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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."

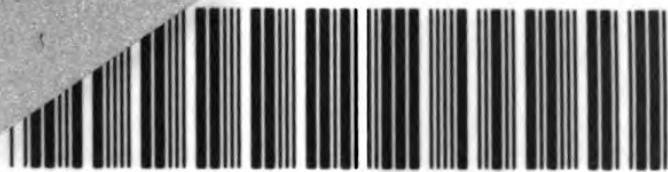
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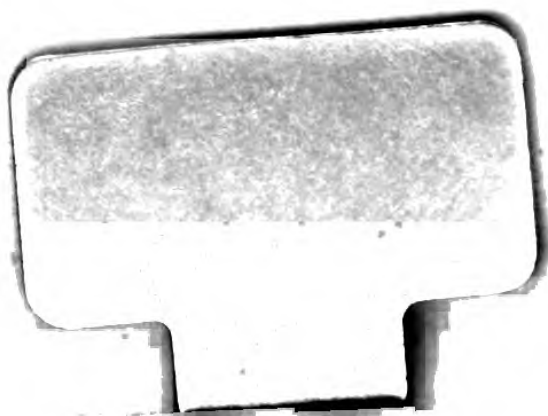
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ADDRESS.

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. Murder of Abel.

Genesis 1-4.

God created the heavens and the earth in six days.¹ On the sixth day God made Adam "in his own image and likeness." He created him out of the dust of the ground, and breathed into him the breath of life. God also formed woman to be a help meet for the man. And God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." God pronounced all the things he had made to be very good. He rested on the seventh day and blessed it.

And the Lord God put the man and woman into a garden which he had planted eastward in *Eden* to dress and to keep it. In this garden grew every tree that was pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life, also, in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. And God commanded the man, saying, "of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat; but of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it; for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field; and he came to the woman, and by false and fair speeches tempted her to sin. So Eve took of the forbidden fruit and did eat, and she gave also to her husband, and he did eat. For this transgression God sentenced our first parents to suffering and death, and then expelled them from the garden of *Eden*. He however graciously promised a Saviour to deliver mankind from sin and ruin.²

Cain, the eldest son of Adam and Eve, was a tiller of the ground. Their second son was called Abel;

he was a keeper of sheep. When they grew up they came to present their offerings unto the Lord. Cain brought of the fruits of the ground, and Abel brought of the firstlings of his flock. God had respect to Abel and his offering, but to Cain and his offering he had not respect.³ This made Cain very angry, whereupon the Lord said unto him, "If thou doest well shalt thou not be accepted, and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door." But Cain still cherished his angry feelings; and as he talked with his brother in the field he rose up and slew him.⁴ God said to Cain, "What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground. And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand."⁵ He then sent him forth as a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth. Cain departed from the presence of the Lord, and settled in the land of *Nod*.

God gave Adam and Eve another son instead of Abel, whose name was Seth. Cain had many descendants, among whom was one named, Lamech who took unto him two wives. One of his sons, named Jabal, invented tents; another, Jubal, invented musical instruments; and another, Tubal-Cain was an artificer in brass and iron.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." *Hebrews 11. 3.*

2 "When the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." *Galatians 4. 4,5.*

3 "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and by it he being dead yet speaketh." *Hebrews 11. 4.*

4 "Be sure your sin will find you out." *Numbers 32. 23.*

5 "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper; but whose confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." *Proverbs 28. 13.*

LESSON II.

Enoch. Methuselah. Noah. The Deluge.

Genesis 5-9. 17.

Seth was a good man. The descendants of Seth were distinguished from those of Cain by being called "the children of God." Cain's posterity was known as "the children of men." Adam died at the age of 930 years.

Enoch, the sixth in descent from Seth, was translated to heaven at the age of 365 years because "he pleased God."¹ Methuselah, Enoch's son, lived to the great age of 969 years. He had a son named Lamech, who was the father of Noah. Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

The descendants of Cain and Seth intermarried which caused the "children of God" to become corrupt and to follow the sinful practices of the "children of men."² The wickedness and violence of mankind so increased in the earth that it "repented the Lord he had made man." And God said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth." "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord"; for he alone was righteous in that wicked generation.

According to God's command Noah commenced to build an ark of gopher-wood, which he coated within and without with pitch. The ark was 120 years in building, during which time Noah warned the ungodly of the approaching judgment of God.

When the ark was finished Noah and his family, and two of every living creature on the earth entered it; and God shut them in. In the selfsame day the rain began to fall, and the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the waters increased on the earth forty days, and rose above the highest mountains, and all flesh died that moved upon the earth.³

God remembered Noah, and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters began to abate, and at the end of 150 days from the commencement of the flood, the ark rested on *Mount Ararat*. At the end of forty days more Noah sent forth a raven that he might learn if the waters were abated; the raven did not return, but the dove returned. Seven days after he sent forth the dove again, and she returned bringing an olive leaf. Noah sent forth the dove again seven days after, but she returned no more.

Noah left the ark at the command of God. He built an altar and offered sacrifice to the Lord. God accepted the sacrifice and promised that "seed-time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night should not cease." God also promised never more to destroy mankind by a flood; and he said his bow in the cloud should be a token and pledge of his promise not to curse the earth any more for man's sake.⁴

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

Enoch's prophecy of the Second Coming of Christ.

1 "Behold the Lord cometh with ten thousand of his saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him." *Jude* 14,15.

2 "Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished; but the seed of the righteous shall be delivered." *Proverbs* 11. 21.

3 "Once the long-suffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water." *1Peter* 3. 20.

4 "The heavens and the earth which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." *2Peter* 3. 7.

LESSON III.

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

Genesis 9. 18-27; 11. 12. 9.

Noah planted a vineyard; and he drank of the wine, and was drunken. Ham mocked his father, but Shem and Japheth behaved respectfully and kindly towards him.¹ When Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him, he foretold that his descendants should be servants to the posterity of Shem and Japheth. Noah pronounced blessings upon his two dutiful sons, and also upon their descendants.

All mankind spoke the same language. As they journeyed from the *East*, they came to the plain of *Shinar*, and settled there. They said one to another, "Let us build us a city, and a tower whose top may reach unto heaven, and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth."² And God saw the city and the tower which they began to build. But that which they did displeased the Lord, for it was his purpose that mankind should be dispersed over the earth, to cultivate and to people it. And the Lord said, "Let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. Therefore is the name of it called *Babel*; because the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth; and from thence did the Lord scatter them abroad."

The descendants of Shem dwelt in *Armenia* and the *East*. The descendants of Ham peopled *Canaan*, *Arabia*, *Egypt*, and *Africa*. The descendants of Japheth inhabited *Western Asia*, and *Europe*. Nimrod, a descendant of Ham, built several cities in *Babylonia*. Asshur was a descendant of Shem; he built *Nineveh*, and other cities. A son of Ham, named Canaan, had eleven sons, they lived in different parts of the land of *Canaan*, and their

descendants were called Canaanites; the eldest, Sidon, was the father of the Sidonians; the other sons of Canaan were the fathers of various tribes of the Canaanites.

One of Shem's descendants named Terah, who lived at *Ur* in *Chaldea*, had three sons, Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Haran had a son named Lot. God called Abram out of Chaldea, saying to him, "Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee; and I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great, and thou shalt be a blessing; and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee; and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."³

Abram obeyed the divine call. He accompanied his father Terah to *Haran*, and after his father's death he departed into Canaan, with his nephew Lot, carrying with them their families and moveable possessions.

At *Moreh* the Lord appeared unto Abram and promised to give that land to his posterity. Abram built there an altar; and soon after pursued his journey eastward until he came to a place east of *Bethel*, where he pitched his tent and erected an altar unto the Lord.⁴

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it." *Proverbs* 30. 17.

2 "Their inward thought is, that their houses shall continue for ever, and their dwelling-places to all generations; they call their lands after their own names." *Psalms* 49. 11.

3 "By faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." *Hebrews* 11. 9,10.

4 "Thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south; and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed." *Genesis* 28. 14

LESSON IV.

Abram and Lot. Ishmael. Sodom and Gomorrah.

Genesis 12. 10.—19. 30.

A famine in *Canaan* caused Abram to remove into *Egypt*. He was afraid the Egyptians would kill him for Sarai; so he told Sarai to say she was his sister. Pharaoh, king of Egypt took Sarai into his house, but the Lord sent plagues upon him, which caused him to send her back to her husband.

Abram and Lot journeyed again towards *Bethel*. They were both rich in silver, and gold, and in flocks, and in herds. Their herdsmen quarrelled because there was not food enough for their cattle.¹ Abram proposed a separation and desired Lot to choose for himself what part of the land he would take, saying, "If thou wilt take the left hand then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left." Lot chose the plain of *Sodom* because it was well watered, and Abram dwelt in *Canaan*. The people of *Sodom* were exceeding great sinners.

Four kings waged a successful warfare against the people of *Sodom*, and the other cities of the plain. After defeating their armies these four kings took away all the goods of *Sodom* and *Gomorrah* and many captives; among whom was Lot. Abram armed his numerous servants, and pursued the conquerors, whom he overtook, attacked, and defeated; he rescued Lot, recovered the spoil and returned to *Canaan*. Melchizedek, king of *Salem*, and priest of the most High God, met Abram and blessed him.²

Sarai had an Egyptian handmaid, named Hagar, who despised her mistress and then fled into the wilderness to escape punishment. The angel of God called to her as she sat by a fountain, and commanded her to return and submit to her mistress. He also told her she should have a son named Ishmael,

and that he should be a wild man—whose hand would be against every man, and every man's hand against him.

In the ninety-ninth year of Abram's age the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly And thou shalt be a father of many nations." God then changed Abram's name to Abraham, and he changed the name of Sarai to Sarah. He also said that the name of their son should be Isaac.³

The wickedness of *Sodom* was so great that God said he would destroy it. He sent three angels to Abraham to tell him what he was about to do. Abraham intreated the Lord for *Sodom*, and God promised that if there were ten righteous persons in it he would spare the city for their sake. But there were not ten righteous persons to be found therein.

Two angels came to Lot in *Sodom* and hastened him out of the city. He was accompanied by his wife and two daughters. The Lord then rained down fire and brimstone on the cities of the plain.⁴ Lot's wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt. Lot escaped to *Zoar*.⁵

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "Do all things without murmurings and disputings; that ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world." *Philippians* 2. 14,15.

2 "Who raised up the righteous man from the east, called him to his foot, gave the nations before him, and made him rule over kings? He gave them as the dust to his sword, and as driven stubble to his bow. He pursued them and passed safely, even by the way that he had not gone with his feet." *Isaiah* 41. 2,3.

3 "The scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness; and he was called the Friend of God." *James* 2. 23.

4 "Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest; this shall be the portion of their cup." *Psalms* 11. 6.

5 "Turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly." *2Peter* 2. 6.

LESSON V.

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

Genesis 20-25, 16.

Abraham journeyed southward and came to *Gerar*. He again denied that Sarah was his wife.¹ Abimelech, king of *Gerar*, took Sarah; but God appeared to him in a dream, and told him to restore her to Abraham. Abimelech rebuked Abraham for his deceit, and then restored Sarah to whom he gave valuable presents.

Isaac, the son of God's promise, was born at the set time of which God had spoken to Abraham. Abraham was then a hundred years old, and his wife, Sarah was ninety years old. Abimelech came to Abraham and made a covenant of peace with him; and Abraham called the name of that place *Beer-sheba*, or, "the well of the oath."

Ishmael the son of the bondmaid, mocked Isaac, and both he and his mother were cast out.² They wandered in the wilderness, and when Ishmael would have died of thirst, God opened up a fountain from which he and his mother drank. Ishmael grew up in the wilderness and became an archer, and the head of a wandering tribe.

God commanded Abraham to go into the land of *Moriah*, and there offer up his son Isaac as a sacrifice.³ Abraham went, and as he was about to obey the divine command the angel of the Lord called to him out of heaven, saying, "Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him; for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me." Abraham offered up a ram instead of his son; God accepted the sacrifice, and renewed his promises to him and his seed, and through his seed to all mankind, "because he had obeyed the voice of the Lord."⁴

Sarah died at the age of 127 years. Abraham bought of Ephron, the Hittite, the field and cave of *Machpelah*, and there he buried Sarah. Sarah is the only woman whose age is recorded in the Bible.

Abraham sent his faithful servant, Eliezer, into *Mesopotamia*, to fetch a wife from Abraham's own kindred for Isaac his son. Eliezer journeyed to *Haran*, and as he stood near a well outside the city, he prayed that, when the young women came to draw water, the damsel to whom he should say, "Let down thy pitcher that I may drink, and she shall say, drink, and I will give thy camels drink also," the same should be the one that God had appointed for Isaac. Before he had done praying, Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel, the son of Nahor, approached the well. Eliezer asked her to give him drink. She did so, and also drew water for his camels. Eliezer went to her father's house, and having told his errand, he asked Rebekah in marriage for Isaac. Bethuel gave his consent, as did also Laban, Rebekah's brother; and when they asked Rebekah, she said, "I will go." Eliezer brought Rebekah and her nurse on camels into *Canaan*, and Rebekah became Isaac's wife.

Abraham afterwards married Keturah and had six sons. He died at the age of 175 years, and his sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of *Machpelah*.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "The fear of man bringeth a snare; but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe." *Proverbs* 29. 25.

2 "He that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now." *Galatians* 4. 29.

3 "The Lord your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul." *Deuteronomy* 13. 3.

4 "Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness; and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only." *James* 2. 21-24.

LESSON VI.

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

Book of Job. Genesis 25. 17; 26. 23; 27; 28. 5.

About the time that Abraham dwelt "as a pilgrim and a sojourner" in *Canaan*, Job lived in the land of *Uz*, in *Idumea*. He was a rich and prosperous man, and was moreover "perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil." Satan obtained leave to tempt him by various heavy afflictions, such as loss of property, loss of children, and loss of health; yet in the midst of these calamities his confidence in God remained unshaken; he bowed with submission to the divine will, saying, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord." Three of his friends visited him in his affliction, but instead of comforting him they only increased his distress by telling him that his sufferings were punishments for some secret sins. After Job had patiently endured these trials, God healed him of his disease, and blessed him with greater riches than he had at the first. He gave him also another family of sons and daughters, and bestowed upon him a long life.¹

Before the birth of Esau and Jacob the Lord told their mother, Rebekah, that the elder should serve the younger—a prediction which had special reference to their descendants. Esau the first-born was a skilful and daring hunter, but Jacob devoted himself to pastoral pursuits. When they were thirty years old, Esau returned one day from hunting, hungry, and greatly fatigued. He asked Jacob to give him to eat of some red pottage he had just then prepared. Jacob refused unless Esau gave him his birthright as a recompense; and Esau, despising his birthright, consented to the proposal, and sold it for a mess of pottage.²

After this event Isaac went down to *Gerar*—a drought having burnt up the pastures in *Canaan*. Here he sinned through fear, as did his father Abraham, by denying his wife. Abimelech, king of *Gerar*, discovered Isaac's deceit, for which he reproved him. Isaac's flocks and herds increased very much. The herdsmen of *Gerar*, jealous of his prosperity, quarrelled with Isaac's herdsmen, about the wells of water. Isaac left *Gerar*, and returned to *Beersheba*.

When Esau had attained the age of forty years he married two wives of the Canaanites. This was a grief of mind to Isaac and Rebekah. Some years after, he married a daughter of Ishmael.

When the time of Isaac's death drew near, he directed Esau, his first-born son, to present himself before him with a savoury meal of venison, and he would pronounce upon him the patriarchal blessing before he died. Rebekah overheard her husband giving these directions to Esau, and while Esau was absent, she caused Jacob, who acted under her guidance, to represent Esau, and so deceive Isaac, for his eyes were dim that he could not see. When Esau returned, Isaac knew that he had been deceived. He, however, blessed Esau, but the blessing of the first-born remained on Jacob. Esau threatened to kill Jacob; and when Rebekah heard this, she requested Isaac to send Jacob away to her own people. Isaac again blessed Jacob, and sent him into *Syria*.³

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "Blessed is every one that feareth the Lord; that walketh in his ways; for thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands; happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee. Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house; thy children like olive plants round about thy table, behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the Lord." *Psalm 128*. 1-4.

2 "Esau . . . for one morsel of meat sold his birthright, for ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected; for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears." *Hebrews 12*. 16,17.

3 "There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the Lord, that shall stand." *Proverbs 19*. 21.

LESSON VII.

Jacob's Flight. Marriage—Return to Canaan.

Genesis 28. 6. 30.

Jacob fled towards *Padan-aram*, the residence of his uncle. On his journey God appeared to him in a dream at *Bethel*, and renewed to him the promises made to Abraham and Isaac. God said to Jacob, "I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land."¹

When Jacob reached *Haran* he stood by a well and inquired for Laban. Rachel, Laban's daughter, came at the time to water her father's flocks. Jacob made himself known to her, and she told her father of Jacob's arrival. Laban welcomed him to his house with kindness. Jacob desired to marry Rachel; and Laban required that he should serve him seven years for his daughter. At the end of the seven years, Laban deceived Jacob by giving him his elder daughter, Leah, instead of Rachel. Jacob served other seven years for Rachel. So Jacob became the husband of Laban's two daughters.

