Israelites slew all the men of *Midian*, Balaam was also slain in this battle.²

Before Moses died, he repeated the law to the Israelites; exhorted them to obedience; and blessed them. He then ascended *Mount Nebo*, whence he beheld the promised land. He died at the age of 120 years, and was buried in a valley of *Moab*.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "Who smote great nations, and slew mighty kings; Sihon king of the Amorites, and Og king of Bashan, and all the kingdoms of Canaan; and gave their land for an heritage, unto Israel his people." *Psalms* 135. 10-12.

² "For thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners, that be in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed; for they prophesy falsely unto you in my name; I have not sent them, saith the Lord." *Jeremiah* 29. 8, 9.

LESSON XV.

Joshua succeeds Moses. Jericho taken. The Gibeonites.

After the death of Moses, Joshua became the leader of the Israelites. He sent two spies to *Jericho*. Rahab concealed them in her house, and afterwards assisted them to escape. She begged they would save her life when they should take the city.

The priests, carrying the ark of God, went before the people. The river *Jordan* divided, and all the Israelites passed over. The tribes encamped at *Gilgal* and kept the passover; and the manna ceased falling.

The captain of the LORD'S host appeared to Joshua before *Jericho*, and gave him directions about taking the city. Achan stole from the spoils of *Jericho*, a Babylonish garment, two-hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold, which he hid in the earth, within his tent. For his sin, the Israelites were discomfited at *Ai*. Achan was discovered, and put to death, and *Ai* was afterwards taken.¹

The inhabitants of *Gibeon* were afraid of the Israelites; they went to Joshua. in old shoes, and old clothes pretending they had come from a far country. Joshua made a league with them, but the Gibeonites had deceived them. The Israelites would not destroy them, but they made them hewers of wood and drawers of water. Five kings encamped against *Gibeon*, because its inhabitants had made peace with Israel. Joshua went to assist the Gibeonites. The sun and the moon stood still at the command of Joshua till the kings were conquered.²

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him." *Proverbs* 28. 22.

² "The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower." *Psalms* 18. 2.

LESSON XVI.

Joshua's Death. Adoni-bezek Slain.

Joshua conquered thirty-one kings and their countries, but he did not conquer the whole of the land. The tabernacle was set up at *Shiloh*; *Canaan* was then divided among the tribes by lot. The Levites had forty-eight cities and the lands round given to them.¹ The bones of Joseph were buried in *Shechem*, in a parcel of ground which Jacob bought of the Shechemites.

Before his death, Joshua exhorted and warned the Israelites. He told them of their former idolatries, and said, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve"; . . . but "as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." The people answered, "The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey."²

The tribes of Judah and Simeon took Adoni-bezek, at *Bezek*. They cut off his thumbs and great toes. He had himself cut off the thumbs and great toes of threescore-and-ten kings who fed under his table. *Hebron* and several other cities of the *Canaanites* were afterwards taken. The Israelites did not drive out the inhabitants of all the cities, and they were reproved by an angel for thus disobeying God.

About fourteen years after the death of Joshua, the Israelites began to worship the idols of the *Canaanites*. They forsook God, and he delivered them into the hands of the spoilers, and they were oppressed. They also intermarried with the *Canaanites*, which God had forbidden ³

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "Let him that is taught in the word communicate to him that teacheth in all good things." *Galatians* 6. 6.

² "The Lord shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, and walk in his ways." *Deuteronomy* 28. 9.

³ "They did not destroy the nations, concerning whom the Lord commanded them; but were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works." *Psalms* 106. 34, 35.

LESSON XVII.

Micah's Idolatry. Idolatry of the Danites, &c.

A woman who lived on *Mount Ephraim* made a molten image, and her son, Micah, hired a Levite to be his priest. The tribe of *Dan* sent out five men to seek an inheritance. They came to *Laish*; and they took six-hundred men to conquer it. On their way they went into Micah's house, and took away his image, and his priest.¹ They took the city *Laish*, which they called *Dan*; and set up Micah's image there. The Danites, as a tribe, thus commenced idolatry.²

When the Israelites began to worship idols the Lord caused them to be oppressed by Chushanrishathaim, king of *Mesopotamia*. They repented, and cried unto God, who raised up Othniel to deliver them. For forty years the Israelites served God, after which they again did evil; and God allowed Eglon, king of *Moab*, to oppress them. The *Philistines* were also permitted to invade Israel; but Shamgar resisted them.

God then permitted Jabin, king of *Canaan*, who reigned in *Hazor*, to oppress the Israelites. They cried unto the Lord, and he raised up Deborah, a prophetess, and Barak, a valiant man of *Naphtali*, to deliver them. Sisera, Jabin's captain, took refuge in the tent of Jael. He lay down to sleep, and while he slept, Jael took a nail of the tent, and a hammer, and smote the nail into his temples and he died. Deborah and Barak then sang a song of praise to God for the deliverance of Israel.³

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "Whoso is partner with a thief hateth his own soul; he heareth cursing, and bewrayeth it not." *Proverbs* 29. 24.

² "And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the Lord thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish." *Deut.* 8. 19.

³ "In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer." *Isaiah* 54. 8.

LESSON XVIII.

Of Gideon, and Jephthah.

When the *Midianites* oppressed Israel God sent a prophet to show them all the good the Lord had done for Israel, but that they had not obeyed his voice. God then appointed Gideon to deliver Israel from the *Midianites*, and gave him two signs to show that he would save Israel by his hand.¹ Thirty-two-thousand men joined Gideon. Out of these only three-hundred men were chosen to deliver Israel. Every man had a trumpet, and also a pitcher with a lamp in it. The camp of the Midianites was attacked by night. The three-hundred men blew their trumpets and brake their pitchers to show their lamps, and every man shouted, "The sword of the LORD and of Gideon." The Midianites fled; and Gideon and his men pursued them, and slew the two kings, Zebah and Zalmunna. The people of Israel wished Gideon to be their ruler, but he refused, saying, "The LORD shall rule over you."²

The Israelites again forsook the Lord and served idols. God suffered them to be oppressed by the *Philistines* and *Ammonites* for eighteen years. When they cried unto the Lord, he raised up Jephthah to deliver them. Jephthah made a vow to God before he went to battle; to fulfil which he had to sacrifice his daughter, after he had conquered the Ammonites.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? but ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?" *James* 2. 5, 6.

² "Lord, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power; help us, O Lord our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O Lord, thou art our God; let not man prevail against thee."

2Chronicles 14. 11.

LESSON XIX.

Of Samson, Eli, and Samuel.