Laban and his sons envied Jacob because his flocks and herds increased greatly. Jacob, seeing this, resolved to return to *Canaan*. He took his wives and children and departed by night. Laban pursued, and overtook Jacob on *Mount Gilead*. God had appeared to Laban the night before, and warned him not to do Jacob any harm. Jacob reproved Laban, saying, "What is my trespass? what is my sin, that thou hast so hotly pursued after me?" He also said, "This twenty years have I been with thee; thy ewes and thy she goats have not cast their young, and the rams of thy flock have I not eaten. That which was torn of beasts I brought not unto thee; I bare the loss of it; of my hand didst thou require it, whether stolen by day, or stolen by night. Thus I was; in the day the drought consumed me, and the frost by

night; and my sleep departed from mine eyes I served thee fourteen years for thy two daughters, and six years for thy cattle; and thou hast changed my wages ten times. Except the God of my father, the God of Abraham, and the fear of Isaac, had been with me, surely thou hadst sent me away now empty. God hath seen mine affliction and the labour of my hands, and rebuked thee yesternight." Laban and Jacob covenanted to do no harm to each other.²

Jacob then proceeded on his journey and at *Mahanaim* the angels of God appeared to him.³ Hearing that his brother Esau was coming towards him with an armed troop, he prayed to God to deliver him, and then sent messengers before him with a present. At *Peniel* God changed his name to ISRAEL, and again blessed him. When the brothers met, Esau received Jacob with kindness, and they were reconciled to each other.²

Jacob journeyed to *Shechem*, and from thence to *Bethel*. At this place God again appeared to Jacob, and said, "The land which I gave Abraham and Isaac, to thee will I give it and thy seed after thee." The change of his name to Israel was now confirmed, whence his descendants were afterwards called ISRAELITES. Jacob journeyed towards *Ephrath*. On the way, Benjamin, his youngest son was born, and Rachel died. The sons of Jacob were twelve, *viz.*, Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin. Jacob had one daughter named Dinah.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "The Lord is thy keeper; the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand, the Lord shall preserve thee from all evil; he shall preserve thy soul, the Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore." *Psalms* 121. 5,7,8.

2 "When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him." *Proverbs* 10. 7.

3 "By his strength he had power with God; yea, he had power over the angel, and prevailed; he wept, and made supplication unto him; he found him in Beth-el, and there he spake with us." *Hosea* 12. 3-5.

LESSON VIII.

Joseph's early History. Jacob goes into Egypt. Death of Jacob and Joseph.

Genesis 37; 39-47.

Joseph was his father's beloved son, but he was hated by his brethren, and they sold him to a company of Midianites who were journeying with their camels laden with spices and balm, and myrrh, from *Gilead* to *Egypt*.¹ Joseph's brethren took off his coat, which was of many colours, and dipped it in the blood of a kid which they killed; they then brought the coat to their father. Jacob exclaimed, on seeing it, "It is my son's coat, an evil beast hath devoured him." The Midianites took Joseph into *Egypt*, and sold him as a slave to Potiphar, one of the king's chief officers. The Lord prospered his master, and blessed him for Joseph's sake. And Potiphar made Joseph overseer in his house—yea, he left all he had in Joseph's hand, and knew not aught he had, save the bread which he did eat. Potiphar's wife accused Joseph falsely, and had him cast into prison.²

God was with Joseph and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.³ Pharaoh's chief butler and chief baker were also imprisoned. They each had a dream which Joseph interpreted. Joseph was released some time after, to interpret two remarkable dreams which king Pharaoh dreamed. Joseph said that they showed there would first be seven years of plenty, and afterwards seven years of famine. Pharaoh then exalted Joseph by making him governor over the land of *Egypt*. Joseph appointed officers under him to buy up the corn and store it against the years of scarcity.

The famine extended to *Canaan* and Jacob sent his sons, except Benjamin, into *Egypt* to buy corn.

Joseph knew them, but they did not know him. He treated them roughly and had them cast into prison. In the prison Joseph heard them condemning themselves for their cruelty in selling their brother as a slave. After they were humbled he sent them all away with corn, except Simeon, who was kept in prison till they came back with their brother Benjamin. When they returned bringing Benjamin with them, Joseph made himself known to them, forgave them, and sent them back with wagons to fetch his father and all his family. Jacob and his household, numbering seventy souls, went down to *Egypt*, and settled in *Goshen*. Jacob blessed his children before his death, and predicted the coming of the Saviour in the tribe of Judah.⁴ He commanded his sons not to bury him in *Egypt*, and died at the age of 147 years. Joseph embalmed the remains of his father, took them to *Canaan*, and interred them in the cave of *Machpelah*. After Jacob's death Joseph repeated his forgiveness to his brethren and nourished their families while he lived. He died at the age of 110 years, having first commanded his brethren to carry his bones with them when they should go out of *Egypt*.⁵

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

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

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.

3 "But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye; and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; for it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing." *1Peter* 3. 14,17.

4 "There shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel." *Numbers* 24. 17.

5 "By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones." *Hebrews* 11. 22.

LESSON IX.

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

Exodus 1. 7-11.

The Israelites in *Goshen* increased greatly so that "the land was filled with them." Now there arose another king in *Egypt* who knew not Joseph; and he, fearing that the Israelites would, in time of war, turn their hand against the Egyptians, proposed to his great men that they should make slaves of them. Accordingly the whole Hebrew nation was compelled to labour for the Egyptians in mortar and in brick, and in all kinds of service in the field. The Israelites built treasure cities for Pharaoh; but notwithstanding their bitter sufferings and bondage, the Hebrews continued to increase and multiply. The king then decreed that all the Hebrew male children should be cast into the river *Nile*.¹

A short time previous to this Aaron was born; his parents were of the tribe of Levi. Three years afterwards they had another son, and his mother hid him three months because of the king's decree. When he could no longer be hidden she laid him in an ark of bulrushes, coated with pitch, and placed the ark among the bulrushes of the *Nile*. Pharaoh's daughter came down to the river to bathe; and she found the child. She commanded Miriam, the sister of the child, who was watching, to bring her a nurse; and Miriam went and fetched the child's mother. Moses was the name which Pharaoh's daughter gave to the child. Moses grew up, and the princess adopted him, and had him instructed in all the learning of the Egyptians. And when he was forty years old he visited his brethren the children of Israel, and seeing one of them suffer wrong, he avenged him, and slew the Egyptian. The next day Moses saw two Hebrews at strife, and he reprov'd him that did

the wrong, but he replied to Moses, "Intendest thou to kill me as thou killedst the Egyptian?" Moses then feared to stay in *Egypt*, so he fled into *Midian*, where he resided forty years in the family of Jethro. Moses kept Jethro's sheep. He married Zipporah, Jethro's daughter. Moses and Zipporah had two sons named Gershom and Eliezer.²

God appeared to Moses in a burning bush at *Horeb*, and sent him into *Egypt* to deliver his brethren from the cruel bondage they endured. Aaron, the brother of Moses, went with him as spokesman. Pharaoh refused to let the people go, though God sent great and terrible plagues upon the Egyptians. Their waters were turned into blood; frogs covered the entire country; the dust was turned into lice; flies tormented them in myriads; a grievous murrain attacked the cattle; boils and sores broke out on man and beast; hail, rain, and fire, swept away much of the vegetation; locusts devoured every green thing which the hail had left; and then a thick darkness overspread the whole land for three days. Yet the heart of Pharaoh continued hard and unrelenting. God then threatened to destroy all the first-born in *Egypt*. The Israelites were free from all the plagues that fell upon the Egyptians.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "Thou art the Lord the God, who didst choose Abram, and broughtest him forth out of Ur of the Chaldees, and gavest him the name of Abraham; . . . and didst see the affliction of our fathers in Egypt, and heardest their cry by the Red Sea." *Nehemiah* 9. 7,9.

2 "Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds, and when he was full forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel, and seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended him, and avenged him that was oppressed, and smote the Egyptian; for he supposed his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them; but they understood not." *Acts* 7. 22-25.

LESSON X.

The Israelites leave Egypt. The Red Sea divided. The Egyptians drowned.

Exodus 12-15. 21.

Before the tenth plague was sent upon *Egypt*, God instituted the ordinance of the passover, and commanded the Israelites to observe it every year throughout their generations. God directed that each family of the Hebrew people should kill a lamb, and sprinkle the blood on the lintel and door-posts of their dwellings; the lamb was then to be roasted, and to be eaten in haste; while those who ate were to be in readiness to depart, with their loins girded, their shoes on their feet, and their staves in their hands. "For," said God, "I will pass through the land of *Egypt* this night, and will smite all the first-born, both man and beast, and against all the gods of *Egypt*, I will execute judgment; I am the Lord . . . and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of *Egypt*."¹

At midnight the Lord smote all the first-born in *Egypt*, from the first-born of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the first-born of the captive that was in the dungeon; and all the first-born of cattle. That night there was a great cry throughout the whole land, and Pharaoh rose up and hastened the departure of the Israelites out of *Goshen*.² So they went forth, taking with them their flocks and their herds, and much property, which they borrowed of the Egyptians, consisting of jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and costly raiment. The Israelites departed from *Rameses* numbering about 600,000 men, on foot, besides women and children, and a mixed multitude which accompanied them. Moses took the bones of Joseph with them from *Egypt*. And the Lord went before the people by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light.³

The Egyptians repented that they had let the Hebrews go, and Pharaoh and his host pursued them. They overtook them encamping by the Red Sea, beside *Piha-hiroth*. When Israel saw the Egyptians they were greatly troubled, and began to murmur, but Moses said unto them, "Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will show you to-day; for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to-day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace." Moses then stretched forth his rod over the sea, and it divided, so that the children of Israel went over dry shod. The cloud also removed from before their face and went behind them, and stood between them and the Egyptians. It was darkness to the Egyptians but it gave light to Israel, so that the one came not near the other all the night. When Israel had reached the land on the other side, Moses stretched forth his rod, and the waters closed on the Egyptians and drowned them all.⁴ Thus the Lord saved Israel out of the hand of the Egyptians. The Israelites then sang a song of praise to God.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "And . . . when your children shall say unto you, what mean ye by this service? . . . ye shall say, it is the sacrifice of the Lord's passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses." *Exodus* 12. 26,27.

2 "On the morrow after the passover the children of Israel went out with an high hand in the sight of all the Egyptians, for the Egyptians buried all their first-born, which the Lord had smitten among them; upon their gods also the Lord executed judgments." *Numbers* 33. 3,4.

3 "Moreover thou leddest them in the day by a cloudy pillar; and in the night by a pillar of fire, to give them light in the way wherein they should go." *Nehemiah* 9. 12.

4 "And thou didst divide the sea before them, so that they went through the midst of the sea on the dry land; and their persecutors thou threwest into the deeps, as a stone into the mighty waters." *Nehemiah* 9. 11.

LESSON XI.

The Murmurings of Israel. Amalek conquered. The Moral Law.

Exodus 14-31. 18.

After three days the Israelites came to *Marah*, where they murmured because the waters were bitter. The Lord shewed Moses a tree which he cast into the waters and they were made sweet. Soon after, they murmured for bread. God sent them manna from heaven, which they gathered every morning; on the sixth day they were to gather a double portion, for there would be none on the sabbath of the Lord.¹ At *Horeb* they again murmured for water. God told Moses to strike the rock; he did so, and water flowed out.²

At *Rephidim* the Amalekites fought against Israel. Moses stood on a hill, and held up the rod of God, during the battle; when he held up his hand Israel prevailed, but when he let down his hand Amalek prevailed. Aaron and Hur, seeing this, held up Moses' hands until sunset when the Amalekites were discomfited.³ Israel entered the wilderness of *Sinai*. According to God's command the people were sanctified, and when they were gathered round the mountain there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and God spake all these words, saying:—

“ I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of *Egypt*, out of the house of bondage.

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them; for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

3. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain ; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

4. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work ; but the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God ; in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates ; for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day ; wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

5. Honour thy father and thy mother ; that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

6. Thou shalt not kill.

7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

8. Thou shalt not steal.

9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's."⁴

When the people saw the law delivered amidst thunders and lightnings, and the mountain smoking, and heard the noise of the trumpet, they feared exceedingly and stood afar off. The glory of God was on *Mount Sinai* six days, and on the seventh day God called Moses up to the mount, and he remained there forty days. Then God gave him the two tables of stone, with the Ten Commandments written on them.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "And fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know ; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live." *Deuteronomy* 8. 3.

2 "Tremble thou earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob ; which turned the rock into a standing water, the flint into a fountain of waters." *Psalms* 114. 7,8.

3 "Thou shalt blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven." *Deuteronomy* 25. 19.

4 "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind ; this is the first and great commandment ; and the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

Matthew 22. 37-39.

LESSON XII.

The Golden Calf. The Tabernacle. Nadab and Abihu.

Exodus 25. 40. Leviticus 8. Numbers 1-8.

While Moses was on the mount, the people became impatient; and they desired Aaron to make them gods to go before them, and to lead them. Aaron made them a golden calf, which they worshipped. God told Moses of the sin which the people had committed; and said, "It is a stiffnecked people; now therefore let me alone, . . . that I may consume them; and I will make of thee a great nation." And Moses besought the Lord for the people, and spoke of his promises to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, that he would multiply their seed as the stars, and give them the land of *Canaan* for an inheritance. Moses came down from the mount with the two tables of the testimony in his hand; but when he saw the people dancing and worshipping the calf, he threw down the two tables of stone, and broke them. He destroyed the golden calf which they had made, and reproached Aaron; and according to God's command, he appointed the Levites to punish the Israelites for this sin. Three-thousand of those who had worshipped the calf were slain by the Levites. After this God sent a plague among them.¹

The Lord wrote again the ten commandments on two tables of stone, and gave them to Moses. God appointed two wise-hearted men, Bezaleel and Aholiab, to construct the tabernacle; the people brought gold, silver, and brass, and other free offerings for the work, and the tabernacle was made and erected in the wilderness. A cloud covered the tent and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle, "And when the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the children of Israel went onward in all their journeys; but if the cloud were not taken up, then they journeyed not till

the day that it was taken up." Aaron and his sons were consecrated to be priests. They were to offer sacrifices to God and make intercession for the people.

When Aaron made his first offerings, the glory of the Lord appeared unto all the people; and there came a fire out from before the Lord, and consumed the burnt-offering upon the altar, which when all the people saw, they shouted and fell upon their faces.

Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took each of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the Lord, which he had commanded them not to do. And there went out fire from the Lord, and devoured them, and they died before the Lord. The people took the bodies of Nadab and Abihu, and buried them outside the camp. God then commanded that the priests should not drink wine nor strong drink, when they went into the tabernacle, lest they should die.³

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. The sons of Levi were Gershon, Kohath, and Merari; their descendants constituted the three orders of Levites.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "When they had made them a molten calf, and said, this is thy God that brought thee up out of Egypt, and had wrought great provocations; yet thou in thy manifold mercies forsookest them not in the wilderness."
Nehemiah 9. 18,19.

2 "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God." *Revelation 21. 3.*

3 "When thou with rebukes dost correct man for iniquity, thou makest his beauty to consume away like a moth; surely every man is vanity."
Psalms 39. 11.

LESSON XIII.

Quails sent. Miriam's Leprosy. The Spies. Korah, &c. Numbers 11-20.

When the people murmured for flesh, God, in anger, sent quails, of which they ate, and were afflicted with a great plague, so that many died. At *Hazereth*; Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses, because he had married an Ethiopian woman. For this the Lord punished Miriam with leprosy; and she was shut out of the camp for seven days.¹

When the people pitched in the *Wilderness of Paran* God commanded that a man out of each of the twelve tribes should be sent to search *Canaan*. Moses therefore sent twelve men, that were heads of the people to spy out the land, and the people dwelling therein. After forty days they returned bringing a bunch of grapes from *Eshcol*, so large that two men were required to carry it. All the spies 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 spies told them they were not able. The people believed the evil report of the ten spies, and they lifted up their voice and wept that night.

The next day they murmured against Moses and Aaron; saying, "Would God that we had died in the land of *Egypt*! or would God we had died in this wilderness!" And they said one to another, "Let us make a captain, and let us return into *Egypt*."² Then Joshua and Caleb spake unto all the people, saying, "Rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us; their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us; fear them not." But all the congregation spake of stoning them. God then said that none of the men who came out of *Egypt*, except Caleb and Joshua,

should enter *Canaan*; but they should wander forty years and die in the wilderness, and that their children should possess the land. The unfaithful spies died of a plague.

Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and On, rebelled against Moses and Aaron. The earth opened and swallowed up Dathan and Abiram; and fire came and devoured 250 men who offered incense with Korah. The next day the people began to rebel, God sent a plague among them, and 14,700 died.³

At *Kadesh* there was no water for the congregation; and they gathered themselves together against Moses and Aaron. The Lord told Moses to speak unto the rock, and it should give forth water. And Moses said to the congregation, "Hear now, ye rebels, must we fetch you water out of this rock?" And he smote the rock twice; and the water came out abundantly. And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron; "Because ye believed me not to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them."⁴ Aaron died at *Mount Hor*, and his son Eleazar was appointed high priest.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "Remember what the Lord thy God did unto Miriam by the way, after that ye were come forth out of Egypt." *Deuteronomy* 24. 9.

2 "They hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage; but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not." *Nehemiah* 9. 17.

3 "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished; but chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities." *2Peter* 2. 9,10.

4 "They angered him also at the waters of strife, so that it went ill with Moses for their sakes; because they provoked his spirit, so that he spake unadvisedly with his lips." *Psalms* 106. 32, 33.

LESSON XIV.

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

Numbers 21-25. 31. 8. Deuteronomy.

The Israelites again rebelled against God, and against Moses. God sent fiery serpents among them, and many died. The people acknowledged that they had sinned, and Moses prayed for them. He was then directed to make a brazen serpent and put it on a pole, that all those who had been bitten by the fiery serpents, when they looked up to the brazen serpent, might be healed.¹

Sihon, king of the *Amorites*, and Og, the king of *Bashan*, came against Israel with their armies. Their armies were defeated, and themselves slain. The Israelites took possession of their countries, and cities, from the *River Arnon* to *Mount Gilead*, and all *Bashan*.

When the people of *Moab* saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites they were sore afraid. Balak, the king of *Moab*, sent for Balaam to curse the Israelites. When he came, Balak brought him up into the high places of Baal, that thence he might see the utmost part of the people; there, instead of cursing the Israelites, he was forced to bless them, and to foretel their greatness. Balak said unto Balaam, "What hast thou done unto me? I took thee to curse mine enemies, and, behold, thou hast blessed them altogether." And Balaam answered, "Must I not take heed to speak that which the LORD hath put in my mouth? . . . God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent; hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good? Behold, I have received commandment to bless; and he hath blessed; and I cannot reverse it." Balak then took Balaam to the top of *Mount Peor*, and there also he blessed Israel. And Balak's anger was kindled.

Balaam said, "If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the commandment of the LORD, to do either good or bad of mine own mind; but what the LORD saith, that will I speak."²

At *Shittim*, the Israelites were ensnared into idolatry with the Midianites. This was done 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*, with their kings, but spared the women. Balaam was slain in this battle.

Moses wished to go into *Canaan*, and he besought the Lord, saying, "I pray thee, let me go over, and see the good land that is beyond *Jordan*." But the Lord said unto him, "Get thee up into the top of *Pisgah*, . . . and behold it with thine eyes; for thou shalt not go over this *Jordan*." Before Moses died, he repeated the law to the Israelites; exhorted them to obedience, blessed them, and then ascended *Mount Nebo*; thence he beheld the promised land, and died. He was buried in a valley of *Moab*. His age was 120 years. The people mourned for him thirty days.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up; that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life." *John* 3. 14, 15.

1 "Then said Jesus unto them, when ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things." *John* 8. 28.

2 "On that day they read in the book of Moses in the audience of the people; and therein was found written, that the Ammonite and the Moabite should not come into the congregation of God for ever; because they met not the children of Israel with bread and with water, but hired Balaam against them, that he should curse them; howbeit our God turned the curse into a blessing." *Nehemiah* 13. 1, 2.

LESSON XV.

Joshua succeeds Moses. Jericho is taken. Achan. The Gibeonites.

Deuteronomy 34. 9; Joshua 1-10. 14.

After the death of Moses, Joshua became the leader of the Israelites ;¹ he sent two spies to *Jericho* ; and they came into Rahab's house, and lodged there. The king of *Jericho* heard of them, and sent men to take them ; but Rahab concealed them and afterwards let them escape through a window. Before the men left her house, she made them promise that when God should give the city into their hand, they would spare her life, and the lives of her parents, and brethren, and sisters.

The spies returned and told Joshua all that had happened. Early the next morning, Joshua and all the people came to *Jordan*. The priests, carrying the ark of God, went forward, and the people followed. The river divided, and the Israelites passed over. As soon as the priests and the people had reached the opposite side, the waters flowed as before.² Twelve stones were set up as a memorial that the waters had divided for the Israelites to pass over. The tribes encamped at *Gilgal* and kept the passover. They ate of the old corn of the land, and the manna ceased falling.

"The captain of the LORD's host" appeared to Joshua before *Jericho*, and gave him directions about the taking of the city, which were obeyed, the city was taken and burnt ; and Joshua pronounced a curse on whomsoever should rebuild it. Rahab and her family were saved.

Achan, a man of the tribe of Judah, took from the spoils of *Jericho*, a Babylonish garment, two-hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, which he hid in the earth, within his tent. For his sin, the Israelites were discomfited at *Ai*.

Joshua then fell upon his face before the ark, and God told him of the trespass, and gave him directions for the discovery of the offender by lot. Achan was discovered; he and his family were put to death, and *Ai* was afterwards taken. Joshua then built an altar to God on *Mount Ebal*. The blessings of the law were pronounced from *Mount Gerizim*, and the cursings from *Mount Ebal*.³

The inhabitants of *Gibeon* were afraid when they heard what had been done to *Jericho* and to *Ai*; and they went to Joshua, in old shoes, and old clothes, pretending they had come from a far country. Joshua and the princes of Israel made a covenant of peace with them. Three days after, they found that the Gibeonites were neighbours, and that they had deceived them. The Israelites would not destroy them, but they made them hewers of wood and drawers of water, for the camp and the tabernacle of Israel.

Five kings of the Amorites encamped against *Gibeon*, because its inhabitants had made peace with Israel. Joshua went to assist the Gibeonites; the Amorites were discomfited, and as they fled the Lord cast down great stones from heaven upon them, and they were more which died with hailstones than they whom the children of Israel slew with the sword. The sun and the moon stood still at the command of Joshua till the kings were conquered.⁴

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom; for Moses had laid his hands upon him; and the children of Israel hearkened unto him, and did as the Lord commanded Moses." *Deuteronomy* 34. 9.

2 "When Israel went out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language; Judah was his sanctuary, and Israel his dominion, the sea saw it, and fled; Jordan was driven back." *Psalms* 114. 1-3.

3 "Behold I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; a blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day; and a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known." *Deuteronomy* 11. 26-28.

4 "The sun and moon stood still in their habitation; thou wentest forth for the salvation of thy people." *Habakkuk* 3. 11, 13.

LESSON XVI.

Joshua's last Exhortations. Adonibezek. Israel's disobedience.

Joshua 11-24. Judges 1-3. 6.

Though Joshua conquered thirty-one kings, and their countries, 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.¹ The cities of refuge, for those who had slain others unawares, were appointed, and the Levites had forty-eight cities and their suburbs assigned to them. The children of Joseph's two sons had two portions allotted to them. The bones of Joseph were buried in *Shechem*, in a parcel of ground which Jacob bought of the Shechemites.²

Before Joshua's death, he called for all Israel, and for their elders, judges, and officers, to come to him at *Shechem*. He reminded them of God's goodness and faithfulness, exhorted them to be very courageous, and to do according to the law of Moses, and to cleave unto the LORD their God." He then 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." And Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who overlived Joshua, and who knew all the works of the Lord, which he had done for Israel.

After the death of Joshua the tribes of Judah and Simeon, first went up against the Canaanites that remained unconquered, and the Lord delivered the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hand; and they slew at *Bezek* ten-thousand men. They found Adoni-bezek, in *Bezek*, and they cut off his thumbs and great toes. And Adoni-bezek said, "Threescore-and-ten kings,—having their thumbs and their

great toes cut off, gathered their meat under my table ; as I have done, so God hath requited me." And they brought him to *Jerusalem*, and there he died.

The tribes of Israel did not drive out all the Canaanites from the cities they took, but they dwelt among them. An angel of the Lord, reproveth them ; at *Bochim*, saying, " I made you to go up out of *Egypt*, and have brought you unto the land which I swear unto your fathers ; and I said, I will never break my covenant with you. And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land ; ye shall throw down their altars ; but ye have not obeyed my voice ; why have ye done this ? Wherefore I also said, I will not drive them out from before you ; but they shall be as thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you." When the angel spake these words, the people lifted up their voice, and wept.³

About fourteen years after the death of Joshua, the Israelites began to worship the idols of the Canaanites, Baal and Ashtaroth, and God delivered them into the hands of spoilers and they were oppressed. They also intermarried with the Canaanites, which God had forbidden.⁴

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "The lot causeth contentions to cease, and parteth between the mighty." *Proverbs 18. 18.*

2 " And Israel said unto Joseph, behold, I die ; but God shall be with you, and bring you again unto the land of your fathers, moreover I have given to thee one portion above thy brethren, which I took out of the hand of the Amorite with my sword and with my bow." *Genesis 48. 21,22.*

3 " He cast out the heathen also before them, and divided them an inheritance by line, and made the tribes of Israel to dwell in their tents, yet they tempted and provoked the most high God, and kept not his testimonies ; but turned back, and dealt unfaithfully like their fathers ; they were turned aside like a deceitful bow." *Psalms 78. 55-57.*

4 " Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers ; for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness ? and what communion hath light with darkness." *2Corinthians 6. 14.*

LESSON XVII.

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

Judges 17-20; 3. 7-4. 24.

There was a man of *Mount Ephraim* whose name was Micah; he stole from his mother eleven-hundred shekels of silver which she had saved. She cursed the robber of her treasures in her son's hearing. After a time, Micah, stung by conscience, restored the money to his mother; whereupon she said, "Blessed be thou of the LORD, my son. . . . I had wholly dedicated the silver unto the LORD . . . to make a graven image and a molten image." So she took two-hundred shekels of silver, and gave them to the founder, who made thereof a graven image and a molten image. And Micah had a house of gods, and he made an ephod, and teraphim, and consecrated one of his sons, to be his priest. Micah afterwards obtained a Levite of *Bethlehem-judah* for his priest.¹

The tribe of Dan sent out five men to seek an inheritance; they came to the house of Micah, and asked the Levite, whom they knew, whether their way should be prosperous. The Levite told them to go in peace; so they proceeded to *Laish*. At *Laish* the people lived carelessly, and without feeling shame for their misdeeds. The Danites returned to their tribe, and told their brethren that at *Laish* there was no want of anything that was in the earth. Six-hundred men were then sent to *Laish*; on their way they went into Micah's house, and took away his idols and his priest. They smote the inhabitants of *Laish*, with the edge of the sword. Having changed the name of the city to *Dan*—they brought in Micah's graven image, and set it up, and appointed Jonathan, the Levite, to be their priest.²

The children of Israel forgot the Lord their God, and served Baal. Therefore the Lord caused them

to be oppressed for eight years by Chushan-rishathaim, the king of *Mesopotamia*; but when they repented, he raised up Othniel to deliver them. Othniel was the first judge of Israel. When the people again forgot God, he allowed Eglon, the king of Moab, to oppress them for eighteen years; but on their repentance he raised up Ehud to deliver them. Ehud slew Eglon, at *Gilgal*, and the Israelites slew 10,000 Moabites at the *Fords of Jordan*. The Philistines were afterwards permitted to oppress Israel; but God raised up Shamgar, who slew six-hundred Philistines with an ox-goad, and delivered them.²

God then permitted Jabin, king of *Canaan*, who reigned in *Hazor*, to oppress the Israelites twenty years. They cried unto the Lord, and he raised up Deborah, a prophetess, and Barak, a valiant man of *Naphtali*, to deliver them. Barak pursued the army of Sisera and routed it; Sisera, Jabin's captain, fled to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite. Jael gave him milk to drink, and he lay down to sleep in her tent. While he slept she took a nail of the tent, and a hammer, and smote the nail into his temples, and he died. Thus the children of Israel were delivered from their fourth servitude; and Deborah and Barak sang a song of praise to God for the deliverance of Israel.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "Whoso robbeth his father or his mother, and saith, it is no transgression; the same is the companion of a destroyer." *Proverbs* 28. 24.

2 "They provoked him to anger with their high places, and moved him to jealousy with their graven images; when God heard this, he was wroth, and greatly abhorred Israel; so that he forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh, the tent which he placed among men; and delivered his strength into captivity, and his glory into the enemy's hand; he gave his people over also unto the sword; and was wroth with his inheritance." *Psalms* 78. 58-62.

LESSON XVIII.

Gideon. Abimelech. Jephthah.

Judges 6-11.

The children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord, and he delivered them into the hand of the people of *Midian* seven years.¹ So severe was the oppression of the *Midianites* that the people were driven to take refuge in the dens of the mountains, and in caves, and strongholds. They cried unto the Lord for deliverance, and he sent a prophet to reprove them, and while they were mourning for their sins an angel appeared unto Gideon, at *Ophrah*, as he thrashed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the *Midianites*. The angel said to Gideon, "The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour . . . thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites." And Gideon said unto him, "Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in *Manasseh*, and I am the least in my father's house."² And the Lord said unto him, "Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man."

Thirty-two-thousand men joined Gideon beside the *Well of Harod*. When those who were fearful had returned home there were 10,000 left. Of the 10,000, only 300 were chosen by the Lord's command 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* were terrified and confused, and the Lord set every man's sword against his fellow; and the host fled. The Ephraimites took two princes of *Midian*, *Oreb* and *Zeeb*, and slew them, and brought their heads to Gideon. Gideon and his men pursued the two kings of *Midian*, *Zebah* and *Zalmunnah*, whom he overtook, and slew.

The people of Israel wished Gideon to be their ruler, but he refused, saying, "The Lord shall rule over you." He afterwards made an ephod of the golden ear-rings and other ornaments that had been taken with the spoil, and thus unwittingly caused idolatry.

Gideon left many sons. Abimelech was a son of Gideon, but not a lawful son. He slew all Gideon's lawful sons, except Jotham, who escaped. After a time the men of *Shechem* made Abimelech their king; Jotham came to *Mount Gerizim*, and by a parable ridiculed the choice of the men of *Shechem*, and the pretensions of Abimelech. Soon after, Gaal conspired with the Shechemites against Abimelech, and Abimelech was slain.

The Israelites began to serve the gods of *Syria*, *Sidon*, and *Moab*, and God suffered them to be oppressed by the Philistines and Ammonites; they cried unto the Lord, and while they were confessing their sins the Ammonites came against them. God then 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. Jephthah judged Israel six years.³

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "And he gave them into the hand of the heathen; and they that hated them ruled over them; their enemies also oppressed them, and they were brought into subjection under their hand; many times did he deliver them; but they provoked him with their counsel, and were brought low for their iniquity; nevertheless he regarded their affliction, when he heard their cry."
Psalm 106. 41-44.

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

3 "Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God; for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth; therefore let thy words be few."
Ecclesiastes 5. 2.

LESSON XIX.

Of Eli. Samuel. Samson.

1Samuel 1-3; Judges 13, 14.

When Eli was judge and priest of Israel, Hannah, one of the two wives of Elkanah, prayed for a son. Hannah vowed, that if the Lord would answer her prayer, she would dedicate her son to the Lord all his life. As she was praying, she spake in her heart, only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunken, and he said unto her, "How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee." And Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD." Eli then said, "Go in peace; and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition."¹

The Lord heard Hannah's 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*. And she said to Eli, "Oh my lord, . . . for this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him; therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD." She also sang a song of thanksgiving to the Lord.

Eli had two wicked sons, Hophni and Phinehas. He reproved them, but they would not hearken to their father. A prophet came to Eli, and spoke of the approaching downfall of his house. He said that Eli's two sons should die in one day;—that God would raise him up a faithful priest;—and that Eli's seed should come to poverty and dishonour. The child Samuel ministered to the Lord before Eli. The Lord called to Samuel, as he lay asleep, and revealed to him his judgment on Eli's house, which Samuel made known to Eli the next morning.

After the Lord had suffered the Philistines to oppress Israel forty years, he raised up Samson to deliver them.

When Samson grew up, he went to *Timnath*, and he saw there a woman of the Philistines who pleased him. He told his father and mother to get her for him to wife, but his parents did not wish it, for they knew not that it was of the Lord. 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 it. He afterwards proposed a riddle to the Philistines, at a feast, which he had made, saying, "I will now put forth a riddle unto you; if ye can certainly declare it me within the seven days of the feast, and find it out, then I will give you thirty sheets, and thirty changes of garments; but if ye cannot declare it me, then shall ye give me thirty sheets and thirty changes of garments." And they said unto him, "Put forth thy riddle." And he answered them, "Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness." And they could not in three days expound the riddle. On the seventh day his wife enticed him to tell her its meaning, which she made known to them, they answered him, "What is sweeter than honey? and what is stronger than a lion?" Then he knew that his wife had revealed it to them.²

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "The Lord hear thee in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee; send thee help from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion; remember all thy offerings, and accept thy burnt sacrifice; grant thee according to thine own heart, and fulfil all thy counsel." *Psalms* 20. 1-4.

2 "If ye do in any wise go back, and cleave unto the remnant of these nations, even these that remain among you, and shall make marriages with them, and go in unto them, and they to you; know for a certainty that the Lord your God will no more drive out any of these nations from before you; but they shall be snares and traps unto you, and scourges in your sides, and thorns in your eyes, until ye perish from off this good land which the Lord your God hath given you." *Joshua* 23. 12,13.

LESSON XX.

Further Acts and Death of Samson.

Judges 15, 16.

The father of Samson's wife gave her to his companion. Samson then caught three-hundred foxes, and put firebrands to their tails, and let them go into the standing corn of the Philistines, which was burnt up. He afterwards smote a great many Philistines, near the rock *Etam*. The men of Judah were angry with Samson, for the Philistines were rulers over them; and they bound him with two new cords, and brought him to *Lehi*. The Philistines shouted against him, and the Spirit of the Lord came mightily on him; the cords became as burnt flax, and his hands were loosed; and he found a new jaw-bone of an ass, which he took, and slew a thousand men therewith. 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 closed the gates and lay in wait for him all the night, saying, "In the morning, when it is day, we shall kill him."² At midnight Samson arose, took the gate of the city and the two posts, and carried them away to the top of a hill, before *Hebron*. Samson loved a woman in the valley of *Sorek*, whose name was Delilah. The lords of the Philistines bribed her with a large sum of money to entice Samson to tell her the secret of his strength, that she might betray him to them. He deceived her three times, at length he revealed to her that he was a Nazarite, and if he were shaven he should be weak like other men. When she knew this, she caused his hair to be cut off as he slept. The Lord departed from him, and his strength left him. The Philistines then took him, put out his eyes, and brought him down to *Gaza*, where they bound

him with fetters, and made him grind in prison. Samson's hair began to grow in prison, and his strength returned to him.

The lords of the Philistines gathered together to offer a great sacrifice unto Dagon their god, and to rejoice; for they said, "Our god hath delivered into our hands our enemy, and the destroyer of our country, which slew many of us." And when their hearts were merry, they brought Samson out of prison into the temple of Dagon, to make sport while they were feasting. They set him between the pillars of the temple. And Samson said unto the lad that led him by the hand, "Suffer me that I may feel the pillars whereupon the house standeth, that I may lean upon them. Now the house was full of men and women; and all the lords of the Philistines were there; and there were upon the roof about three-thousand men and women, that beheld, while Samson made sport. And Samson called unto the Lord, and said, 'O Lord GOD, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes.' And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars, upon which the house was borne up, and he said, 'Let me die with the Philistines.' And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all who were therein."³

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; cease from anger, and forsake wrath; fret not thyself in any wise to do evil; for evildoers shall be cut off; but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth; for yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be; yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be."

Psalm 37. 7-10.

2 "The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth." *Psalm 34. 16.*

3 "Evil shall slay the wicked; and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate." *Psalm 34. 21.*

LESSON XXI.

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

1Samuel 4-8.