The Israelites again did evil in the sight of the Lord, and he delivered them into the hands of the *Philistines*. The coming of Samson was made known by an angel to his mother, who told her that her son should begin to deliver Israel from the Philistines. Hannah, one of the two wives of Elkanah, prayed for a son. The Lord heard her prayer, and gave her a son whom she called Samuel. After the child was weaned she brought him to the house of the Lord in *Shiloh*. She sang a song of thanksgiving to the Lord.¹

Eli had two wicked sons, Hophni and Phinehas. He reproved them, but they would not hearken. They did evil, and he did not restrain them. A prophet said that Eli's two sons should die in one day—that God would raise up a faithful priest in Eli's place—and that Eli's seed should come to poverty and dishonour. The child, Samuel, ministered to the Lord before Eli. The Lord revealed to Samuel by night his judgment on Eli's house, which Samuel made known to Eli the next morning. As Samson was going to *Timnath*, he slew a lion. On his return, there was a swarm of bees and honey in the carcase of the lion, and he took some of the honey, and did eat of it. He afterwards proposed a riddle to the Philistines, at a feast which he had made; but they could not declare it. They asked his wife to entice her husband to tell her its meaning, which when she knew, she told them.²

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "This is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us; and if we know he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him. 1 *John* 5. 14, 15.

² "I find more bitter than death the woman, whose heart is snares and nets, and her hands as bands; whoso pleaseth God shall escape from her; but the sinner shall be taken by her."

Ecclesiastes 7. 26.

LESSON XX.

Further Acts and Death of Samson.

The father of Samson's wife, gave her to his companion. Samson then turned three-hundred foxes, with firebrands to their tails, into the standing corn of the Philistines, which was burnt up. They were very angry, and burnt Samson's wife and her father with fire. For this he smote a great many of them near the rock *Etam*. At *Lehi*, he slew 1,000 Philistines with the jaw-bone of an ass. After this slaughter he nearly died of thirst, but God clave the earth there and water came out, of which he drank, and was refreshed.¹

Samson came to *Gaza*, and the Gazites, intending to kill him in the morning, laid wait for him all the night. At midnight Samson arose, took the gate of the city and the two posts, and carried them away to the top of a hill. Samson loved a woman named Delilah. The *Philistines* bribed her to entice Samson to tell her the secret of his strength. He revealed to her that he was a Nazarite, and if he were shaven he should be weak like other men. While he slept she caused a man to shave Samson's head. The Lord departed from him and his strength left him, the Philistines then put out his eyes, and made him grind in prison.²

In prison Samson's strength returned to him. The Philistines brought him into the temple of Dagon. He prayed to God to strengthen him, and then took hold of the two middle pillars of the temple, and bowed himself with all his might; the house fell, and about 3,000 people who were on the roof were killed. Samson and those within were slain.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord; and he delighteth in his way; though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand." *Ps.* 37. 23, 24.

² "The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth; the wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, and to slay such as be of upright conversation." *Psalm* 37. 12, 14.

LESSON XXI.

The Ark Taken. Eli's death. A king desired.

The Israelites and the *Philistines* went to battle near *Ebenezer*. The ark of God was brought into the camp. The Israelites fled, and the ark was taken; and Hophni and Phinehas were slain. When Eli was told that Israel had fled, that his sons were slain, and that the ark was taken by the Philistines; he fell backward, and died.¹

The Philistines took the ark to *Ashdod*, and carried it into the house of Dagon. Dagon fell on his face before the ark. The men of *Ashdod* sent the ark to *Ekron*; a deadly destruction came on the city. The Ekronites made a new cart, and put two milch kine in it, and laid the ark upon the cart. The kine went straight to *Bethshemesh*. The Bethshemites looked into the ark, and many of them were slain. The inhabitants of *Kirjath-jearim* went for the ark and brought it to the house of Abinadab. Samuel told the people to put away their strange gods, and serve the Lord only; they obeyed him. As they were sacrificing to God, the *Philistines* attacked them, but the Lord thundered with a great thunder; and the Philistines were smitten. Samuel set up a stone, in remembrance, and called it *Ebenezer*. When Samuel became old, he made his sons judges in *Beersheba*, but they took bribes, and did not judge justly. The elders of Israel asked for a king. God told Samuel to hearken to them, as they had rejected HIM for their king.²

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "The Lord shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies; thou shalt go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them; and shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth." *Deuteronomy* 28. 25.

² "O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thine help. I gave thee a king in mine anger, and took him away in my wrath." *Hosea* 13. 9, 11.

LESSON XXII.

Saul anointed. His Rejection. David anointed.

Kish, a man of Benjamin, had a son named Saul. The asses of Kish were lost, and Saul was sent, with one of his father's servants, to seek them. Samuel met Saul, and told him that God had chosen him to be the ruler over Israel. The next day Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it on Saul's head. Samuel assembled the people together at *Mizpeh*; and it was shown them by lot, whom God had appointed to be king. Samuel wrote the laws of the kingdom in a book, and sent the people away.¹

The *Ammonites* made war against the inhabitants of *Jabesh-gilead*. Saul raised a large army of Israelites, and went against the Ammonites and conquered them. The people went with Samuel to *Gilgal*, and made Saul king before the Lord. Saul gathered the people together at *Gilgal*, and unlawfully offered a burnt-offering to God. When Samuel came he reprovved him, and said God had appointed another to be king.² Samuel commanded Saul to go and destroy the *Amalekites* utterly. Saul smote the Amalekites, but he spared Agag, the king, and the best of the sheep and oxen. Samuel reprovved him for his disobedience, and slew Agag, after reproaching him with his many cruelties. God sent Samuel to the house of Jesse the *Bethlehemite*, to anoint one of his sons to be king. Samuel anointed David, Jesse's youngest son, and the spirit of the Lord came upon David.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God; the powers that be are ordained of God; whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God." *Romans* 13. 1, 2.

² "And he changeth the times and the seasons; he removeth kings, and setteth up kings; he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding." *Daniel* 2. 21.

LESSON XXIII.

David slays Goliath. Jonathan's Friendship. Saul's Enmity.

Goliath, a giant of *Gath*, the champion of the Philistines, defied the armies of Israel. David heard Goliath defy them; and also that Saul had promised to give his daughter in marriage, to the man who should slay this Philistine. David came to Saul and offered to go against Goliath. He told Saul how he had slain a lion, and a bear, which took a lamb out of his flock. He said, the Lord, who had delivered him from the lion and the bear, would also deliver him from this Philistine. Saul consented that he should go. David took five smooth stones out of the brook, and his sling in his hand. Goliath disdained David, and cursed him. David slang a stone, which smote the Philistine, and sank into his forehead, so that he fell upon his face to the earth. David took the sword of Goliath, and cut off his head.¹

Jonathan, the son of Saul, loved David exceedingly, and made a covenant of friendship with him.² The women praised David in their songs, saying, "Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands." And Saul was very angry. An evil spirit came upon Saul, and he attempted to slay David with a javelin that was in his hand, but David avoided the blow. Saul became afraid of David because the Lord was with him.³

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "Behold, God is mine helper; the Lord is with them that uphold my soul." *Psalm 54. 4.*

² "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly; and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother."

Proverbs 18. 24.

³ "My times are in thy hand; deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me." *Psalm 31. 15.*

³ "Where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work." *James 3. 16.*

LESSON XXIV.