The people of Israel went out against the Philistines to battle, and Israel was smitten, and about 4,000 men were slain. And the elders of Israel sent to *Shiloh*, that Hophni and Phinehas might bring thence the ark of the covenant of God, saying, "it may save us out of the hand of our enemies." When the armies again joined battle Israel was smitten, and there fell of them thirty-thousand footmen.¹ The ark of God was taken; and Hophni and Phinehas were slain. A messenger told Eli that Israel had fled, that his sons were slain, and that the ark was taken by the Philistines; and when he made mention of the ark of God, Eli fell backward, and died.

The Philistines took the ark to *Ashdod*, and carried it into the house of Dagon. On the morrow Dagon was fallen on his face before the ark. They set Dagon up, and on the next morrow he was fallen again; God greatly afflicted the men of *Ashdod*, and they sent the ark to *Ekron*. A deadly destruction came on this city; so the Ekronites sent the ark away upon a new cart, drawn by two milch kine. They left the kine to take their way, and they went straight to *Bethshemesh*. The Bethshemites were glad to see the ark and they clave the wood of the cart, and offered the kine for a burnt-offering unto the Lord. The men of *Bethshemesh* looked into the ark of the Lord, and a great number were smitten and died. The ark was then taken to *Kirjath-jearim*, where it remained twenty years in the house of Abinadab.

Then Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, "If ye do return unto the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the

LORD, and serve him only; and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines. Then the children of Israel did put away Baalim and Ashtaroth, and served the Lord only." And Samuel gathered all Israel at *Mizpeh*, and there he prayed unto the Lord for them. And as Samuel was offering a lamb for a burnt-offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel; but the Lord thundered with a great thunder upon the Philistines, and discomfited them; and they were smitten before Israel.² Samuel set up a stone, in remembrance, and called it *Eben-ezer*.

When Samuel became old, he made his sons, Joel and Abiah, judges in *Beersheba*. They walked not in the ways of their father, but they took bribes, and did not judge justly.³

The elders of Israel assembled at *Ramah*, and asked for a king. God told Samuel to hearken to them, as they had rejected HIM for their king. Samuel endeavoured to dissuade them from persisting in their desire for a king, but they said, "Nay; but we will have a king over us; that we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles." And the Lord said to Samuel, "Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king." And Samuel said unto the men of Israel, "Go ye every man unto his city."

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "The Lord shall send upon thee cursing vexation, and rebuke, in all that thou settest thine hand unto for to do, until thou be destroyed, and until thou perish quickly; because of the wickedness of thy doings, whereby thou hast forsaken me." *Deuteronomy* 28. 20.

2 "How oft is the candle of the wicked put out! and how oft cometh their destruction upon them! God distributeth sorrows in his anger." *Job* 21. 17.

3 "Thou shalt not wrest judgment; thou shalt not respect persons, neither take a gift; for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous." *Deuteronomy* 16. 19.

LESSON XXII.

Saul made king. His Rejection. David anointed.

1Samuel 9-16. 13.

A man of Benjamin, whose name was Kish, had a son named Saul; he was tall in stature, and goodly in person. The asses of Kish were lost, and Saul was sent, with one of his father's servants, to seek them. Samuel met Saul. God now informed Samuel that Saul was the man he had chosen to be king over Israel. The next day, Samuel took a vial of oil and poured upon Saul's head, saying, "The LORD hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance."¹

Samuel assembled the people together at *Mizpeh*, and Saul was chosen king. When Saul stood among the people, he was higher than any of them; from his shoulders upwards, and when the people saw him, they shouted; "God save the king." Samuel wrote the laws of the kingdom in a book, and sent the people away.

The Ammonites made war against *Jabesh-gilead*, but Saul raised a large army of Israelites, marched against them and conquered them. The people went with Samuel to *Gilgal*, and they made Saul king before the Lord.

When Samuel was old and gray-headed, he said to all Israel, "Behold, here I *am*; witness against me before the LORD, and before his anointed; whose ox have I taken? or whose ass have I taken? or whom have I defrauded? whom have I oppressed? or of whose hand have I received any bribe to blind mine eyes therewith? and I will restore it you." And they said, "Thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, neither hast thou taken aught of any man's hand."

Saul gathered the people together at *Gilgal*, and as Samuel came not, he offered a burnt-offering to

God. It was not lawful for Saul to do this, and when Samuel came he reproved him, and said, "Thou hast done foolishly; thou hast not kept the commandment of the Lord thy God, which he commanded thee; for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever. But now the kingdom shall not continue; the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people."

Saul was commanded to go and destroy the Amalekites, utterly; but he spared Agag the king, and the best of the sheep and oxen. Samuel reproved Saul for his disobedience. Saul said the people had saved the best of the cattle for burnt-offerings. Samuel replied, "Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt-offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams . . . Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king."² Samuel then slew Agag, after reproaching him with his many cruelties.

The Lord now sent Samuel to the house of Jesse, the Bethlehemite, to anoint one of his sons to be king. Jesse had eight sons, seven of whom passed before Samuel; but the Lord had chosen David, who was with the sheep. When Samuel saw him, he anointed him, and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David.³

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "Thou shalt in any wise set him over thee, whom the Lord thy God shall choose; one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee; thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, which is not thy brother."

Deuteronomy 17. 15.

2 "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God." *Micah 6. 8.*

3 "And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will."

Acts 13. 22.

LESSON XXIII.

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

1Samuel 17-18. 16.

The Philistines gathered their armies to battle, and pitched between *Shochoh* and *Azekah*. Saul and his army were in the valley of *Elah*. The champion of the Philistines was Goliath, a giant of *Gath*, whose height was six cubits and a span. And he had a helmet of brass upon his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail. And he had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders. And the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and one bearing a shield went before him. And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them, "I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together." When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

Jesse sent David to the camp with provisions for his brethren. David heard Goliath's challenge; and also Saul's promise to give his daughter in marriage, to the man who should slay the Philistine.

David came to Saul and said, "Thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth." And David said unto Saul, "Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock; and I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth; and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God." And Saul said unto David, "Go, and the LORD be with thee."

Saul then armed David with armour; but David put off the armour, and took five smooth stones out of the brook, and his sling in his hand. Goliath disdained David and cursed him, but when he arose, David ran to meet him, and slang a stone, which smote the Philistine, and sank into his forehead, so that he fell with his face to the earth. David took the sword of Goliath, and cut off his head. The Philistines fled, and the men of Israel and Judah pursued them to the gates of *Ekron*.¹

Jonathan loved David exceedingly, and made a covenant of friendship with him. He put his own robe on David, and gave him his sword, and his bow, and his girdle. When David was returning from the slaughter of the Philistine, the women came out of the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of music. And the women said, "Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands." And Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him. The next day an evil spirit came upon Saul, and as David was endeavouring to soothe Saul's troubled mind by playing upon the harp, Saul attempted to slay him with a javelin that was in his hand; but David avoided the blow.² Saul became afraid of David, because the Lord was with him. David behaved himself wisely in all things, and all Israel and Judah loved him.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back; this I know; for God is for me, in God will I praise his word; in the Lord will I praise his word, in God have I put my trust; I will not be afraid what man can do unto me, for thou hast delivered my soul from death; wilt not thou deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living."
Psalm 56. 11, 13.

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

LESSON XXIV.

Saul's Faithlessness. He persecutes David.

1Samuel 18., 9-22. 1Chronicles 12. 8, 16-18.

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 promised her in marriage 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. The evil spirit came again on Saul, and he sought to smite David.¹ David fled, and escaped to his house that night. Saul sent messengers to watch David, and to slay him in the morning, but Michal let him down through a window, put an image in his bed; and told Saul's messengers that David was sick. David came to Jonathan, and said, "What have I done? what is mine iniquity? and what is my sin before thy father, that he seeketh my life?" Jonathan assured David that if evil were determined against him by his father, he would tell him of it. Jonathan soon discovered that Saul intended to slay David, so Jonathan caused him to flee for safety.²

David went with his young men to Ahimelech, the priest at *Nob*. He asked for five loaves of bread. The priest had none but hallowed bread, and he gave him some. One of Saul's servants, Doeg, an Edomite, who was the chief of Saul's herdsmen, was at *Nob* that day. David being without a sword, asked the priest to give him one. Ahimelech said, "The sword of Goliath the Philistine, is here, wrapped in a cloth, behind the ephod; if thou wilt take that, take it; for there is no other save that here." And David said, "There is none like that; give it me." David then went to Achish, king of *Gath*. But when he saw that the servants of Achish knew him, he was afraid, and feigned himself mad that he might be sent away.

David escaped to the cave of *Adullam*, where he was soon joined by his brethren and his kinsmen; and many also who were in distress, and in debt, and discontented, came to him; and he became a captain over about four-hundred men. Some valiant Gadites also joined him, and some of the children of Benjamin and Judah. And Amasai, who was their chief, said, "Thine are we David, and on thy side, thou son of Jesse; peace, peace be unto thee, and peace be to thine helpers; for thy God helpeth thee."

David then went to *Moab*, and asked the king to let his father and mother remain there. But the prophet Gad told David to return to *Judah*.

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 that were at *Nob*; and when they came he charged them with conspiring against him. Ahimelech answered Saul meekly, but Saul said they should surely die.³ Saul commanded his footmen to turn and slay the priests of the Lord, but they would not. Then said the king to Doeg, "Turn thou, and fall upon the priests"; and Doeg slew that day eighty-five persons that were priests. Saul also sent him to *Nob* to slay all their families, and their cattle. Abiathar, one of the sons of Ahimelech, escaped to David, who promised him protection.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "Plead my cause, O Lord, with them that strive with me; fight against them that fight against me; say unto my soul, I am thy salvation." *Psalm 35. 1, 3.*

2 "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, their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows shall be broken." *Psalm 37. 14, 15.*

3 "Let the lying lips be put to silence; which speak grievous things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous." *Psalm 31. 18.*

LESSON XXV.

David's kindness to Saul. Of Nabal and Abigail.

1Samuel 23-25.

David was commanded by the Lord to go to *Keilah*, and smite the Philistines; he did so, and saved the inhabitants. David heard that Saul was coming to take him at *Keilah*, and he departed, with six-hundred men, to the *Wilderness of Ziph*. Jonathan went into the wilderness to see David, and there they renewed their covenant of friendship with each other.¹ David removed to the *Wilderness of Maon*, and went thence to *Engedi*. Saul followed, and went into a cave at *Engedi* to sleep. David and some of his men were in the cave, and David cut off a part of Saul's robe. When Saul left the cave David told him how he might have slain him, but that he would not put forth his hand against the Lord's anointed. Saul wept, and said to David, "Thou art more righteous than I; for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I have rewarded thee evil. . . . And now, behold, I know well that thou shalt surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in thine hand."² Samuel died; all Israel lamented him, and they buried him at *Ramah*.

There was a man in *Maon* named Nabal, who had large possessions in *Carmel*. His wife was named Abigail; she was a woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance; but the man was churlish and evil in his doings. David heard in the wilderness that Nabal did shear his sheep; so he sent some of his young men to him to ask for refreshment, telling him how they had protected his flocks in *Carmel*; but Nabal churlishly refused. When David's messengers returned, and told him of Nabal's sayings, he said to his men, "Gird ye on every man his sword." And they girded on every man his sword; and there went up after David about four-hundred men. But

one of Nabal's young men told Abigail that his master had railed on David's messengers, and then said, "Now therefore know and consider what thou wilt do; for evil is determined against our master, and against all his household."³

Then Abigail made haste, and prepared a large present for David, of loaves, and wine, and sheep ready dressed, parched corn, raisins, and figs, and she sent her servants on before her, and went to meet David. And when Abigail saw David, she lighted off the ass, and fell before him on her face. She acknowledged the iniquity of her husband, and said she wished to prevent David from avenging himself by shedding blood.

David said to Abigail, "Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, which sent thee this day to meet me; and blessed be thy advice, and blessed be thou, which hast kept me this day from coming to shed blood, and from avenging myself with mine own hand." So David received of her hand that which she had brought him.

When Abigail returned home Nabal was feasting and he was very drunken. In the morning his wife told him all that had occurred, and his heart died within him, and he became as a stone. In about ten days after, he died. David then sent messengers to Abigail to commune with her, and he took her to wife. Saul had given Michal to another.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly; and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." *Proverbs* 18. 24.

2 "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.

3 "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal." *Matthew* 6. 19, 20.

LESSON XXVI.

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

1Samuel 26-28.

Saul went with three thousand chosen men of Israel, to seek David in the *Wilderness of Ziph*. When David knew this, he sent out spies to watch him. And David went down, and saw the place where Saul lay, and those who were with him; and he returned to his men and said, "Who will go down with me to Saul to the camp?" And Abishai consented to go down. So they went down by night and found Saul sleeping, and his guards sleeping round him. Saul's spear was struck in the ground at his bolster; Abishai wanted to kill Saul, but David forbade him, saying, "Destroy him not; for who can stretch forth his hand against the LORD's anointed, and be guiltless?" David told him to take away the spear and the cruse of water from Saul's bolster. David then went to the top of a hill afar off, and reproved Abner for not keeping a better watch over the king's life. When Saul heard David he said, "I have sinned; return, my son David; for I will no more do thee harm, because my soul was precious in thine eyes this day." Saul also said to David, "Blessed be thou, my son David; thou shalt both do great things, and also shalt still prevail."¹

But David fled with his six-hundred men to Achish, king of *Gath*. When this was told Saul he sought David no more. Achish gave David *Ziklag* to dwell in, and David dwelt there a year and four months.

The Israelites and Philistines prepared again for war; the Philistines encamped in *Shunem*, while the Israelites pitched on *Mount Gilboa*. And when Saul saw the host of the Philistines he was afraid and his heart trembled. Now Samuel, the prophet, was dead; the priests had been slain by Saul's own command; Saul had no vision from God to instruct him; no

priest to ask counsel of God for him; no prophet to guide him; so in his terror, and perplexity of mind, he went to consult a witch who lived at *Endor*.² He disguised himself, and went to her by night. She asked him whom she should bring up. He desired her to bring up Samuel. Presently, an old man appeared, who said unto Saul, "Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up?" And Saul answered, "God is departed from me, and answereth me no more, therefore I have called thee, that thou mayest make known unto me what I shall do." Then said Samuel, "Wherefore then dost thou ask of me, seeing the LORD is departed from thee, and is become thine enemy? And the LORD hath rent the kingdom out of thine hand, and given it to thy neighbour, even to David; because thou obeyedst not the voice of the LORD, nor executedst his fierce wrath upon Amalek. Moreover the LORD will also deliver Israel, with thee, into the hand of the Philistines; and to-morrow shalt thou and thy sons be with me." Then Saul fell straightway all along on the earth, and was sore afraid, because of the words of Samuel; and there was no strength in him; for he had eaten no bread all the day, nor all the night. When Saul arose his servants and the woman caused him to take some food which she had provided, and then he departed.³

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "Let them be confounded and put to shame that seek after my soul; let them be turned back and brought to confusion that devise my hurt."

Psalm 35. 4.

2 "The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him." *Ezra 8. 22.*

3 "There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer." *Deuteronomy 18. 10, 11.*

LESSON XXVII.

**Ziklag plundered. Saul's defeat and Death.
David again anointed.**

1Samuel 29. 6. 31; 2Samuel 1. 2. 6.

The Philistines went up to *Jezreel*, but David and his men departed to *Ziklag*. When David came to *Ziklag*, he found that the Amalekites had plundered and burned the city. He first asked counsel of the Lord, and then pursued them with his six-hundred men. Two-hundred of them became faint at the brook *Besor*, and abode there. An Egyptian, who had been a servant to an Amalekite, brought David and his men to the camp. David smote them all, save four-hundred young men who escaped on camels; he also recovered the women and children, and all the spoil which the Amalekites had carried away. And when they had come to the two-hundred men who stayed from faintness at the brook *Besor*, some among the four-hundred refused to share the spoil with them; David said it should not be so, but all should partake alike. He also sent presents of the spoil taken from the Amalekites to his friends in the land of Israel.

The Philistines fought against Israel at *Gilboa*; the Israelites fled, and many were slain on the *Mount of Gilboa*. Among the slain were Jonathan, Abinadab, and Melchi-shua, Saul's sons, and Saul was sorely wounded. Saul wanted his armour-bearer to thrust his sword through his body, but he would not, for he was sore afraid, and Saul then took a sword, and fell upon it. His armour-bearer also fell upon his sword, and died with Saul.¹

On the morrow, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, they found the bodies of Saul and his sons, and they cut off Saul's head and stripped off his armour, and put it in the house of their idol Ashtaroth; and they fastened the bodies to the wall of *Bethshan*. But all the valiant men of *Jabesh-gilead*, arose and

went by night, and took the bodies of Saul and his sons from *Bethshan*, and came to *Jabesh*, and burned them there. And they took their bones, and buried them under a tree at *Jabesh*, and fasted seven days.

Three days after David's return to *Ziklag*, a man came to him out of the camp of Saul, and informed him of the death of Saul and Jonathan. When David questioned him, he acknowledged that, at Saul's desire, he had slain him after he had fallen; and he brought Saul's crown and bracelet to David. Then David mourned and wept, and fasted till even. And David said unto the young man that told him, "Whence art thou?" And he answered, "I am the son of a stranger, an Amalekite." And David said unto him, "How wast thou not afraid to stretch forth thine hand to destroy the LORD's anointed?" And he told one of his young men to fall on him, and slay him. David mourned exceedingly for Saul and Jonathan. According to the command of God, David and the men who were with him, every man with his household, went up to *Hebron* and dwelt there.

And the men of Judah came, and anointed David king over the house of Judah. When David heard that the men of *Jabesh-gilead* had shown respect to the bones of Saul and his sons, he sent unto them, saying, "Blessed be ye of the LORD, that ye have showed this kindness unto your lord, even unto Saul, and have buried him. And now the LORD show kindness and truth unto you; and I also will requite you this kindness, because ye have done this thing."²

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "If ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments; I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies; they that hate you shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you." *Leviticus* 26. 14, 17.

2 "Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God; and whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men."

Colossians 3. 22, 23.

LESSON XXVIII.

Of Ishbosheth and Abner. David anointed at Hebron. The ark removed.

2Samuel 2. 8. 6. 15.; 1Chronicles 11. 1, 9; 15.

Abner the captain of Saul's host brought Ishbosheth, the remaining son of Saul, to *Mahanaim* in *Gilead*; and there proclaimed him king over *Gilead*, and over all Israel; but the house of Judah followed David. Soon after, the servants of Ishbosheth and the servants of David met together at the pool of *Gibeon*. And there was a very sore battle that day; and Abner and the men of Israel were beaten before the servants of David. Three sons of *Zeruiah* were there, *Joab*, *Abishai*, and *Asahel*; and *Asahel* was as light of foot as a wild roe. *Asahel* pursued *Abner* that day, and he would not leave following him, then *Abner* smote him with the hinder end of his spear and slew him.

Soon after *Abner* quarrelled with *Ishbosheth*, and then revolted to *David*. But *Joab* was jealous of *Abner*, and told *David* that he had come to deceive him; and as *Abner* departed from *David*, *Joab* took him aside to speak to him quietly, and slew him; *Abishai*, *Joab's* brother, was also present.¹ *David* lamented greatly for the death of *Abner*.

When *Ishbosheth* heard that *Abner* was dead, he and all his people were troubled. Two of *Ishbosheth's* captains, *Baanah* and *Rechab*, went into his house and they smote him, and beheaded him. They took his head to *David*, saying they had brought him the head of his enemy. But *David* was very indignant, and after he had reproached them for their crime, he commanded his young men to slay them. The head of *Ishbosheth* was buried in the sepulchre of *Abner*, in *Hebron*.²

After the death of *Ishbosheth* all the tribes came to *Hebron* and anointed *David* king over Israel. At this time *David* said the ark of God should be brought up from *Kirjath-jearim*. *Jerusalem* was then inhabited

by the Jebusites. David said that whosoever smote the Jebusites first should be chief and captain. So Joab went up and took the city and became chief. Then David dwelt in the castle, and they called it the *City of David*.

When the Philistines heard that David was king, they came against him in the valley of *Rephaim*. David asked counsel of God, if he should go up against them. God said he should go, and he smote them and burned their idols. Again they came against him, and after David had inquired of God, he smote them from *Geba* to *Gazer*.

David gathered together 30,000 chosen men to bring up the ark of God to *Jerusalem*. It was placed upon a new cart, and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the cart. And David and all the house of Israel played before the Lord on all manner of musical instruments. And when they came to Nachon's threshing-floor, Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it. And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzzah; and he slew him there for his error; for the Levites were not permitted to touch the holy things. And David was afraid of the Lord that day, and said, "How shall the ark of the LORD come to me?" So David had the ark carried into the house of Obed-edom, the Gittite, where it remained for three months. It was afterwards told David that the Lord had blessed Obed-edom, so David went and brought the ark to *Jerusalem* with gladness; and he offered burnt-offerings and peace-offerings before God.³

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "The Lord shall reward the doer of evil according to his wickedness."

2 Samuel 3. 39.

2 "Cursed be he that smiteth his neighbour secretly." *Deuteronomy 27. 24.*

3 "God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us; that thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations; let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee; O let the nations be glad and sing for joy; for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth." *Psalms 67. 1-4.*

LESSON XXIX.

David forbidden to build a Temple. David's sin. Absalom's Conspiracy.

2Samuel 7-15. 12.

When David had rest from his enemies, he resolved to build a temple to the Lord, for the ark of God to be placed in ;¹ but the Lord sent the prophet Nathan to prevent him, and to say unto him, "When thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name." When David heard this message he knelt down and prayed, and offered thanksgivings to the Lord his God. David sent for Mephibosheth, a son of Jonathan, 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.

After the death of Nahash, king of Ammon, his son Hanun reigned. David wished to show kindness to him, and sent messengers to comfort him, but Hanun abused David's messengers. David then sent Joab and all the mighty men of Israel against Ammon and conquered the Ammonites and the Syrians who came to help them. So the Syrians feared to help the children of *Ammon* any more.

The next year David sent Joab to besiege *Rabbah*, and to destroy the Ammonites. While he was away, David took Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah, one of the captains of the army, into his house ; and he wrote a letter to Joab, telling him to place Uriah in the fore-front of the battle, so that he might be slain. David sent the letter by the hand of Uriah, and Joab obeyed. Uriah was slain, and his wife mourned for him. After her mourning was past, Bathsheba became David's wife. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord, and he sent Nathan, the prophet, to reprove him, which he did by a parable. Nathan

then said, "Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul; . . . wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon. Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house. . . . Behold I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house."² David acknowledged his sin, but Nathan told him that the child of Bathsheba should surely die. The word of the Lord was soon fulfilled. *Rabbah* was taken by Joab; the king's crown was set on David's head and there was spoil in great abundance. Soon after the taking of *Rabbah* Solomon was born.

Absalom, the son of David had a fair sister named Tamar. Amnon another son of David injured her, and Absalom threatened to avenge her. So Absalom invited all his brothers to a feast, and when Amnon's heart was merry with wine the servants of Absalom killed Amnon. At the end of three years, when Absalom returned to *Jerusalem*, he made himself pleasing to all who came near him, and thus he stole the hearts of the men of Israel. After some time, he asked permission to go to *Hebron* to fulfil a vow; and he sent spies throughout all Israel, who, when they heard his trumpet, were to say, "Absalom reigneth in *Hebron*." Ahithophel, one of his father's counselors, joined him.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "Surely I will not come into the tabernacle of my house, nor go up into my bed; I will not give sleep to mine eyes, or slumber to mine eyelids; until I find out a place for the Lord, an habitation for the mighty God of Jacob." *Psalms* 132. 3-5.

2 "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." *1 Corinthians* 10. 13.

2 "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." *Matthew* 26. 41.

LESSON XXX.

Absalom's Revolt, defeat and death. David's grief.

2Samuel 15. 13; 18.

A messenger came to David, saying, "The hearts of the men of Israel are after Absalom." And David said unto all his servants that were with him at Jerusalem, "Arise, and let us flee; for we shall not else escape from Absalom."¹

All the people wept as David left *Jerusalem* and passed over the brook *Kidron*. Zadok and Abiathar were taking the ark with the king, but he desired that it might be carried back to the city. And as David went up by the ascent of *Mount Olivet* he wept, and had his head covered, and he went bare-foot; and all the people that were with him covered every man his head, and they went up, weeping. And one told David, saying, "Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom." And David said, "O LORD, I pray thee, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness."² And when David was come to the top of the mount, where he worshipped God, behold, Hushai his friend came to meet him with his coat rent, and earth upon his head. David requested him to return to the city, and there endeavour to defeat the counsels of Ahithophel. So Hushai returned to *Jerusalem*.

When David had passed the top of the hill, Ziba, the servant of Mephibosheth, met him with bread, raisins, fruits, and wine. The king inquired for Mephibosheth, and Ziba said he abode at *Jerusalem*. He also slandered Mephibosheth by telling David that he had said, "To-day shall the house of Israel restore me the kingdom of my father." Then David said to Ziba, "Behold, thine are all that pertained unto Mephibosheth." At *Bahurim*, one of the family of Saul, named Shimei cursed David, and cast stones at him. Abishai wanted to slay him, but David would not permit him.³

When Hushai came to *Jerusalem* he was received by Absalom as one of his advisers. Ahithophel counselled the immediate pursuit of David; but Hushai advised that an army should be first assembled from all Israel, and that Absalom should lead them to battle. Absalom and all his friends thought Hushai's counsel was the best. Hushai then sent word to David, of the counsel that had been given by himself and Ahithophel. When Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed he went to his house and hanged himself.

David came to *Mahanaim*, where Barzillai, the Gileadite, and others were very hospitable to him. And David sent forth a third part of the people under the hand of Joab, and a third part under the hand of Abishai, the son of Zeruiah, Joab's brother, and a third part under the hand of Ittai, the Gittite, but David remained behind at *Mahanaim*.

And the king commanded the captains, saying, "*Deal gently for my sake with the young man, even with Absalom.*" During the battle the head of Absalom caught in the boughs of an oak, and his mule went from under him. A man who saw it told Joab, who went with ten of his young men and slew Absalom. Then the army of Israel fled. A messenger, named Cush, was sent to tell David of Absalom's death. And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept; saying, "O my son Absalom! my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me; the ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib; but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider." *Isaiah* 1. 2, 3.

2 "Destroy thou them, O God; let them fall by their own counsels; cast them out in the multitude of their transgressions; for they have rebelled against thee." *Psalms* 5. 10.

3 "Curse not the king, no not in thy thought; and curse not the rich in thy bed-chamber; for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter." *Ecclesiastes* 10. 20.

LESSON XXXI.

David's return to Jerusalem. Sheba's Revolt.

David numbers the people.

2Samuel 19. 9-20. 23; 24.

After the death of Absalom the people again turned towards David, and they were at strife one with another, saying, "Absalom, whom we anointed over us, is dead in battle. Now therefore why speak ye not a word of bringing the king back?"¹ And king David sent a messenger to the elders of Judah, saying, "Ye are my brethren, ye are my bones and my flesh; wherefore then are ye the last to bring back the king?" And he bowed the heart of all the men of Judah, even as the heart of one man; so they sent this word unto the king, "Return thou, and all thy servants." So the king returned, and came to Jordan. And the people of Judah came to *Gilgal* to meet the king, to conduct him over *Jordan*. Shimei fell down before the king, as soon as he had come over *Jordan*, and confessed his sin. David forgave him.

Mephibosheth also came, and told the king of Ziba's slander and deceit.² The king asked Barzillai to go to *Jerusalem*, but he excused himself.

At the king's return, the men of Judah and Israel began to be jealous of each other. A revolt was led by Sheba. David called Amasa, whom he made captain, of the host, to assemble the men of Judah in three days.

When the army was assembled at *Gibeon*. Amasa went before them; but Joab being jealous of him slew him. Joab then pursued Sheba, who had taken refuge in *Abel-beth-maachah*. He was about to besiege the city but was prevented by the timely interference of a wise woman, who reasoned with the people of the city, and they cut off the head of Sheba, and cast it out to Joab.² And Joab returned unto the king, and he was again captain over David's army.

David again sinned against the Lord in numbering the people, and the Lord's anger was kindled against him. Afterwards David's heart reproached him, and he confessed his sin to the Lord. The word of the Lord came unto the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying, "Go and say unto David, Thus saith the LORD, I offer thee three things; choose thee one of them, that I may do it unto thee . . . Shall seven years of famine come unto thee in thy land? or wilt thou flee three months before thine enemies, while they pursue thee? or that there be three days' pestilence in the land?" And David said unto Gad, "I am in a great strait; let us fall now into the hand of the LORD, for his mercies are great, and let me not fall into the hand of man."³ So the Lord sent a pestilence upon Israel, from the morning even to the time appointed; and there died of the people, from *Dan*, even to *Beer-sheba*, seventy-thousand men. And when the angel stretched out his hand upon *Jerusalem* to destroy it, David spake unto the Lord, and said, "Lo, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly; but these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, be against me, and against my father's house." At the command of God, David reared up an altar unto the Lord in the threshing-floor of Araunah, the Jebusite; there the king offered burnt-offerings and peace-offerings, and the plague was stayed. The tabernacle of the Lord, which Moses had made in the wilderness, and the altar of the burnt-offering were then at *Gibeon*.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "A wrathful man stirreth up strife; but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife." *Proverbs* 15. 18.

2 "There was a little city, and few men within it; and there came a great king against it, and besieged it, and built great bulwarks against it; now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city; yet no man remembered that same poor man." *Ecclesiastes* 9. 14, 15.

3 "Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities; create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me; cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me."

Psalm 51. 9-11.

LESSON XXXII.

Preparations for the Temple. Solomon anointed David's Death.

1Kings 1. 5-2. 12; 1Chronicles 22; 28. 29. 27.

And David said, "Solomon my son is young and tender, and the house that is to be builded for the LORD must be exceeding magnifical, of fame and of glory throughout all countries; I will therefore now make preparation for it." So David prepared abundantly before his death. He then called Solomon, and told him that because he had shed blood abundantly, and made great wars, the Lord would not permit him to build his house, but he had promised that Solomon should build it.

Adonijah was probably the eldest living son of David. He was a goodly man, and had many servants. He made Joab and Abiathar his friends, and he said he would be king. Nathan and Bathsheba made known to the king all that Adonijah had done. David said to Bathsheba, "Assuredly, Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne." He commanded Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah, and his own guards, to take Solomon and anoint him at *Gihon*. Jonathan, the son of Abiathar, carried these tidings to Adonijah and his friends, who became afraid, rose up, and went away. Adonijah feared, and ran to the altar. Solomon said, "If he will show himself a worthy man, there shall not a hair of him fall to the earth; but if wickedness shall be found in him, he shall die." Solomon then sent to fetch Adonijah from the altar, and when he came he bowed before king Solomon; and Solomon said to him, "Go to thine house."¹

David assembled the princes of the tribes, and all his officers, and mighty men, and told them that God had appointed Solomon to build a house for God. He said to Solomon, "And thou, Solomon my son,

know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind . . . if thou seek him, he will be found of thee ; but if thou forsake him he will cast thee off for ever." David then appointed three divisions of the Levites, and stated their occupations ; twenty-four divisions of priests, the number of the singers, the porters, the gatekeepers, treasurers, and all the other officers required for the temple. He gave to Solomon the patterns of the different parts of the temple, and of the vessels to be made. At a second assembly the chief of the fathers and the princes gave much gold, and silver, and brass, and iron, and precious stones and David rejoiced with great joy. Then David blessed the Lord for his goodness, and prayed for the people, and for Solomon, his son. And the whole congregation blessed the Lord God and worshipped ; they also offered great sacrifices for all Israel ; and they did eat and drink before the Lord with great gladness ; and they made Solomon king the second time, and anointed him unto the Lord to be the chief governor, and Zadok to be priest.

David reigned seven years in *Hebron*, and thirty-three in *Jerusalem*, he died in a good old age, full of days, riches, and honour. He was buried in the *City of David*.²

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "If ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you ; but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." *Matthew 6. 14,15.*

The Last Words of David.

2 "The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God ; and he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds ; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain ; although my house be not so with God ; yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, and sure, for this is all my salvation, and all my desire." *2Samuel 23. 3-5.*

LESSON XXXIII.

Solomon's Sacrifices and Vision, Shimei slain.

1Kings 2. 14-3. 5 ; 2Chronicles 1, 2.

Solomon and the congregation of Israel went to *Gibeon*. There he offered a thousand burnt-offerings to God.¹ God appeared to him in a dream by night, and said, "Ask what I shall give thee." And Solomon said, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father; and I am but a little child; I know not how to go out or come in. And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude. Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad; for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?" And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. And God said unto him, "Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment; behold, I have done according to thy words; lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee. And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour; so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days. And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days."

Adonijah again conspired against Solomon, and he sent Benaiah to put him to death. Abiathar and Joab had joined in the conspiracy. Solomon banished Abiathar to *Anathoth*; he would not put him to death, because he had been much with David, in his

afflictions. Abiathar was a descendant of Eli, and the prophesy against Eli's seed was thus fulfilled. Joab fled to the tabernacle, and was slain there, by Benaiah. At this time Solomon sent for Shimei, and said if he left *Jerusalem*, he should surely die.

Solomon reigned over all kingdoms from the river unto the land of the Philistines, and unto the border of *Egypt*. And he 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*, for the building of the temple. This pleased Hiram. Solomon agreed to give Hiram twenty-thousand measures of wheat, for food to his household, and twenty measures of pure oil, year by year.

Solomon desired Hiram to send him a skilful man to work in gold, silver, brass, and iron; in purple, and crimson and blue. King Hiram sent Hiram, a widow's son; this widow was of the tribe of *Dan*, but her deceased husband was a man of *Tyre*.

After three years two of the servants of Shimei ran away to *Gath*. Shimei went after them, and brought them to *Jerusalem*. It was told Solomon that Shimei had been at *Gath*, and was returned. Solomon sent for Shimei, and told him of the oath he had sworn not to leave *Jerusalem*. He also reminded him of his wickedness towards David, his father, and then commanded Benaiah to slay him.²

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "Wherewith shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves of a year old? will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my first-born for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? he hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God." *Micah* 6. 6-8.

2 "Let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbour; and love no false oath; for all these are things that I hate, saith the Lord." *Zechariah* 8. 17.



LESSON XXXIV.

The Temple built and Dedicated.

IKings 6-9. 9; 2Chronicles 3-7.

The temple was built at *Jerusalem* on *Mount Moriah*. Here stood the threshing-floor of Ornan the Jebusite, where David had erected an altar to the Lord. The temple within 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, nor any tool of iron heard in the house while it was building.

And Solomon made all the vessels that pertained unto the house of the Lord; the altar of gold, and the table of gold, whereupon the shewbread was, and the candlesticks of pure gold, five on the right side, and five on the left, before the oracle; with the flowers, and the lamps, and the tongs of gold, and the bowls, and the snuffers, and the basons, and the spoons, and the censers, of pure gold; and the hinges of gold both for the doors of the inner house, the most holy place, and for the doors of the house, to wit, of the temple. And Solomon brought in the things which David his father had dedicated; even the silver, and the gold; and the vessels, did he put among the treasures of the house of the Lord. The ark from *Mount Zion*, and all the holy vessels were brought into the temple by the Levites. There was nothing in the ark save the two tables of stone, which Moses put therein at *Horeb*. Solomon was seven years in building the temple.¹

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 when they came out of the holy place, the singers and trumpeters were praising 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 had filled the house of God.²

Great sacrifices were then offered by the king and all the people. The king kneeled down before all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands towards heaven, and prayed that if evils should be sent upon his people for their sins, God would hear their prayer, and forgive them when they returned to him, and confessed their sins. Solomon then blessed the whole congregation; and when he had made an end of praying fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offerings and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the house. The people bowed upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the Lord. The feast was kept seven days, and the people returned home glad and merry in heart for the goodness of the Lord. The Lord appeared to Solomon by night and said unto him, "I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for a house of sacrifice."³

At the end of twenty years, wherein Solomon had built the house of the Lord, and his own house, he built *Tadmor* in the wilderness, and several store cities in other parts of his dominions. Solomon, moreover had ships at *Ezion-geber* which went to *Ophir* for gold; he also had a fleet at *Tarshish*, which brought him once in three years, gold, and silver, ivory and apes, and peacocks. And all the earth sought to Solomon, to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart. And the king made silver to be in *Jerusalem* as stones, and cedars, made he to be as the sycamore trees that are in the vale, for abundance.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts! my soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God." *Psalm 84.* 1, 2.