Saul's Faithlessness. He persecutes David

Saul had promised to give David his eldest daughter, Merab, for his wife, but he gave her to another. Michal, his younger daughter, loved David, and Saul said he would give her to David, when he should have slain a hundred *Philistines*. David went with his men, and slew two-hundred; and Saul gave him his daughter Michal. Saul again sought to smite David; but he fled to his house. Michal let him down through a window and he escaped to *Ramah*, and told Samuel all that Saul had done.¹

David afterwards went to Ahimelech the priest at *Nob*, and he asked for five loaves of bread. The priest gave him hallowed bread. Doeg, an Edomite, the chief of Saul's herdsmen, was at *Nob* that day. David took thence the sword of Goliath. He went to Achish, the king of *Gath*. The servants of Achish knew him, and David was afraid. He then escaped to the cave of *Adullam*, and he became a captain over four-hundred men. Doeg, the Edomite, told Saul of David's visit to the city of *Nob*; he also spoke falsely of Ahimelech, the priest. Saul sent for Ahimelech and all the priests of *Nob*; he commanded Doeg to slay all the priests; he also sent him to *Nob* to slay their families and their cattle.² Abiathar, one of the sons of Ahimelech, escaped to David, who promised him protection. Shortly afterwards David was sent to smite the Philistines at *Keilah*.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him; fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass." *Psalm 37. 7.*

² "For the mouth of the wicked and the mouth of the deceitful are opened against me; they have spoken against me with a lying tongue; they compassed me about also with words of hatred; and fought against me without a cause." *Psalm 109. 2, 3.*

LESSON XXV.

David spares Saul's Life. Of Nabal and Abigail.

Saul pursued David to the *Wilderness of Ziph*, thence to the *Wilderness of Maon*, thence to *Engedi*. Saul went into a cave at *Engedi* to sleep. David and some of his men were in the cave, and David might have slain Saul, but he only cut off a part of Saul's robe.¹ Nabal had large possessions in *Carmel*. David sent some of his young men to him to ask for refreshment, telling him how they had protected his flocks in *Carmel*. Nabal was churlish to them, and refused. They came to David and told him of Nabal's saying, and he said to them, "Gird ye on every man his sword"; he then went up towards Nabal's house with about four-hundred men. One of Nabal's young men told Abigail of David's request, and how his master had railed on David's messengers.²

Abigail got ready a large present for David, and went to meet him. She acknowledged the iniquity of her husband, and said she wished to prevent David from avenging himself by shedding blood. David blessed her, accepted her present, and told her to go in peace to her house. When Abigail returned home Nabal was feasting, and he was very drunken. In about ten days after, he died.³ When David heard that he was dead, he sent messengers to commune with Abigail, and he then took her to wife. Saul had given Michal to another.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "Deliver me in thy righteousness, and cause me to escape; incline thine ear unto me, and save me." *Psalm 71. 2.*

² "Whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" *1John 3. 17.*

³ "Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them!" *Isaiah 5. 11.*

LESSON XXVI.

David again spares Saul's Life. Saul consults a Witch.

Saul again followed David into the *Wilderness of Ziph*. David and one of his men found Saul and his guards sleeping. Abishai wanted to slay Saul, but David forbade him, and only took away the spear, and the cruse of water from Saul's bolster. David reproved Abner, for not keeping a better watch over the Lord's anointed.¹

David then fled with six-hundred men to Achish, king of *Gath*. Achish gave David *Ziklag* to dwell in, and he dwelt there a year and four months. The Philistines encamped against the Israelites in *Shunem*, and when Saul saw them his heart trembled. Samuel, the prophet, was dead ; and the priests had been slain by Saul's own command, at *Nob*.² Saul was about to go to battle with the Philistines ; and he had no vision, nor priest, nor prophet, to counsel him, so he went to a witch, who lived at *Endor*, for aid.³ He disguised himself, and went to her by night. She asked him whom she should bring up, and he desired her to bring up Samuel. An old man appeared who said unto Saul, "Why hast thou disquieted me?" Saul told him of his distress, because God had departed from him. Samuel said—that for his disobedience the Lord had given his kingdom to David ; that the Philistines should conquer Israel, and that on the morrow, he and his sons should die.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "My times are in thy hand ; deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me." *Psalm 31. 15.*

² "Ye have forsaken me, and served other gods ; wherefore I will deliver you no more." *Judges 10. 13.*

³ "A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death ; they shall stone them with stones ; their blood shall be upon them." *Leviticus 20. 27.*

LESSON XXVII.

Death of Saul and his sons. David again anointed.

The *Philistines* fought against Israel at *Gilboa*. The *Israelites* fled, and many of them were slain. Among the slain were Saul's sons, and Saul was sorely wounded. So he took a sword, and fell upon it. His armour-bearer also fell upon his sword, and died with Saul.¹ The Philistines found the bodies of Saul and his sons, which they fastened to the wall of *Bethshan*. When the valiant men of *Jabesh-gilead* heard this they went by night, and took down the bodies of Saul and his sons, and buried them at *Jabesh*.

A man came to David out of the camp of Saul, and told him that, at Saul's desire, he had slain him after he had fallen. He brought Saul's crown and bracelet to David, who mourned and wept, and fasted till even. He said to the young man, "Wast thou not afraid to stretch forth thine hand to destroy the LORD'S anointed?" And he told one of his young men to slay him. David mourned exceedingly for Saul and Jonathan.

According to God's command, David went up to *Hebron*; there he was anointed king over Judah. He was pleased with the men of *Jabesh-gilead* for the respect they had shown to the bodies of Saul and of his sons. He blessed them for their kindness to their lord, and said, "I also will requite you this kindness, because ye have done this thing."²

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; but ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof; I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; . . . then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me." *Proverbs* 1. 24-26, 28.

² "Whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free." *Ephesians* 6. 8.

LESSON XXVIII.

Ishbosheth and Abner. David anointed at Hebron.

Abner, the captain of Saul's host, proclaimed Ishbosheth, the remaining son of Saul, king. There was war between Ishbosheth, and David, and the house of David waxed stronger, but that of Saul became weaker. Abner quarrelled with Ishbosheth, and revolted to David. But Joab was jealous of Abner. Joab took Abner aside to speak to him quietly, and slew him. David lamented greatly for the death of Abner, and said, "The Lord shall reward the doer of evil according to his wickedness."¹ Two of Ishbosheth's captains smote him, and took his head to David. David was very indignant, and commanded his young men to slay them. All the tribes came to *Hebron* and anointed David king over Israel.

David gathered together 30,000 chosen men to bring up the ark of God to *Jerusalem*. It was placed upon a new cart, Uzzah, a Levite, put forth his hand to steady the ark; for this God slew him, because the Levites were not permitted to touch the holy things.² David was afraid, and he left the ark in the house of Obed-edom, the Gittite, for three months. It was afterwards told David that the Lord had blessed Obed-edom, and all that he had; so David brought up the ark to *Jerusalem* with gladness.³

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked, out of the hand of the unrighteous and cruel man." *Psalms* 71. 4.