2 "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem; they shall prosper that love thee; peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces."
Psalm 122. 6, 7.

3 "Praise ye the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul; while I live will I praise the Lord; I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being."
Psalm 146. 1, 2.

LESSON XXXV.

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

1Kings 4. & 11. 43. Proverbs. Ecclesiastes.

God gave Solomon exceeding much wisdom, and understanding, and largeness of heart. His wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country and all the wisdom of *Egypt*. His fame was in all nations.⁴

Judah and Israel were many, as the sand which is by the sea, in multitude, eating and drinking and making merry ; for all dwelt safely, every man under his vine and under his fig-tree, from *Dan* even to *Beersheba*, all the days of Solomon. Solomon's dominions were very large, as God had covenanted to Abraham.¹

And when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, she came to prove him with hard questions at *Jerusalem*, with a very great company, and camels that bare spices, and gold in abundance, and precious stones ; and she communed with Solomon, of all that was in her heart. And Solomon told her all her questions and there was nothing hid from Solomon which he told her not. And when the queen of Sheba had seen the wisdom of Solomon, and the house that he had built, and all things belonging to his household ; and his ascent by which he went up into the house of the Lord ; there was no more spirit in her. And she said to the king, " It was a true report which I heard in mine own land of thine acts, and of thy wisdom ; howbeit I believed not their words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it ; and behold, the one half of the greatness of thy wisdom was not told me ; for thou exceedest the fame that I heard."² And she gave the king a hundred-and-twenty talents of gold, and of spices great abundance, and precious stones. And king Solomon gave to the queen of Sheba all her desire, whatsoever she asked. So she turned and went away to her own land, she and her servants.²

When Solomon grew older he offended God ; he took a great many wives from strange nations, and his heart was not perfect with the Lord, as was the heart of David his father. He served the idols of the Zidonians, and the Ammonites, and the Moabites, and he burned incense and sacrificed to them. Then the Lord was angry with Solomon and said, "I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of thy son, howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom, but will give one tribe to thy son for David my servant's sake. God also stirred up against Solomon—Hadad, who had fled from *Edom* into *Egypt*, in the days of David, and Rezon of *Damascus*. And Jeroboam whom Solomon had made a ruler, also lifted up his hand against Solomon.

Ahijah, the prophet, having met Jeroboam declared God's purposes against Solomon to him. He said that God would take the kingdom out of Solomon's son's hand, and give ten tribes to Jeroboam, and he told Jeroboam that if he did right, and kept God's commandments, God would build him a sure house, and give Israel unto him.³ God also said he would afflict the seed of David but not for ever. Solomon sought to kill Jeroboam, but he fled unto Shishak, king of *Egypt*, and was there till the death of Solomon. Solomon is supposed to have written the book of Ecclesiastes just before his death, after he had repented of his sins.

Solomon reigned over all Israel forty years, and was buried in the *City of David*.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." *Matthew* 5, 16.

2 "The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it; for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here." *Matthew* 12, 42.

3 "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.

LESSON XXXVI.

Revolt of the Ten Tribes. Jeroboam's Idolatry.

1Kings 12-15. 15; 2Chronicles 11. 5-12.13.

After Rehoboam had been made king Jeroboam and all the congregation complained to him of their heavy burdens under his father, and desired him to make them lighter, and they would serve him. Rehoboam consulted with the old men, and they advised him to speak good words to the people;¹ he next consulted with his young men, who advised him to make the burdens of the people heavier. On the third day the king answered them roughly, saying, "My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke; my father also chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions."

On hearing this answer the people revolted from Rehoboam; they sent for Jeroboam and made him king over all *Israel*; Rehoboam then reigned over *Judah* only. Jeroboam built *Shechem* in *Mount Ephraim*, and dwelt therein; and he said in his heart, "Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David if this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the LORD at *Jerusalem*."² Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, for the people, to worship. And he set the one in *Bethel*, and the other put he in *Dan*. As Jeroboam offered sacrifices on the altar at *Bethel*, a man of God came out of *Judah* and cried against it. When Jeroboam heard the words of the prophet he stretched out his hand to lay hold on him, and his hand dried up, so that he could not pull it to him again. The altar was also rent, and the ashes poured out. The king asked the man of God to pray the Lord that his hand might be restored; he did so, and the king's hand became as it was before. The man of God refused to go home with Jeroboam to eat bread, saying he had been commanded neither to eat bread nor drink water at *Bethel*.

Rehoboam dwelt in *Jerusalem*, and he built cities for defence in *Judah*. The priests and Levites out of Israel resorted to him, for Jeroboam had cast them off from executing the priest's office; and out of all the tribes of Israel such came as set their hearts to seek the Lord God of Israel. All these strengthened the kingdom of Judah, and for three years Rehoboam walked after the ways of David and Solomon.³ After this Rehoboam and his people forsook the law of the Lord, and God permitted Shishak, king of *Egypt* to invade *Judah*; but when Rehoboam humbled himself, the wrath of the Lord turned from him, and in *Judah* things went well. Rehoboam was succeeded by his son Abijah, who gained a victory over Jeroboam, because he relied upon the Lord God of his fathers. Abijah afterwards followed the sins of Rehoboam, he reigned three years and was succeeded by his son Asa.

Abijah, the son of Jeroboam, fell sick. Jeroboam, who resided at *Tirzah*, sent his wife in disguise to Ahijah, the prophet, at *Shiloh*, to inquire if the child should recover. Ahijah sent a message to Jeroboam reproving him for his idolatries; he said the child, Abijah, should die when she returned to the city; he also foretold the downfall of the house of Jeroboam. Baasha conspired against Nadab, the son of Jeroboam who reigned after his father, and smote all the house of Jeroboam, and Ahijah's prophecy was fulfilled.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise; but a companion of fools shall be destroyed." *Proverbs* 13. 20.

2 "Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the Lord thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles; and they shall not appear before the Lord empty." *Deuteronomy* 16. 16.

3 "Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls."

Jeremiah 6. 16.

LESSON XXXVII.

Asa's Government. Of Baasha, Omri, Ahab, Jehoshaphat.

1Kings 15. 8-16. 2Chronicles 14-18.

For ten years after Asa began to reign the land had rest ; he removed the idols which his father had made and he commanded all Judah, to seek the God of their fathers and to obey the law, and the commandments.¹ Zerah, the Ethiopian came against him with a very large army, but Asa cried unto the Lord for help and the Lord heard him, and smote the Ethiopians and they fled. Asa returned to *Jerusalem* with much spoil.

The prophet Azariah, the son of Oded, came to counsel Asa. He said, "The LORD is with you, while ye be with him ; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you ; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you. Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak ; for your work shall be rewarded."

There were wars between Asa and Baasha all their days. And Asa sent the silver and gold that was left in the treasury of the temple and also the treasures of the king's house to Benhadad the king of *Syria*, at *Damascus*, to hire him to come and assist him against Baasha—Hanani, the seer, reprov'd Asa for thus relying on the king of *Syria* and not on God ; Asa was angry with Hanani and put him into prison.

Jehu, the son of Hanani, was commissioned to denounce Baasha for his wickedness. He declared that God would take away the posterity of Baasha, and make his house like the house of Jeroboam. Baasha died, and his son Elah became king, he reigned only two years, and was slain by Zimri, the captain of half his chariots, as he was drinking himself drunk in the house of his steward. Zimri then slew all the house of Baasha, and the word of the Lord, which Jehu the prophet had spoken against the posterity of Baasha was fulfilled.

When Elah was slain, the Israelites at *Gibbethon* made Omri, the captain of the host, king over Israel. Omri went and besieged *Tirzah*. When Zimri saw that the city was taken, he set fire to the palace, and destroyed himself. Omri bought the hill *Samaria*, of Shemer, and built on it a city which he called *Samaria*. This city was the capital of Israel as long as the kingdom existed. Omri reigned over Israel twelve years, and followed the sins of Jeroboam.

Ahab was the son and successor of Omri. He took to wife Jezebel, the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Zidonians. He not only followed the sins of Jeroboam, but he also worshipped Baal.

After Asa had reigned thirty-eight years over Judah he began to be troubled with a disease in his feet, yet he sought not to the Lord but to the physicians.² He died in the forty-first year of his reign, and his son Jehoshaphat succeeded him. The Lord was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the first ways of David, and sought to the Lord God of his father, and walked in his commandments, and not after the doings of *Israel*. In the third year of his reign he sent to his princes, to teach in the cities of Judah. And with them he sent Levites, and priests who had the book of the law of the Lord with them, and went about throughout all the cities of Judah, and taught the people.

Jehoshaphat made peace with the king of Israel; and he afterwards allowed his son, Jehoram, to marry Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel. Much evil resulted from this marriage.³

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "Know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind; for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts." *1Chronicles* 28. 9.

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

3 "Now therefore give not your daughters unto their sons, neither take their daughters unto your sons, nor seek their peace or their wealth for ever; that ye may be strong, and eat the good of the land, and leave it for an inheritance to your children for ever." *Ezra* 9. 12.

LESSON XXXVIII.

Elijah's Mission. The Sacrifice on Carmel.

1Kings 17, 18.

Now Elijah, the Tishbite, who was an inhabitant of *Gilead*, came unto Ahab and said, "As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word."¹ And the word of the Lord came unto him, saying, "Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook *Cherith*, that is before *Jordan*. . . . Thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there." So he went and did according unto the word of the Lord; and the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook. And after a while, the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.

According to the word of the Lord, Elijah went thence to *Zarephath*, at which place God had commanded a widow woman to sustain him. She had no bread, and only a handful of 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 told her not to fear, and 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."² The word of the Lord which he spake by Elijah was fulfilled. 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. Obadiah, a good man, who was the governor of Ahab's house, met Elijah and knew him. He told Elijah that Ahab had sent to seek him in all nations, and kingdoms. Elijah said, "I will surely show myself unto him to-day." So Obadiah went and told Ahab; and Ahab went to meet Elijah.

When Ahab saw Elijah he said unto him, "Art thou he that troubleth *Israel*?" And Elijah answered, "I have not troubled *Israel*; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim." He told Ahab to send and gather all *Israel* unto *Mount Carmel*, with the prophets of Baal, and the prophets of the groves. So Ahab gathered the people and the prophets together unto *Mount Carmel*. Elijah came unto all the people, and said, "How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." The people answered not a word. Elijah then said, "Give us two bullocks, let the prophets of Baal choose one bullock, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under; and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under. And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD, and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God." And all the people, said, "It is well spoken." The false prophets called on the name of 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 when they saw it, saying, "The LORD, he is the God." The people, according to Elijah's command, slew all the prophets of Baal. Soon after the heavens became black with clouds, and there was a sound of abundance of rain.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "When heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against thee; if they pray toward this place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin, when thou afflictest them; then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy servants, and of thy people *Israel*, that thou teach them the good way wherein they should walk, and give rain upon thy land, which thou hast given to thy people for an inheritance." *1 Kings* 8. 35, 36.

2 "Better is an handful with quietness, than both the hands full with travail and vexation of spirit." *Ecclesiastes* 4. 6.

LESSON XXXIX.

Elijah's Grief. Elisha called. Of Benhadad and Ahab.

1Kings 19-20. 43.

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had slain the prophets of Baal. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to tell him that she would put him to death.¹ When Elijah heard that, he arose, and went to *Beersheba*, in *Judah*; there he left his servant, but he went himself a day's journey into the wilderness. As he slept an angel touched him and told him to "Arise and eat." There was a cake baked on the coals and a cruse of water at his head. And he arose and did eat, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights, unto *Horeb*, the mount of God.² Elijah came to a cave in *Horeb* and lodged there. And he was in great grief for he thought all Israel had forsaken God, and he was the only prophet of the Lord left. The Lord said unto him, "Go, return on thy way to the wilderness of *Damascus*; and when thou comest, anoint Hazael to be king over *Syria*; and Jehu the son of Nimshi, shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel; and Elisha, the son of Shaphat, of *Abel-meholah* shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room." God then assured Elijah that there were left seven-thousand in Israel, which had not bowed the knee to Baal.

Elijah departed, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was ploughing with twelve yoke of oxen before him. Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him. He knew therefore that Elijah had called him; and when he had made a feast for his neighbours and embraced his father and mother, he went after Elijah and ministered unto him.

Benhadad the king of *Syria*, gathered all his host together, and there were thirty-and-two kings with him, and horses, and chariots, and he went up and besieged *Samaria*.

Then there came a prophet to Ahab and said, "Thus saith the LORD, hast thou seen all this great multitude? behold, I will deliver it into thine hand this day; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD." And Ahab followed the instructions of the prophet, the Syrians fled, and the king escaped on a horse with the horsemen.³ A prophet then came to Ahab, and told him to strengthen himself, for Benhadad would return in a year.

Benhadad returned as the prophet had predicted, at the end of the year, and went up to *Aphék* to fight against Israel. And the army of the children of Israel was like two little flocks of kids; but the Syrians filled the country.⁴

They encamped over against each other for seven days; and on the seventh day the two armies joined in battle; the Israelites slew of the Syrians 100,000 footmen that day; but the rest fled into *Aphék*, and there a wall fell upon 27,000 of the men that were left. Benhadad fled, and hid himself in an inner chamber in the city. He then sent messengers to Ahab to beg his life, which Ahab granted and sent him away with a covenant of peace. One of the sons of the prophets waited for the king by the way, and when he saw him he said unto him, "Thus saith the LORD, because thou hast let go out of thy hand a man whom I appointed to utter destruction, therefore thy life shall go for his life, and thy people for his people." And the king of Israel came to *Samaría*, and went to his house heavy and displeased.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay-tree; yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not; yea, I sought him, but he could not be found." *Psalm 37*. 35, 36.

2 "The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season." *Psalm 145*. 15.

3 "The horse is prepared against the day of battle; but safety is of the Lord." *Proverbs 21*. 31.

4 "Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident." *Psalm 27*. 3.

LESSON XL.

Naboth's Vineyard. Battle at Ramoth Gilead. Jehoshaphat's Trust in God.

1Kings 21, 22. 53. 2Chronicles 18-20.

Near Ahab's palace in *Jezreel*, a man named Naboth had a vineyard. Ahab wanted it for a garden of herbs, so he offered Naboth a better vineyard for it, or its worth in money. Naboth refused to sell it, because it was the inheritance of his fathers; so Ahab came to his house, and he laid him down upon his bed, and would eat no bread.¹ But Jezebel promised to procure him the vineyard. She wrote letters to the elders and to the nobles of the city, saying, "Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people; and set two men, sons of Belial, before him, to bear witness against him, saying, "Thou didst blaspheme God and the king."² And then carry him out, and stone him, that he may die." And the elders and the nobles did as Jezebel had commanded them. When Jezebel heard this, she said unto Ahab, "Arise, take possession of the vineyard, which Naboth refused to give thee for he is not alive but dead." Elijah was then commanded to meet Ahab in the vineyard, and to make known to him that dogs should lick his blood, as they had licked the blood of Naboth—that the dogs should eat Jezebel, by the wall of *Jezreel*—and that his whole family should perish.

And Ahab said unto his servants, "Know ye that *Ramoth* in *Gilead* is our's and we be still, and take it not out of the hand of the king of *Syria*." And Ahab said unto Jehoshaphat, "Wilt thou go with me to *Ramoth-gilead*?" And he answered him, "I am as thou art, and my people as thy people; and we will be with thee in the war." Ahab disguised himself, but Jehoshaphat went to the battle in his robes. A certain man drew a bow at a venture, and smote Ahab, who commanded the driver of his chariot to take him

out from the battle. His blood flowed into his chariot, he died, and the dogs licked up his blood, as Elijah had foretold. Ahab was succeeded by his son, Ahaziah.

Jehoshaphat returned in peace to *Jerusalem*. Jehu, the prophet, went out to meet him, and said, "Shouldst thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the LORD? therefore is wrath upon thee from before the LORD. Nevertheless there are good things found in thee, in that thou hast taken away the groves out of the land, and hast prepared thine heart to seek God."

The Moabites and Ammonites invaded *Judah*; and Jehoshaphat and his people set themselves to seek the Lord. The king proclaimed a fast, the congregation assembled, and the king offered up a solemn prayer to God for help. In the morning they went forth to the *Wilderness of Tekoah*, and as they went Jehoshaphat said to them, "Hear me, O *Judah*, and ye inhabitants of *Jerusalem*; believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper." He also appointed singers who should praise the beauty of holiness, and say, "Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever." When they began to sing, the children of *Moab* and those of *Ammon* rose up against those of *Mount Seir*; and they destroyed one another.

Jehoshaphat joined himself with Ahaziah to make ships to go to *Tarshish*, but the Lord was displeased with Jehoshaphat and the ships were broken.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "Woe to them that devise iniquity, and work evil upon their beds! when the morning is light, they practise it, because it is in the power of their hand; and they covet fields, and take them by violence; and houses, and take them away; so they oppress a man and his house, even a man and his heritage." *Micah* 2. 1, 2.

2 "If a false witness rise up against any man to testify against him that which is wrong; then shall ye do unto him, as he had thought to have done unto his brother; so shalt thou put the evil away from among you."

Deuteronomy 19. 16, 19.

LESSON XLI.

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

2Kings 1. 3. 24.

Ahaziah, the son of Ahab served Baal and provoked the Lord to anger as his father had done; he fell through a lattice in his upper chamber and then sent messengers to Baal-zebub, 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 die.¹ 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*.² Elijah told him to tarry at *Gilgal*, for the Lord had sent him to *Bethel*. Elisha would not leave him. The sons of the prophets at *Bethel* asked Elisha—if he knew that the Lord would take away his master that day. Elijah told Elisha to tarry at *Bethel*, for the Lord had sent him to *Jericho*. Elisha said he would not leave him. So they went together to *Jericho*. At *Jericho* Elijah told Elisha to tarry there, for the Lord had sent him to *Jordan*. Elisha would not leave Elijah; and they went on together and stood by *Jordan*. Elijah wrapped his mantle together, and smote the waters; they divided, and the two prophets went over on dry ground. As they went on, a chariot of fire and horses of fire parted them, and Elijah went up by a whirlwind to heaven. Elisha saw it and exclaimed, "My father, my father; the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof." And Elisha saw Elijah no more.³

As Elijah went up his mantle fell from him; Elisha took it up, and with it he smote the waters, of *Jordan*, saying, "Where is the LORD God of Elijah?" The waters parted, and he went over. When the sons of the prophets at *Jericho*, who were watching, saw him, they said, "The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha," and they came to meet him, and they bowed themselves to the ground before him.

As he went thence to *Bethel* there came forth children out of the city and mocked him, saying, "Go up, thou bald head;" and there came two she-bears out of a wood and destroyed forty-two of them. From *Bethel* he went to *Mount Carmel*, and thence he returned to *Samaria*.⁴

The king of *Moab* rebelled against Israel, and Joram asked Jehoshaphat to go with him against *Moab* to battle. Jehoshaphat consented. The king of *Edom* also joined them. They were in want of water for the army and for the cattle in the wilderness; and Jehoshaphat and the other two kings hearing that Elisha was present, went down to him, Elisha asked for a minstrel, and when he played, the hand of the Lord came on Elisha, and he said, "Thus saith the LORD, make this valley full of ditches . . . Ye shall not see wind, neither shall ye see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, that ye may drink, both ye, and your cattle, and your beasts. And this is but a light thing in the sight of the LORD; he will deliver the Moabites also into your hand.

In the morning at the time of the meat-offering the country was filled with water. When the Moabites came, the sun shone on the water, so they thought it was blood, and they said, "The kings are surely slain, and they have smitten one another." But when they came to the camp of Israel, the Israelites rose up and smote them.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round about you." *Deuteronomy* 6. 14.

2 "Can two walk together, except they be agreed." *Amos* 3. 3.

3 "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him; for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God." *Hebrews* 11. 5.

4 "When the scorner is punished, the simple is made wise; and when the wise is instructed, he receiveth knowledge." *Proverbs* 21. 11.

LESSON XLII.

Miracles of Elisha. Jehoram's wicked reign.

2Kings 4-6. 23; 2Chronicles 21. 10.

Elisha was hospitably entertained at *Shunem*, by a great woman there, who respected him because he was a holy man of God.¹ Elisha promised her a son, and his word was fulfilled. When the child was grown, he went out one day to his father to the reapers, he was taken ill and died. His mother fetched Elisha, from *Mount Carmel*, and he restored the child to life. Elisha came to *Gilgal* when there was a dearth in the land, and the pottage made for the sons of the prophets was found to be poisonous. Elisha healed the pottage by casting meal into the pot.

Naaman was captain of the host of the king of *Syria*, and he was a leper. The king of *Syria* wrote a letter to Joram, the king of Israel, requiring that he would cure Naaman of his leprosy. Elisha heard of it, and sent to the king that Naaman should go to him. Naaman came to Elisha, who told him to wash in *Jordan* seven times, and he should be clean. Naaman was angry, and went away, saying, "Are not *Abana* and *Pharpar*, rivers of *Damascus*, better than all the waters of *Israel*?" The servants of Naaman said, "My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, wash, and be clean?" Then Naaman went and dipped seven times in *Jordan*, and his flesh came again, like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. He returned to Elisha, and prayed him to take a present from him; but Elisha refused. Naaman said he would henceforth offer neither burnt-offering nor sacrifice unto other gods, than the Lord.² When Gehazi, the servant of Elisha, saw Naaman depart, he followed him, and asked, in the name of his master, for silver and changes of raiment. Elisha reprov'd him, and said the leprosy of Naaman should cleave unto Gehazi and to his seed for ever.

The sons of the prophets wished to remove their dwelling to a larger place. Elisha went with them to *Jordan*. As one was felling a tree the ax-head fell into the water, and he was grieved because it was borrowed. Elisha cast in a stick there: the iron swam, and the man took it out. The king of *Syria* at this time warred against *Israel*, but Elisha informed Joram, the king of *Israel*, of his designs, and thus saved him several times. The king of *Syria* thought that one of his own people had informed the king of *Israel*, and inquired who it was; one of his servants answered that it was Elisha, the prophet, who gave the information to the king of *Israel*. The king of *Syria* then sent men with horses and chariots to *Dothan* to take Elisha. Elisha's servant was afraid when he saw them, but Elisha prayed unto the Lord, and they were smitten with blindness; he then led them to *Samaria*, and prayed that their sight might be restored.³ The king of *Israel* asked Elisha if he should smite them. Elisha told him to give them provisions, and let them go to their master. So the bands of *Syria* came no more into the land of *Israel*.

Jehoshaphat gave to all his sons gifts of silver, and gold, and precious stones, with fenced cities, but he gave the kingdom to Jehoram, his eldest son. Jehoram slew all his brethren and many of the princes of the land; and he re-established idolatry. He followed the evil ways of the kings of *Israel*, for he had the daughter of Ahab to wife.

In those days *Edom* revolted from *Judah*, and made themselves a king. The people of *Libnah* also revolted, because Jehoram had forsaken the God of his fathers.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers; for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." *Hebrews* 13. 2.

2 "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." *James* 1. 17.

3 "He disappointeth the devices of the crafty, so that their hands cannot perform their enterprise." *Job* 5. 12.

LESSON XLIII.

Siege of Samaria. Jehu anointed king. Athaliah. Joash.

2Kings 6-12. 4; 2Chronicles 22. 10-24. 14.

Benhadad, the king of *Syria*, and all his host again went up and besieged *Samaria*, and there was a great famine. Joram the king wickedly resolved to kill Elisha, and sent a messenger to take him. Elisha appeared, and announced to the king, that the next day provisions should be abundant and cheap in *Samaria*. In the night the Lord made the Syrians hear a noise of chariots and horses, and they fled, leaving their tents, and horses, and asses. Four lepers went, and told in the city that the Syrians had fled. The people went to the camp and carried away the spoil of the Syrians to *Samaria*; so the prophecy of Elisha was fulfilled, for there was abundance of food.¹

Elisha sent one of the sons of the prophets to *Ramoth-gilead* to anoint Jehu, the son of Nimshi, to be king over *Israel*, that he might destroy the house of Ahab. Jehu went to *Jezreel*. Joram, king of *Israel*, and Ahaziah, king of *Judah*, went forth in their chariots to meet Jehu; Joram said, "Is it peace, Jehu?"² Jehu spoke to him of the wickedness of his mother Jezebel, and Joram turned to flee, saying, "There is treachery, O Ahaziah." Then Jehu drew a bow, and smote Joram between his arms, and the arrow went out at his heart. As Ahaziah fled Jehu followed, saying, "Smite him also in the chariot;" and they did so; and he fled to *Megiddo*, and died there. When Jehu came to *Jezreel*, Jezebel looked out at a window, and said, "Had Zimri peace, who slew his master?" Jehu said to her servants, "Throw her down." She was thrown down, and after he had eaten and drunk, he sent people to bury her; but they found only her skull, and feet, and the palms of her hands, for the dogs had eaten her flesh, as Elijah had foretold.

Soon after Jehu came to *Samaria* and slew all that remained of the house of Ahab. He then proclaimed

a solemn assembly to Baal, and he slew all the worshippers, and brake down the house of Baal.

When Athaliah, the mother of Ahaziah, king of Judah, saw that her son was dead, she destroyed all the seed-royal of Judah, except Joash, the infant son of Ahaziah, who was saved by his aunt, the wife of Jehoiada, the priest. She hid Joash in the house of God six years. During this time Athaliah reigned and established idolatry in the land. In the seventh year of Athaliah's reign, Jehoiada resolved to proclaim Joash king. He strengthened himself, and instructed the captains and the Levites how to guard the king;³ and Jehoiada and his sons put upon him the crown, and anointed him, and said, "God save the king." Athaliah hearing the noise, came into the house of the Lord, and when she saw the king there with the princes and perceived that all the people of the land rejoiced, she rent her clothes, and said, "Treason." Jehoiada would not have her slain in the house of the Lord, but she was slain at the entering of the horse-gate, by the king's house. Jehoiada governed the kingdom for Joash, while the king was young. The king and the people covenanted to serve God, and Joash did that which was right in the sight of the Lord all the days of Jehoiada.⁴ The king required that the temple should be repaired. The princes and the people rejoiced, and gave much money for this purpose; after the workmen were paid, the king made vessels of gold and silver for the temple.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

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

2 "There is no peace, saith the Lord, unto the wicked." *Isaiah 48.* 22.

3 "The Levites office was to wait on the sons of Aaron for the service of the house of the Lord, in the courts, and in the chambers, and in the purifying of all holy things, and the work of the service of the house of God."

1 Chronicles 23. 28.

4 "Bless ye the Lord, all ye servants of the Lord, which by night stand in the house of the Lord; lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the Lord." *Psalm 134.* 1, 2.

LESSON XLIV.

Of Jehu. Ingratitude of Joash. His Death. Amaziah.
2Kings 10. 29-36. 13, 14. 8-16; 2Chronicles 24. 15-25. 25. 1-42.

Jehu departed not from the sins of Jeroboam, but God promised that his children to the fourth generation should sit on the throne of Israel; because he had executed God's judgments on the house of Ahab. Jehu reigned twenty-eight years; his son Jehoahaz reigned after him, during whose reign God suffered Hazael, the king of *Syria*, to afflict Israel very greatly. The kingdom was much weakened by the oppressions, of Hazael, who had taken many of the cities round the borders of *Israel*. Jehoahaz was succeeded by his son Jehoash. When Elisha was on his death-bed, Jehoash visited him, and wept over him. Elisha predicted the deliverance of Israel from *Syria*, he said Jehoash should smite the Syrians thrice. Elisha died, and they buried him. At the coming in of the year the Moabites invaded the land, and as the Israelites were burying a man they spied a band of men, and they cast the dead man into the sepulchre of Elisha; and when he was let down and had touched the bones of Elisha, he revived.¹

Jehoash took from Benhadad the cities which Hazael had taken from Jehoahaz his father. Three times did Jehoash beat him, and the prophecy of Elisha was fulfilled.

Jehoiada, the priest, lived one-hundred-and-thirty years, and he was buried among the kings, because he had done good in *Israel*. After his death, Joash and the princes of *Judah* served idols. Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada, reprov'd them for transgressing the commandments of God.² They conspired against him, and stoned him at the command of the king, in the court of the temple. Thus Joash, the king, remembered not the kindness of Jehoiada, but slew his son. When Zechariah died, he said, "The LORD look upon it, and require it." Then Hazael, king of *Syria*, and his host

came up against *Judah* and *Jerusalem*, and destroyed all the princes from among the people, and sent all the spoil to *Damascus*. The Lord delivered them into the hands of the *Syrians*, because they had forsaken the Lord God of their fathers. So they executed judgment against Joash. And Joash gave Hazael the hallowed things from the temple, which he and his fathers had dedicated, to purchase peace.

When the *Syrians* had departed from *Judah*, Joash was afflicted with great diseases, and two of his own servants conspired against him, and slew him. As soon as Amaziah succeeded Joash, he slew the two men who had killed his father.³ He then led his army forth and conquered the Edomites in the *Valley of Salt*. After this conquest Amaziah worshipped idols, which he had brought from *Seir*; for which he was reproved by a prophet.

Amaziah sent messengers to declare war against Jehoash, king of Israel. Jehoash told Amaziah that he had indeed smitten *Edom*, and that his heart lifted him up; he might glory of this, and tarry at home, lest he should fall and Judah with him. But Amaziah would not hear. The kings and their armies met at *Bethshemesh*; Jehoash took Amaziah prisoner, and came to *Jerusalem*, whence he took all the gold and the silver that were found in the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king's house. Jehoash departed not from the sins of Jeroboam the king of Israel. He died, and his son Jeroboam II., reigned in his stead.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "Thus saith the Lord God unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live; and I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the Lord." *Ezekiel* 37. 5, 6.

2 "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil."
Ecclesiastes 8. 11.

3 "The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers; every man shall be put to death for his own sin." *Deuteronomy* 24. 16.

LESSON XLV.

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

2Kings 14. 17-15. 26; 2Chronicles 26. 21. Book of Jonah.

Jeroboam II., restored the borders of *Israel* from *Hamath* to the *Dead Sea*; and he also recovered *Damascus*. About this time God sent Jonah, the prophet, to comfort Israel.

Amaziah reigned in *Judah* fifteen years after the death of Jehoash, king of Israel. When he turned from following the Lord, a conspiracy was formed against him in *Jerusalem*; and he fled to *Lachish*, and was slain there.¹ Uzziah was sixteen years old when his father Amaziah was slain; all the people of Judah made him king. He sought God all the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God; and as long as he sought the Lord, God caused him to prosper. God helped Uzziah against the *Philistines*, the *Arabians*, and the *Mehunims*; and the *Ammonites* brought him gifts. He built towers in *Jerusalem* and in the desert, and digged wells, for he had much cattle, and husbandmen, and vine dressers; for he loved husbandry.

Jonah, the prophet, was commanded to go to *Nineveh*, and cry against it. He rose up to flee from the presence of the Lord, and went down to *Joppa*, where he found a ship going to *Tarshish*, and he went in it. But the Lord sent a great storm, and the mariners were afraid. Jonah told them to cast him into the sea, and it would be calm. Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. Then Jonah prayed unto the Lord out of the belly of the fish, and the Lord spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land. Jonah then went to *Nineveh*, and as he walked through the city, he cried and said, "Yet forty days, and *Nineveh* shall be overthrown." So the people of *Nineveh* believed

God, and the king proclaimed a fast, and commanded the people to cry mightily unto God, and turn from their evil ways. And when God saw their repentance, he spared them and would not overthrow the city.²

When Jonah saw that his prophecy was not fulfilled he became very angry. But God showed him he ought not to be angry, because he had spared *Nineveh*, which contained more than six-score-thousand persons, that could not discern between their right hand and their left hand, and also much cattle.

Zachariah, the son of Jeroboam reigned but six months in *Israel*. Shallum conspired against him, slew him, and reigned a month in *Samaria*. Menahem went up and smote Shallum, and reigned in his stead. In his reign Pul, king of *Assyria*, came against the land, and Menahem gave him tribute—a thousand talents of silver, which he exacted from the mighty men of wealth. Menahem was succeeded by his son Pekahiah, who reigned two years and did evil. He was slain by Pekah, one of his captains, who usurped the throne.

Uzziah king of *Judah*, transgressed against God by going into the temple to burn incense. The priests withstood him, saying that the sons of Aaron alone were consecrated to burn incense.³ Uzziah was angry with the priests, and while he was angry he became leprous, being smitten by the Lord. The king was a leper till his death

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them; I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it."

Deuteronomy 30. 17, 18.

2 "The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it; because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here." *Matthew* 12. 41

3 "Therefore thou (Aaron) and thy sons with thee shall keep your priest's office for every thing of the altar, and within the vail; and ye shall serve; I have given your priest's office unto you as a service of gift; and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death" *Numbers* 18. 7.

LESSON XLVI.

Of Jotham and Ahaz. Isaiah. Decline of Israel. Hezekiah.

2Kings 15-16; 2Chronicles 26-30. Isaiah.

Jotham reigned after his father Uzziah, he prevailed against the *Ammonites*, so that they paid tribute to him. He became mighty because he prepared his ways before the Lord his God; he reigned sixteen years. Ahaz succeeded Jotham he not only followed the idolatry of the king of Israel, but also the abominations of the heathen nations. Rezin, king of *Syria*, and Pekah, king of Israel, invaded *Jerusalem*, and Ahaz was afraid when he heard they were leagued together against him. Isaiah the prophet, was commissioned to tell him not to fear nor be faint-hearted.

Isaiah prophesied of the birth of Christ, saying, "A virgin shall bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."¹ The people of *Zebulun* and *Naphtali* were to see the great light shine—the light of the gospel, or the beginning of the kingdom of Christ.

Ahaz burnt incense in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree. Therefore the Lord delivered him into the hand of the king of *Syria*, and he and a great multitude of his people were taken captive to *Damascus*. Ahaz was also delivered for his sins into the hand of Pekah, the king of *Israel*, who slew in *Judah* 120,000 valiant men in one day, and carried away captive 200,000 persons and brought the spoil to *Samaria*. A prophet of the Lord, named Oded, reproved the people of Israel for making their brethren bondmen.² About this time the people of Judah began to be called Jews.

Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglath-pileser, king of *Assyria*, asking assistance against Rezin, king of *Syria*; he sent the treasures of the temple, and of the king's house to Tiglath-pileser, who sent up against *Damascus* and took it. He carried the people captive to *Kir*

and slew Rezin. Tiglath-pileser also invaded *Israel* in the reign of Pekah, he conquered the northern parts of *Canaan*, and carried away the inhabitants captive into *Assyria*.³ Hoshea conspired against Pekah, slew him, and reigned in his stead. Hoshea did evil in the sight of the Lord, Shalmaneser; the king of *Assyria*, came against him, and Hoshea paid tribute to him.

After the death of Ahaz, his son Hezekiah began to reign. He destroyed all forms of idolatry, and he restored the temple service, and sent priests and Levites into the temple to cleanse it, as well as the holy vessels and altars. The temple was afterwards sanctified by burnt-offerings, and by the worship of the king and all the congregation.

Hezekiah sent letters throughout all *Israel* and *Judah*, inviting the people to come to *Jerusalem*, and keep the passover; and not to be like their fathers and brethren, who trespassed against the Lord. Some of those who came to this feast of the passover were not sanctified according to the law of Moses. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, "The good LORD pardon every one that prepareth his heart to seek the LORD God of his fathers, though he be not cleansed according to the purification of the sanctuary." The priests blessed the people, and their voice was heard, and their prayer came up to God's holy dwelling place, even to heaven.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9. 6.