² "The sons of Kohath shall . . . bear it; (the ark) but they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die." *Numbers* 4. 15.

³ "Sing unto God, ye kingdoms of the earth; O sing praises unto the Lord; to him that rideth upon the heavens of heavens, which were of old; lo, he doth send out his voice, and that a mighty voice; ascribe ye strength unto God; his excellency is over Israel, and his strength is in the clouds." *Psalms* 68. 32-34.

LESSON XXIX.

David's resolve to build a Temple. His sin. Absalom's Conspiracy.

David resolved to build a temple to the Lord, but the prophet Nathan was sent to prevent him, and to say that his son should build a house for God's name.¹ David inquired if any one of Saul's house was left; because he wished to show kindness to him, for Jonathan's sake. Ziba, a servant of Saul, told David of Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, who was lame of his feet. David sent for him, and told him that he would restore to him all the land of Saul, and that he should eat at his table. He appointed Ziba to be steward to Mephibosheth.

David sent Joab to besiege *Rabbah*. While he was away, David took Bathsheba the wife of Uriah into his house. David wrote a letter to Joab, telling him to place Uriah in the forefront of the battle, so that he might be slain. Joab obeyed this letter. Uriah was slain, Bathsheba then became David's wife. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord, and he sent Nathan, the prophet, to reprove him. David acknowledged his wickedness, but Nathan told him that the child of Bathsheba should surely die.² *Rabbah* was taken by Joab; and soon after Solomon was born. The manners of Absalom were pleasing to the people. He won their hearts, so that they were willing to make him king. Ahithophel, one of David's counsellors, also joined him.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the Lord."

Psalm 134. 2.

² "Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin; for I acknowledge my transgressions; and my sin is ever before me." *Psalm 51. 2, 3.*

² "The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy; he hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities." *Psalm 103. 8, 10.*

LESSON XXX.

David's Flight. Absalom's Death. David's Grief.

When David heard of Absalom's rebellion he quitted *Jerusalem*. He was accompanied by his own guard. All the people wept as David passed over the brook *Kidron*. David sent Hushai, one of his old counsellors, back to *Jerusalem*, to try to defeat the counsel of Ahithophel, and to send word to David of every thing that was done.¹ Ziba, the servant of Mephibosheth, met David with bread, raisins, fruits, and wine. He slandered Mephibosheth to the king. At *Bahurim*, one of the family of Saul, named Shimei, cursed David, and cast stones at him.²

When Hushai came to *Jerusalem* Absalom received him as one of his counsellors. Ahithophel counselled the immediate pursuit of David; but Hushai advised that Absalom should assemble an army, and lead them himself to battle. Absalom and all his friends adopted Hushai's counsel. Ahithophel went home and hanged himself when he saw that his counsel was not followed. At *Mahanaim*, Barzillai, the Gileadite, and others were very hospitable to David. David charged Joab and the other captains to deal gently with Absalom, for his sake. The battle was fought in the *Wood of Ephraim*. Absalom's army was routed with great slaughter. The head of Absalom caught in the boughs of an oak, and his mule went from under him. Joab went with ten of his young men and slew him.³ David mourned greatly for his son.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry." *1 Samuel* 15. 23.

² "Whosoever he be that doth rebel against thy commandment, and will not hearken unto thy words in all that thou commandest him, he shall be put to death." *Joshua* 1. 18.

³ "An evil man seeketh only rebellion; therefore a cruel messenger shall be sent against him." *Proverbs* 17. 11.

LESSON XXXI.

David's Return. Sheba's Revolt. David numbers the People.

The elders of Judah wished the king to return. So he came to *Jordan*, and the men of Judah came to *Gilgal* to meet him. Shimei fell down before the king as soon as he was come over *Jordan*, and confessed his sin.¹ David forgave him. Mephibosheth also came, and told the king of Ziba's deceit and slander.² David made Amasa captain of the host, in place of Joab. Joab suspected that Amasa was favourable to a revolt which was led by Sheba, and he treacherously slew him. Joab pursued Sheba, who had taken refuge in *Abel-beth-maachah*. He was about to besiege the city, when a wise woman stopped him by saying that Sheba's head should be thrown over the wall.

David again sinned against the Lord in numbering the people, and the Lord was greatly displeased with him. The prophet Gad declared to David the word of the Lord against him. One of three evils was to fall on him and his people;—seven years' famine—flight from his enemies for three months—or three days' pestilence. David said, "Let us now fall into the hand of the LORD; for his mercies are great; and let me not fall into the hand of man." So the Lord sent a pestilence upon Israel, and there died of the people 70,000 men. David built an altar, and offered sacrifices to the Lord, and the plague was stayed.³

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "Strive not with a man without cause, if he have done thee no harm." *Proverbs* 3. 30.

¹ "For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work." *James* 3. 16.

² "A froward man soweth strife; and a whisperer separateth chief friends." *Proverbs* 16. 28.

³ "Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy."

Micah 7. 18.

LESSON XXXII.

Adonijah's Rebellion. Solomon anointed. David's Death.

David prepared hewn stones, and iron, and brass, and cedar-trees in abundance. He then called Solomon, his son, and charged him to build a house for the Lord.¹ David prayed that the Lord would give Solomon wisdom and understanding, and said he should prosper if he fulfilled the law of the Lord. Adonijah, the eldest living son of David, said he would be king, and he made Joab and Abiathar his friends. When David heard of these things he sent Zadok, the priest, and Nathan, the prophet, to anoint Solomon king at *Gihon*. Adonijah feared, and ran to the altar. Solomon would not slay him, but allowed him to go to his house, saying, if wickedness should be again found in him he should die.²

David assembled the princes, and all his officers, and mighty men, and told them that God had chosen Solomon to succeed him, and to build a house for the Lord God. He gave to Solomon the patterns of the different parts of the temple, and of the vessels to be made. The fathers and princes of Israel gave willingly much gold, and silver, and brass, and iron, and precious stones.³ David rejoiced with great joy. Then David blessed the Lord for his goodness, and prayed for the people, and for Solomon, his son. David died in a good old age, full of days, riches, and honour, and Solomon, his son, reigned in his stead.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty; the liberal soul shall be made fat; and he that watereth shall be watered also himself." *Proverbs 11. 24, 25.*

² "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." *Matthew 5. 44.*

³ "Though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing." *1 Corinthians 13. 3.*

LESSON XXXIII.

Solomon's Vision. Shimei Slain.

God appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, "Ask what I shall give thee?" Solomon asked for an understanding heart to judge the people wisely. God was pleased with his request, and promised to give him wisdom, and riches, and honour; and length of days, if he kept his statutes.¹

Adonijah again conspired against Solomon, and he sent Benaiah to put him to death. Joab also joined in the conspiracy, and was slain by Solomon's command.²

Solomon married the daughter of Pharaoh, king of *Egypt*. He sent to Hiram, king of *Tyre*, desiring that he would command his servants to hew him cedar trees and fir trees out of *Lebanon*. Solomon agreed to give Hiram wheat and fine oil, in exchange for the timber. Solomon also desired Hiram to send him a skilful man to work in gold and silver, and in hangings for the temple, and he sent a cunning artificer, named Hiram, a widow's son; she was of the tribe of Dan, but her deceased husband was a man of *Tyre*.

About this time, Shimei who had sworn to remain in *Jerusalem*, went to *Gath*, after two of his servants who had run away. He returned, and when Solomon had reminded him of his oath, and of his wickedness towards David, his father, he commanded Benaiah to slay him.³

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word." *Psalms* 119. 9.

¹ "By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honour, and life." *Proverbs* 22. 4.

² "Whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." *Luke* 14. 11.

³ "If a man vow a vow unto the Lord, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth."

Numbers 30. 2.

LESSON XXXIV.

The Temple Built and dedicated.

The temple was built at *Jerusalem* on *Mount Moriah*. Within, it was overlaid with fine gold, and garnished with precious stones. It was built of stone, which was made ready before it was brought thither ; so that there was neither hammer, nor axe, heard in the house while it was building. And Solomon brought into it all the silver and the gold, and the vessels, which David, his father, had dedicated. The ark, from *Mount Zion*, was brought in by the priests and the Levites.¹ There was nothing in the ark save the two tables of stone, which Moses put therein at *Horeb*.

When Solomon dedicated the temple to God, he assembled the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes at *Jerusalem*. All the priests were sanctified ; and the singers and trumpeters praised the Lord, saying, " For he is good ; for his mercy endureth for ever." Then the house of the Lord was filled with a cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house.² Great sacrifices were offered by the king and all the people. The king kneeled down before all the congregation, and prayed for them.³ The Lord appeared unto Solomon by night, and told him that he had accepted the temple for his house of prayer. Solomon had a navy of ships which brought him gold from *Ophir*.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ " Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it ; except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." *Psalm 127. 1.*

² " A day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness." *Psalm 84. 10.*

³ " Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary ; praise him in the firmament of his power." *Psalm 150. 1.*

LESSON XXXV.

Solomon's Wisdom. His Offences. Repentance. Death.

The queen of *Sheba* heard of the fame of Solomon, and she came to *Jerusalem* to hear his wisdom. She brought a very great train, with camels that bare spices, and very much gold and precious stones. She asked Solomon many hard questions, and Solomon answered them all. She said the half had not been told her of his wisdom and greatness.¹ She made Solomon presents of gold, spices, and precious stones; and returned to her own country. Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom. His fame was in all nations.²

When Solomon grew older he offended God; he took a great many wives from strange nations. He served the idols of the *Zidonians*, and the *Ammonites*, and the *Moabites*, and he burned incense and sacrificed to them. Then God said that he would surely rend his kingdom from him, and give it to his servant. He stirred up enemies against Solomon—Hadad, and Rezon of *Damascus*. Ahijah, the prophet, told Jeroboam, that God would take the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon's son, and give him ten tribes; and that if he did right and kept God's commandments God would build him a sure house, and give Israel to him. Solomon sought to kill Jeroboam, but he fled into *Egypt*.³ Solomon reigned over all Israel forty years, and was buried in the *City of David*.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding." *Proverbs* 3. 13.

² "Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips." *Proverbs* 27. 2.

³ "But God is the judge; he putteth down one, and setteth up another." *Psalms* 75. 7.

LESSON XXXVI.

Revolt of the Ten Tribes. Jeroboam's Idolatry.

Rehoboam reigned after Solomon his father. All the congregation of Israel complained to him of their heavy burdens, and desired him to make them lighter. The king followed the advice of his young men, and answered them roughly, and ten of the tribes made Jeroboam king over all *Israel*, Rehoboam reigning over *Judah* only.¹

Jeroboam wished to prevent his people from going to *Jerusalem* to sacrifice, so he set up calves at *Bethel* and at *Dan*. He offered sacrifices on the altar at *Bethel*, but a man of God came out of *Judah*, and reprov'd him and prophesied against his altar.² Jeroboam stretched out his hand to lay hold of the man of God, and his arm dried up so that he could not pull it to him again. The king asked the man of God to pray that his arm might be restored; he did so, and the king's hand became as it was before.

Jeroboam cast off the priests and Levites from executing their offices, and there came out of *Israel* such as set their hearts to seek the Lord, and all these strengthened the kingdom of *Judah*.³ But after three years Rehoboam and the people of *Judah* forsook God and committed greater sins than their fathers. God then permitted Shishak, king of *Egypt*, to invade *Judah*, and to take away the treasures of the house of the Lord. Abijah, the son of Rehoboam, went to war with Jeroboam and prevailed, because he relied upon the Lord God; after he had reigned three years he was succeeded by his son Asa.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "With the ancient is wisdom; and in length of days understanding." *Job* 12. 12.

² "In the place which the Lord shall choose in one of thy tribes, there thou shalt offer thy burnt-offerings, and there thou shalt do all that I command thee." *Deuteronomy* 12. 14.

³ "Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in." *Isaiah* 26. 2.

LESSON XXXVII.

Of Asa, Omri, Ahab, and Jehoshaphat.

Asa commanded all Judah to obey and serve the Lord. He was encouraged to rely on God, and he put away all the abominable idols in *Judah* and *Benjamin*.¹ After this he did wrong by sending the silver and gold of the temple to the king of *Syria*, that he might assist him in his wars against Baasha. For this he was reproved by Hanani, the seer.

Nadab, the son of Jeroboam, reigned two years over Israel after his father, and followed the sins of Jeroboam. Baasha conspired against him, and became king. He committed sins like those of Jeroboam. His son Elah reigned only two years; he was slain at a feast by Zimri, his servant. Omri, captain of the host, was then made king; he besieged *Tirzah*. Zimri then set fire to the palace, and was burnt in it. Omri built *Samaria*, which became the chief city of *Israel*. His son Ahab reigned after him. He married Jezebel, the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the *Zidonians*.

Asa had a disease in his feet. When he died, his son Jehoshaphat succeeded him; and did that which was right, and the Lord was with him because he walked in the first ways of David. He sent his princes, and Levites, and priests, through all the cities of *Judah*, and they taught the people the book of the law; and no king made war against him.² Jehoshaphat's son, Jehoram, married Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "Ye shall diligently keep the commandments of the Lord your God, and his testimonies, and his statutes, which he hath commanded thee." *Deuteronomy* 6. 17.

² "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." *Proverbs* 22. 6.

LESSON XXXVIII.

Elijah's Mission. The Sacrifice on Carmel.

Elijah, the Tishbite, was an inhabitant of *Gilead*. He declared to Ahab that there should be neither dew nor rain for years. He went to hide himself by the brook *Cherith*. The ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning and in the evening; and he drank of the brook. Elijah went thence to *Zarephath*, unto a widow woman. She had only a little meal in a barrel, and a little oil, in a cruse, which she was about to dress for herself and her son, that they might eat it and die. Elijah said, "The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth." The word of the Lord was fulfilled.¹ Elijah afterwards restored her son to life.

After many days Elijah was commanded to show himself to Ahab, and God promised to send rain upon the earth. Elijah met Ahab and told him to gather all Israel, with the prophets of Baal, and the prophets of the groves upon *Mount Carmel*. Elijah said unto all the people, "How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." The false prophets called on Baal till the time of the evening sacrifice, but there was no answer. Elijah then called on the LORD God, and the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed his offering. The people fell on their faces, saying, "The LORD, he is the God."² Elijah commanded all the prophets of Baal to be slain. Soon after there was a sound of abundance of rain.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith." *Proverbs* 15. 16.

² "Choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord; and the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the Lord, to serve other gods." *Joshua* 24. 15, 16.

LESSON XXXIX.

Elijah's Grief. Elisha is called, &c.

Jezebel, determined to put Elijah to death. Elijah went a day's journey into the wilderness of *Beer-sheba*.¹ An angel brought him food; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights, unto *Horeb*. And the word of the Lord came to him at *Horeb*, and commanded him to anoint Hazael to be king over *Syria*, and Jehu, the son of Nimshi, to be king over *Israel*, and Elisha, to be prophet in his room. God then assured Elijah that there were left seven thousand men in Israel, who had not bowed the knee to Baal. Elijah found Elisha ploughing and cast his mantle upon him. Elisha left his oxen, and went after Elijah, and ministered to him.

Benhadad, king of *Syria*, laid siege to *Samaria*. A prophet came to Ahab and assured him that God would deliver that great multitude into his hand, and that the victory should be gained by the young princes.² The *Syrians* fled, and the king escaped. Benhadad came again at the return of the year and went up to *Aphék* to fight against Israel. A man of God again promised victory to Ahab. When the two armies joined battle, the Israelites slew of the *Syrians* 100,000 the rest fled into *Aphék*, and a wall fell upon 27,000 of them. Benhadad hid himself in an inner chamber in the city. The servants of Benhadad humbled themselves to Ahab and asked the life of their king. Ahab made a covenant of peace with Benhadad and let him depart, for which he was reproved by a prophet.³

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth." *Psalm* 37. 12.

² "One man of you shall chase a thousand; for the Lord your God, he it is that fighteth for you, as he hath promised you."

Joshua 23. 10.

³ "And when the Lord thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them." *Deut.* 7. 2.

LESSON XL.

Ahab covets Naboth's Vineyard. Jehoshaphat's Trust in God.

Near Ahab's palace in *Jezreel*, a man named Naboth had a vineyard, which Ahab wanted. Naboth refused to part with it, because it was the inheritance of his fathers. Ahab was sorrowful and displeased.¹ Jezebel, his wife, wrote letters in Ahab's name, to the elders of the city, desiring them to obtain false witnesses, to say that Naboth had blasphemed God and the king.² All this was done, and Naboth was stoned. Jezebel then told Ahab to take possession of the vineyard. As he was going down Elijah met him, and said that dogs should lick his blood, as they had licked the blood of Naboth—and that the dogs should eat Jezebel, by the wall of *Jezreel*.

Jehoshaphat, king of *Judah*, went with Ahab to battle against *Ramoth-gilead*. Ahab was disguised, but Jehoshaphat was in his robes. A man drew a bow at a venture, and smote Ahab in his chariot, and he was taken out of the battle. His blood flowed into his chariot, and dogs licked it up, as Elijah had foretold.³ Jehoshaphat was reprovved for aiding Ahab. Some time after, the *Moabites* and *Ammonites* invaded *Judah*. The king proclaimed a fast, and prayed to God for help. In the morning they went forth to battle, in the *Wilderness of Tekoa*, and when the people praised God, their enemies began to destroy each other.⁴

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "Take heed, and beware of covetousness; for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."
Luke 12. 15.

² "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour."
Exodus 20. 16.

³ "Heaven and earth shall pass away; but my words shall not pass away." *Mark 13. 31.*

⁴ "The Lord is on my side; I will not fear; what can man do unto me?" *Psalms 118. 6.*

LESSON XLI.

Ahaziah's Impiety. Elijah's Translation. Elisha.

Ahaziah, the son of Ahab, fell through a lattice in his upper chamber ; he then sent messengers to Baalzebub, the god of *Ekron*, to know if he should recover. Elijah was commanded to meet the messengers, to reprove the king for his impiety, and to say that he should surely die¹ He died soon after, and Joram, his son, reigned in his stead.

When Elijah was about to be taken to heaven ; Elisha went with him to *Gilgal*—thence to *Bethel*—thence to *Jericho*, and thence to *Jordan*. Elijah wrapped his mantle together, and smote the waters, which divided, and the two prophets went over on dry ground. A chariot of fire and horses of fire parted them, and Elijah went up by a whirlwind to heaven.²

Elisha took up the mantle of Elijah, which fell from him, and went to the *Jordan*. He smote the waters with Elijah's mantle, they parted, and he went over. When the sons of the prophets at *Jericho* saw him, they 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 ; and the land, which had been barren, became fruitful. From thence Elisha went to *Bethel*—where some children mocked him who were destroyed by two she-bears.³ Thence he went to *Mount Carmel*, and thence to *Samaria*.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." *Exodus* 20. 3.

² "And Enoch walked with God ; and he was not ; for God took him." *Genesis* 5. 24.

³ "Judgments are prepared for scorners, and stripes for the back of fools." *Proverbs* 19. 29.

LESSON XLII.

Miracles of Elisha. Jehoram's Wicked reign.

At *Shunem* Elisha restored to life the child of a good woman.¹ At *Gilgal* he healed some poisonous pottage, which had been made for the sons of the prophets, by casting meal into the pot.

Naaman, the captain of the host of the king of *Syria*, was sent to Elisha to be cured of his leprosy. Elisha told him to wash in the *Jordan* seven times. Naaman was at first angry, but afterwards he obeyed the prophet's directions and was healed.² Elisha refused gifts from Naaman; but Gehazi, Elisha's servant, followed him, and asked for silver and changes of raiment in his master's name, falsely. He was stricken with the leprosy of Naaman.

Elisha informed the king of *Israel* of the designs which the king of *Syria* had formed against his kingdom. When the king of *Syria* knew this, he sent men with horses and chariots to *Dothan*, to take Elisha. The men were smitten with blindness. Elisha led them to *Samaria*—prayed that their sight might be restored, gave them food—and then allowed them to depart.³

After Jehoshaphat's death, his son Jehoram reigned alone. He slew all his brethren, and many of the princes. He encouraged idolatry, and followed the evil ways of the kings of Israel. His wife was a daughter of Ahab. The *Edomites*, and some of his own people revolted from him, and other nations warred against *Judah*.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "Use hospitality one to another without grudging."

1 Peter 4. 9.

² "A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven." John 3. 27.

³ "If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink." Proverbs 25. 21.

LESSON XLIII.

Siege of Samaria. Jehu anointed. Of Athaliah.

Benhadad and his host again besieged *Samaria*, which caused a famine. Joram wickedly resolved to kill Elisha. Elisha told Joram that food should be abundant and cheap the next day. That night the Lord made the Syrians flee in fear; their spoil was brought to *Samaria*, so that food was both abundant and cheap, according to the word of Elisha.

Jehu was anointed king of *Israel* that he might destroy the house of Ahab. Jehu went to *Jezreel*. He slew Joram, and he smote Ahaziah, king of *Judah*, who died. By Jehu's command, Jezebel was thrown from a window, and dogs ate her flesh as Elijah had predicted. Jehu came to *Samaria*, and slew all the family of Ahab, and destroyed the worshippers of Baal.

Athaliah, the mother of Ahaziah, slew all the royal family of *Judah*, except Joash, the infant son of Ahaziah, who was saved by his aunt—the wife of Jehoiada, the priest—who hid Joash six years. Athaliah then reigned, and established idolatry. After six years, Jehoiada, the priest, proclaimed Joash king.¹ Athaliah was put to death. Jehoiada governed the kingdom while Joash was young. The people covenanted to serve God, and the king required that the temple should be repaired. The princes and the people rejoiced and gave money for the repairs, and the king had vessels of gold and silver made for the service of the temple.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant; thy seed will I establish for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations; . . . my covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips; . . . his seed shall endure for ever, and his throne as the sun before me; it shall be established for ever as the moon, and as a faithful witness in heaven." *Psalms* 89. 3, 4, 34, 36, 37.

LESSON XLIV.

Of Jehoash. Ingratitude of Joash. Amaziah.

Jehu followed the sins of Jeroboam. During the reign of his son, Jehoahaz, the kingdom of *Israel* was oppressed by Hazael, king of *Syria*. Jehoash succeeded his father, Jehoahaz. Elisha lay sick, and Jehoash went to see him; Elisha predicted that Jehoash should smite the Syrians thrice.¹ After the death of Jehoiada, Joash and the princes of *Judah* served false gods. Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada, reproved them, and was stoned by the king's command. Thus Joash remembered not the kindness of Jehoiada, but slew his son.

And the Lord delivered Joash and his people into the hands of the Syrians, because they had forsaken the Lord God of their fathers. 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.² His son, Amaziah, succeeded him. He subdued the *Edomites*, and afterwards worshipped their idols. He declared war against *Israel*, but Jehoash advised him to remain at home. Amaziah would not; he went out, but his army was defeated, and himself taken prisoner at *Bethshemesh*. Jehoash came to *Jerusalem*, and spoiled the temple.³ His son Jeroboam II. succeeded him as king of *Israel*.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him; neither have we obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets." *Daniel* 9. 9, 10.

² "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God made he man." *Genesis* 9. 6.

³ "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall; better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud." *Proverbs* 16. 18, 19.

LESSON XLV.

Uzziah's Reign. Jonah. Uzziah's Transgression.

Amaziah forsook God, and was slain at *Lachish*. His son Uzziah then reigned. He prospered as long as he sought the Lord.¹ When he forsook God a conspiracy was formed against him and he fled to *Lachish*, and was slain there. He warred against the *Philistines* and the *Arabians*. He built towers in *Jerusalem* and in the desert, and digged wells; 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. A great storm arose, the mariners, at his request, cast him into the sea, and a great fish swallowed him; he remained in the belly of the fish three days and three nights; then he prayed to God, and the fish vomited him out on the dry land.² He then went and cried against *Nineveh*, the people repented, and God spared them and would not overthrow the city.

Jeroboam II., Zachariah, Shallum, Menahem, and Pekahiah were successively kings of Israel after Jehoash. Uzziah, king of Judah, transgressed by going into the temple to burn incense.³ He was angry with the priests, because they withstood him for doing what was unlawful. He was smitten with leprosy for his transgression, and his son Jotham ruled the kingdom.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him." *Proverbs 16: 7.*

² "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." *Matthew 12: 40.*

³ "And no man taketh this honour (the priesthood) unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron." *Hebrews 5: 4.*

LESSON XLVI.

Of Jotham and Ahaz. Isaiah. Hezekiah.

Jotham became mighty because he did that which was right.¹ His son Ahaz succeeded him; he followed the idolatries of *Israel*, and those of heathen nations. The kings of *Syria* and *Israel* invaded *Jerusalem*, and Ahaz was afraid when he heard that they were leagued against him. Isaiah, the prophet, lived at this time. He prophesied of the birth of Christ, and of the light of the gospel.

Ahaz and many of his people were taken captive to *Damascus* for their sins. When he returned to *Jerusalem* he sent the treasures of the temple and of the king's house to Tiglath-pileser, king of *Assyria*, to obtain his help against the kings of *Syria* and *Israel*. He came and overthrew *Damascus*, subdued parts of *Canaan*, and took the people captive. Shalmaneser, another king of *Assyria*, came against *Israel* and made Hoshea pay tribute to him.²

After the death of Ahaz, his son Hezekiah began to reign. He put down all forms of idolatry, and restored the temple service. He exhorted the people to turn again to the Lord, and not transgress like their fathers and brethren. He also wished the people to come to *Jerusalem* and keep the passover. The people came to the temple gladly; the priests blessed them, and God heard their prayers.³

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil." *1Peter* 3. 12.

² "For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living water, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water." *Jeremiah* 2. 13.

³ "Lord, thou hast heard the desire of the humble; thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear."

Psalms 10. 17.

LESSON XLVII.

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

Shalmaneser, king of *Assyria*, found Hoshea, the king of *Israel*, conspiring against him and he cast him into prison. He then besieged *Samaria*, and carried the people away captive into *Assyria* and *Media*. God suffered the people of Israel to be thus taken captive for their sins. Shalmaneser brought men from *Babylon*, who feared not the Lord, to dwell in the cities of *Samaria*.¹

Sennacherib, king of *Assyria*, came against *Judah*. Hezekiah prepared for a siege, but he afterwards consented to pay tribute to Sennacherib. About that time Hezekiah became sick, and Isaiah told him to set his house in order, for that he should soon die. Hezekiah prayed and wept. God heard his prayer, and said he would heal him. Isaiah was also to tell him that God would add fifteen years to his life.

Messengers came to Hezekiah from the king of *Babylon*; and he showed them all his precious things. Isaiah told him that his treasures and his sons also, should be taken to *Babylon*. Sennacherib again invaded *Judah*, but a message from the Lord comforted Hezekiah, and an angel of the Lord smote the Assyrian army.² Sennacherib returned to *Nineveh*, and was slain by two of his sons.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "My anger shall be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide my face from them, and they shall be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall befall them; so that they will say in that day, Are not these evils come upon us, because our God is not among us?" *Deuteronomy* 31. 17.

² "If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, now may Israel say; then they had swallowed us up quick, when their wrath was kindled against us." *Psalms* 124. 1, 3.

LESSON XLVIII.

Isaiah's Prophecies. Manasseh's Idolatry. Josiah's Reign.

Isaiah prophesied of the coming of John the Baptist, as the messenger of Christ.¹ He also prophesied of Christ's sufferings, death, and resurrection, and of the spread of the Gospel. When Hezekiah died the people of *Jerusalem* showed him much honour, he was buried in the chief of the sepulchres of the kings of *Judah*.

Manasseh, the son of Hezekiah, restored all kinds of idolatry. He built altars for Baal and worshipped the host of heaven, and he set a graven image in the house of the Lord. God suffered him to be carried in fetters to *Babylon* for his sins. When he was in affliction he humbled himself, repented, and prayed to God, who brought him again to his kingdom.² He then put down idolatry. Amon, his son, forsook God and reigned only two years. His own servants slew him, and his son Josiah then became king. Though he was very young, he destroyed the images and altars of idolatry throughout the land, and he repaired the temple. A book of the law of the Lord was found, and Josiah caused it to be read.³ Huldah, the prophetess, declared that the Lord would bring the evils on *Judah* which were written in that book. The people covenanted to obey the Lord, and keep his commandments.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judæa; and saying, Repent ye; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." *Matthew* 3. 1, 2.

² "It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes." *Psalms* 119. 71.

³ "From a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." *2 Timothy* 3. 15.

LESSON XLIX.

Josiah's Death. Jeremiah's Prophecies.

Josiah went out to fight against Necho, king of *Egypt*, who was at war with the Chaldeans, a people friendly to Josiah. Josiah disguised himself, and went into the battle; he was wounded and died. All his people mourned exceedingly for him.¹ Jehoahaz, his son, was made king by the people; but he was deposed by Necho, who made Jehoiakim, another son of Josiah, king instead.

Jeremiah predicted the speedy captivity of the Jews, and the desolation of their country. He also declared that Jehoiakim should die unlamented, and be cast forth from *Jerusalem*. The priests and the people accused Jeremiah to the princes, but he declared that the Lord had sent him thus to prophesy, and he called on them to repent.² The princes would not consent to Jeremiah's death, because former prophets, who had made known the word of the Lord against *Jerusalem* had not been put to death.

Jeremiah again reproved the people of *Judah*, for their idolatry and disobedience to God; he also said that Nebuchadnezzar, king of *Babylon*, would destroy them, and make the land desolate. Jeremiah then wrote in a book the prophecies which the Lord had spoken against *Israel* and *Judah*. Nebuchadnezzar came against *Jerusalem*, as Jeremiah had foretold, and took away the vessels of the Lord's house.³

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance."

Psalms 112: 6.

² "They would none of my counsel; they despised all my reproof; therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices." *Proverbs* 1: 30, 31.

³ "O God, the heathen are come into thine inheritance; thy holy temple have they defiled; they have laid *Jerusalem* on heaps." *Psalms* 79: 1.

LESSON L.

Of Daniel and his friends. Zedekiah's Rebellion. Of Tyre.

Daniel and his friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, were chosen to be brought up in the wisdom of the Chaldeans. God blessed them, because they served him. Nebuchadnezzar besieged *Jerusalem* again in the reign of Jehoiachin, and took him and the princes captive to *Babylon*. He left none but the poorest people in the land.¹ He made Zedekiah king.

Zedekiah rebelled against the king of *Babylon*, who again besieged *Jerusalem*. Jeremiah purchased a field, to show his faith in God's promise—that the people should return and dwell once more in their own land.² Jeremiah was accused of being friendly to the Chaldeans, and he was cast into a noisome dungeon. When *Jerusalem* was taken Zedekiah fled, but he was overtaken by the Chaldeans. The princes of *Judah* were slain; Zedekiah's eyes were put out; he was carried in chains to *Babylon*, and he was put into prison till his death.

Gedaliah was appointed governor of *Judah*, but he was afterwards slain by a man named Ishmael, who escaped to the *Ammonites*. *Tyre* was a place of great trade. The Tyrians rejoiced when *Jerusalem* was destroyed, but God threatened to destroy *Tyre*, and to make it desolate.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "Jerusalem hath grievously sinned; therefore she is removed; all that honoured her despise her, because they have seen her nakedness; yea she sigheth, and turneth backward." *Lamen.* 1. 8.

² "For the Lord will not cast off for ever; but though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies; for he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men." *Lamentations* 3. 31, 32.

LESSON LI.

Of Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel and Belshazzar.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to fall down to a golden image which Nebuchadnezzar had commanded all people to worship. They were cast into a burning fiery furnace, but they came out unhurt. Nebuchadnezzar then blessed the True God, and promoted these three men to high honours.¹

Daniel interpreted the dreams of Nebuchadnezzar. One of them was to show that the king should be driven from men, and eat grass like oxen. Daniel advised the king to repent of his sins.

Belshazzar, king of *Babylon*, made a great feast, and he and his lords drank wine out of the sacred vessels belonging to *Jerusalem*. They praised their idols of wood and stone. A hand appeared writing on the wall. Daniel interpreted the writing; which showed that the king should be punished for his sins, and his kingdom taken from him. That night Belshazzar was slain.²

Some of the enemies of Daniel caused him to be cast into a den of lions, because he had prayed to God, and disobeyed a decree which they had obtained from king Darius. The king was sorry, but God preserved Daniel, and his accusers were destroyed by the lions. The seventy years of the captivity being ended, Cyrus decreed that the Jews should return to *Jerusalem*.³

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing." *1Peter* 3. 17.

² "For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering; for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the Lord of hosts." *Malachi* 1. 11.

³ "Lord, thou hast been favourable unto thy land; thou hast brought back the captivity of Jacob." *Psalms* 85. 1.

LESSON LII.

Of Haman and Mordecai. Rebuilding of Jerusalem.

Ahasuerus, king of *Persia*, made a feast, and commanded Vashti, the queen, to show the people and the princes her beauty. She refused. The king deposed her, and married Esther, a Jewess, who had been brought up by her kinsman Mordecai.

Haman was exalted above all the other princes in *Persia*. The king's servants bowed to him, but Mordecai bowed not, and Haman was very angry with him.¹ Haman obtained a decree from the king, to destroy all the Jews in *Persia*. Mordecai, who had made known a conspiracy against the king's life, was promoted to great honour.²

Esther accused Haman to the king of having contrived the death of herself and her people, by a decree against the Jews; Haman was hanged, and the king issued another decree to save the Jews.

Zerubbabel, the governor of *Jerusalem*, Jeshua, the high priest, and Nehemiah encouraged the Jews in the rebuilding of the temple and the city walls. The Samaritans derided their labours, and opposed the Jews. When the walls were finished the people rejoiced and offered thanksgivings. Ezra instructed the people in the law; they made a solemn covenant to keep the commandments, and not to forsake the house of their God.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

¹ "Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy?" *Proverbs* 27. 4.

² "He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth the needy out of the dunghill; that he may set him with princes, even with the princes of his people." *Psalms* 113. 7, 8.

³ "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord; our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem." *Psalms* 122. 1, 2.



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