2 "Both thy bondmen, and thy bondmaids, which thou shalt have, shall be of the heathen that are round about you; of them shall ye buy bondmen and bondmaids." *Leviticus 25. 44.*

3 "The Lord shall bring thee, and thy king which thou shalt set over thee, unto a nation which neither thou nor thy fathers have known; and there shalt thou serve other gods, wood and stone; and thou shalt become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword, among all nations whither the Lord shall lead thee." *Deuteronomy 28. 36, 37.*



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

2Kings 17-20; 2Chronicles 32. 22.

Shalmaneser, king of *Assyria*, found Hoshea, king of Israel, conspiring against him with So, king of *Egypt*, and he brought no tribute as he had done year by year, therefore the king of *Assyria* bound him in prison in the sixth year of his reign. Shalmaneser then went up and besieged *Samaria* three years.

He carried the people of *Israel* away, and placed them in *Assyria* and in the cities of the *Medes*. God suffered them to be thus taken captive for their sins against him; they had forsaken God, served idols, and rejected his prophets. The king of *Assyria* brought men from *Babylon*, who feared not the Lord, to dwell in the cities of *Samaria*.¹

In the fourteenth year of Hezekiah's reign, Sennacherib, king of *Assyria*, came up against the fenced cities of *Judah*, and took them. Hezekiah strengthened *Jerusalem* for a siege, and he encouraged the people. He afterwards acknowledged to Sennacherib that he had offended, and offered to pay him tribute. And Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was found in the house of the Lord, and in the treasures of the king's house, and he cut off the gold from the doors and pillars of the temple and gave it to him. In those days Hezekiah was sick unto death. The prophet Isaiah came to him and announced this message from the Lord, "Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live." Hezekiah turned his face to the wall, and prayed to the Lord, and wept. Isaiah departed, but was commissioned to return, and tell him that God had heard his prayer, and seen his tears, and he would heal him, and on the third day he should go up to the house of the Lord. He was also to announce to him, that God would add fifteen years to his life, and deliver him from the king of *Assyria*.²

Berodach-baladan, the son of Baladan, king of *Babylon*, heard that Hezekiah had been sick, and he sent letters and a present to Hezekiah. Hezekiah showed the messengers all his precious things; his silver, gold, spices, armour, and every thing he had. Isaiah came and inquired of Hezekiah what the messengers wanted, and whence they had come. Hezekiah told him that they had come from *Babylon*, and that he had shown them all his treasures. Isaiah then announced to him, that the days would come when all he had in store should be carried away to *Babylon*, and his sons should be captives there. Hezekiah bowed submissively to this sentence, saying, "Good is the word of the LORD which thou hast spoken."

Sennacherib sent his captains with a great host against *Jerusalem*; they reviled Hezekiah, and tried to persuade his people to revolt, but Hezekiah was comforted by this message from Isaiah, "Thus saith the LORD, be not afraid of the words which thou hast heard, with which the servants of the king of *Assyria* have blasphemed me. Behold, I will send a blast upon him, and he shall hear a rumour, and shall return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land." Afterwards the angel of the Lord went forth and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a-hundred-and-four-score-and-five-thousand. So Sennacherib returned to *Nineveh*, and he was slain by two of his sons.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes? and now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard; I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down; and I will lay it waste; it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it." *Isaiah* 5. 4-6.

2 "And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him; the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." *James* 5. 15, 16.

LESSON XLVIII.

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

Isaiah. 2Kings 21-23. 3; 2Chronicles 33, 34.

Isaiah foretold the coming of John the Baptist, as the messenger of Christ, saying, "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD."¹ He compared Christ's care of his people to that of a shepherd over his flock, and spoke of Christ's rejection, sorrows, sufferings, death for the transgressions of his people, his resurrection, and his intercession for the transgressors. He also spoke of the messengers of the gospel, saying, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him . . . that bringeth good tidings of good that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, thy God reigneth!" He predicted the coming of Cyrus² to perform God's pleasure, who would cause *Jerusalem* and the temple to be re-built; and he foretold the great extension of the gospel in the latter days. When Hezekiah died he was buried in the chief of the sepulchres of the sons of David, and all *Judah* and the inhabitants of *Jerusalem* did him honour at his death; and Manasseh, his son, reigned in his stead.

Manasseh was only twelve years old when he began to reign. He restored all kinds of idolatry, he reared up altars for Baal, made a grove, set a graven image in the house of the Lord, and filled *Jerusalem* with innocent blood. The Lord spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they would not hearken. Therefore God brought upon them the host of the king of *Assyria*; they bound Manasseh with fetters and carried him to *Babylon*. Manasseh humbled himself before the God of his fathers, and prayed unto him. The Lord heard his supplication, and brought him again to his kingdom. He repaired *Jerusalem*, took away the strange gods, and the idol out of the house of the

Lord, and all the altars he had built, and cast them out of the city. Manasseh was king fifty-and-five years. He was succeeded by Amon his son, who served idols, and forsook the Lord God. His servants conspired against him, and slew him after a reign of two years. The people made Josiah, his son, king in his stead.

Josiah began to reign at eight years old ; and in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of David his father. In the eighteenth year of his reign he repaired the house of God, and a book of the law of the Lord, given by Moses, was found by Hilkiah, the priest, in the temple. When the king heard the word of the law, he rent his clothes, for grief, because the fathers of *Judah* had not kept the word of the Lord.³ Huldah, the prophetess, declared that the Lord would bring all the evil written therein upon *Judah*. Of the king Josiah she said, "Because thine heart was tender, and thou didst humble thyself before God, when thou heardest his words against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, . . . I will gather thee to thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered to thy grave in peace, neither shall thine eyes see all the evil that I will bring upon this place." Josiah then assembled all the elders of *Judah* in the temple, and the king and the people made a covenant to walk after the Lord, and to keep his commandments.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "And thou child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest ; for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways ; to give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins." *Luke* 1. 76, 77.

2 "I have raised him up (Cyrus) in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways ; he shall build my city, and he shall let go my captives, not for price nor reward, saith the Lord of hosts." *Isaiah* 45. 13.

3 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness ; that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."

2 Timothy 3. 16, 17.

LESSON XLIX.

Josiah's Death. Jeremiah's Prophecies.

2Chronicles 35. 20-36. 7. 2Kings 23. 25-24. 1. Jeremiah.

Necho, king of *Egypt*, came up to fight against *Charchemish*, by the *Euphrates*; and Josiah went out against him. But Necho sent ambassadors to Josiah, telling him to forbear, as he came not against him. Josiah would not return, but disguised himself and went into the battle. The archers shot at king Josiah in the *valley of Megiddo*, and he was sorely wounded. His servants brought him to *Jerusalem*, and he died, and was buried in one of the sepulchres of his fathers.¹ All *Judah* and *Jerusalem* mourned for him; for there was no king before him nor after him, that turned to the Lord with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, as he did, according to the law of Moses.

The people made Jehoahaz, a younger son of Josiah, king after his father; he reigned only three months and did evil. Pharaoh-Necho deposed and imprisoned him, and afterwards carried him away into *Egypt* where he died. He also exacted tribute from the kingdom; and made Jehoiakim, the brother of Jehoahaz king.

Jeremiah was the son of Hilkiah, a priest of *Anathoth*; he lived during the reigns of Josiah and the succeeding kings of Judah. He was commissioned to reprove the Jews for their idolatries; to tell them of the certain punishments which awaited them; and to exhort them to repentance. He spoke of the ingratitude of the people to God, for defiling with idolatry the good and plentiful land he had given them; and also of the desolations which should come on *Judah* from the north.²

Jeremiah declared God's judgments against *Judah* for their transgressions; he said that the people should be utterly cast forth; and that their captivity, and the desolation of their country were at hand. The priests

accused Jeremiah to the princes of prophesying against the city. He said, the Lord had sent him thus to prophesy, and he called on them to repent. The princes said that he was not worthy to die; and some of the elders asked if former prophets who had prophesied against *Jerusalem* had been put to death, and as they were not, the princes and elders would not consent to the death of Jeremiah.

Jeremiah was again sent to reprove the people of *Judah* for their idolatry and disobedience, and to say that God would bring Nebuchadnezzar against the land, and its inhabitants, and against all the nations round about, and utterly destroy them; and that the whole land should be a desolation seventy years.³

Jeremiah was commanded to take a roll of a book, and write down all the prophecies which the Lord had spoken to him against *Israel* and *Judah*. Jeremiah called Baruch, a scribe, who wrote them from the mouth of Jeremiah; and he commanded Baruch to read the roll publicly. Jehudi began to read it in the ears of the king and the princes. The king cut it with a pen-knife, and cast it into the fire. He then sent men to take Baruch and Jeremiah, but the Lord hid them.

When Jehoiakim had reigned three years, Nebuchadnezzar came up to *Jerusalem*, as Jeremiah had foretold; he bound Jehoiakim in fetters, and took him to *Babylon*; he also took away the vessels of the house of the Lord, and put them in his temple at *Babylon*.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

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

2 "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." *Proverbs* 1. 24-26.

3 *Moses* said "I know that after my death ye will utterly corrupt yourselves, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you; and evil will befall you in the latter days; because ye will do evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke him to anger through the work of your hands." *Deut.* 31. 29.

LESSON L.

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

2Kings 24. 2-25. 26. 2Chronicles 36. 8. 21. Daniel 1.

Ezekiel 26. 27.

Nebuchadnezzar directed Ashpenaz to select from among the captives, the noblest, the most beautiful, and the most skilful of the princes of *Judah*, to be brought up in the wisdom of the *Chaldeans*. Among them were Daniel, and his three friends, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. God blessed Daniel and his friends in their captivity, and gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom. And Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

After Jehoiakim had rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar, the Lord sent bands of the *Chaldeans*, the *Syrians*, the *Moabites*, and the *Ammonites* against Judah to destroy it. Jehoiakim died after reigning eleven years, and his son, Jehoiachin, succeeded him.

Soon after, Nebuchadnezzar again besieged *Jerusalem*, and Jehoiachin, the new king, and the princes and all the mighty men, and craftsmen, and smiths, were taken captive to *Babylon*. None were left in the land save the poorest of the people.¹ Nebuchadnezzar then made Zedekiah king over *Judah*.

Zedekiah rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar, and the priests and the people mocked the messengers of God; therefore God brought upon them the king of the *Chaldeans*. In the tenth year of Zedekiah's reign, Nebuchadnezzar again besieged *Jerusalem* and destroyed the city and temple with fire.² Jeremiah had prophesied of the captivity of Zedekiah, and that though the people of Judah should fight with the *Chaldeans*, they should not prosper. While in prison Jeremiah shewed his faith in God's promises of the return from captivity, by buying from Hanameel, his uncle's son, a field in *Anathoth*. He took witnesses of the purchase, to whom he expressed his belief in the

word of the Lord, that the Jews should again possess houses, and fields, and vineyards in the land, though it was then given up to the *Chaldeans*. God then comforted Jeremiah, by again assuring him, that he would gather the captives out of all lands, and bring them into their own land to dwell safely.

When the city was besieged, Zedekiah and the men of war fled by night, but the army of the *Chaldeans* overtook them on the plains of *Jericho*, and all the army was scattered. They carried Zedekiah up unto the king of *Babylon*, at *Riblah*, and slew his sons before his eyes; the princes of *Judah* also were slain in *Riblah* before him. Then they put out the eyes of Zedekiah, bound him in chains, carried him to *Babylon*, and put him in prison till the day of his death. Nebuzar-adan, the captain of the guard, had charge to do Jeremiah no harm, so he took him out of prison, and committed him to the care of Gedaliah.

Nebuchadnezzar appointed Gedaliah governor of the land of *Judah*, after *Jerusalem* had been destroyed. Jeremiah went and joined Gedaliah; but Ishmael, instigated by Baalis, the king of Ammon, slew him. Jeremiah wished to remain in the land, but he was taken into *Egypt* by Johanan and his friends.

Tyre rejoiced when *Jerusalem* was destroyed, saying, "I shall be replenished, now she is laid waste." *Tyre* was then a place of merchandise; but God threatened to destroy her, to break down her towers, and make her like the top of a rock, a place for spreading nets upon, in the midst of the sea, that should be built no more.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "How doth the city sit solitary, that was full of people! how is she become as a widow! she that was great among the nations, and princess among the provinces, how is she become tributary." *Lamentations* 1. 1.

2 "The holy cities are a wilderness, Zion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation; our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee, is burned up with fire; and all our pleasant things are laid waste."

Isaiah 64. 10, 11.

LESSON LI.

Of Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel, and Belshazzar.

Daniel 2-9.

In the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign he dreamed a dream which his wise men could not interpret. God made known the dream and its interpretation to Daniel, who told the king the dream, and explained it.¹ Four kingdoms were to succeed each other after *Babylon*; the fourth was to be the strongest, but during its decline, God would set up a kingdom which should stand for ever. Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged the greatness of God, and made Daniel ruler over *Babylon*.

Nebuchadnezzar set up an image of gold on the *plain of Dura*, and commanded all people to worship it. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused, and were cast into a burning fiery furnace. The king was astonished to see four men in the furnace, walking about unhurt; and the form of the fourth was like the Son of God. He then called Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to come forth, for the fire, had no power on them. The king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to high honour.

Nebuchadnezzar had a second dream which his wise men could not interpret. He sent for Daniel, and told it to him. Daniel was troubled in his thoughts for an hour. He then interpreted the dream which was to show the king, that, for his pride, he should be driven from men, and eat grass as oxen. This interpretation was fulfilled; and at the end of seven years, the king lifted up his eyes to heaven, his understanding returned to him, and he blessed the most High God.

Belshazzar, king of *Babylon*, made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and he commanded the golden and silver vessels belonging to the temple of *Jerusalem* to be brought. He, his princes, his wives, and his concubines, drank wine from them, and praised the gods of gold, silver, brass, iron, wood, and stone. In

that same hour a hand appeared writing on the wall of the palace. The king was greatly troubled ; he called for the wise men of *Babylon*, and promised them great gifts and honour if they should read the writing, and show the interpretation, but none of them could do it. Daniel was then sent for, and he read the writing and declared the interpretation of it, saying ; “ *God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it.—Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting—Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.*” The same night Belshazzar was slain, and Darius, the Median, took the kingdom.

The enemies of Daniel procured a decree from Darius, that if for thirty days, any one should ask a favour of any God or man except the king, he should be cast into a den of lions. They found Daniel praying, and making supplication before his God ; wherefore they accused him to the king.² The king could not deliver him contrary to the decree. He said to Daniel, “ Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.” Daniel was then cast into the den of lions. In the morning the king went to the den, and called to Daniel, who answered that God had sent his angel, and shut the lions’ mouths. Daniel was taken out of the den ; his accusers were cast into it, and the lions destroyed them. Cyrus, who succeeded Darius, made a proclamation to the Jews in the first year of his reign, that they should return, and re-build their city, and the house of God in *Jerusalem*.³ Thus the prophecy of Isaiah respecting Cyrus was fulfilled.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 “ There is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days.” *Daniel 2. 28.*

2 “ The wicked watcheth the righteous, & seeketh to slay him.” *Psa. 37. 32.*

“ The scribes and Pharisees watched Jesus, whether he would heal on the sabbath day ; that they might find an accusation against him.” *Luke 6. 7.*

3 “ Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion ! When God bringeth back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad.” *Psalms 53. 6.*

LESSON LII.

Of Haman and Mordecai. Rebuilding of Jerusalem. &c.

Esther. Nehemiah. Malachi.

Ahasuerus, king of *Persia*, made a feast to his nobles, and another feast to all the people in *Shushan*; and his wife made a feast for the women of the royal house. On the seventh day of the feast, when the king's heart was merry with wine, he commanded the presence of Vashti, the queen, that she might show the people and the princes her beauty.¹ She refused to go, and the king was very angry. He deposed Vashti, and married Esther, a Jewess, whose parents were dead. Esther had been brought up by Mordecai, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, and she was his cousin.

Ahasuerus promoted Haman, an Agagite, above all the other princes, and the king's servants revered him. Mordecai alone bowed not to him. Haman was very angry; he spoke of the Jews to the king as a disloyal people, and obtained a decree against them. He sent letters through all the provinces for the destruction of the Jews on a certain day. Mordecai informed Esther of this decree; accordingly she went to Ahasuerus, and made a request to him that he and Haman would come to a banquet, which she had prepared. On that night the king could not sleep; the chronicles of his kingdom were read to him, from which he learned that Mordecai had discovered a conspiracy against his life, and had received neither reward nor honour. Just then, Haman came to the king to request that Mordecai should be hanged on a gallows he had prepared. The king asked him, "What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour?" Haman thought only of himself, and suggested that such man should be clothed in royal apparel, and placed on the king's horse, and that one of the king's

most noble princes should go with that man through the city and proclaim before him, "Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour." The king approved of this, and told Haman to do even as he had said unto Mordecai, the Jew. Esther accused Haman of having contrived the death of herself and her people, and he was hanged on the gallows which he had prepared for Mordecai.² The king then issued another decree to save the Jews, and Mordecai was promoted to great honour.

Zerubbabel, the governor of *Judah*, and Jeshua, the high priest, forwarded the re-building of the temple, which was delayed fourteen years by the *Samaritans*, whom Esar-haddon, king of *Assyria*, had placed in *Samaria*.

Sanballat and Tobiah derided the Jews in their labours, yet they were very angry as the work proceeded. Nehemiah set men to guard those who builded, and some of them worked with one hand, and held a weapon in the other. When the wall was finished, it was dedicated with gladness, and with great thanksgivings.

Malachi was the last of the prophets whose writings are in the Old Testament. He foretold the conversion of the Gentiles; he spoke of Christ as the Sun of righteousness;³ and he predicted the coming of John the Baptist, in the spirit of Elijah, to prepare the hearts of the people for the coming of Christ.

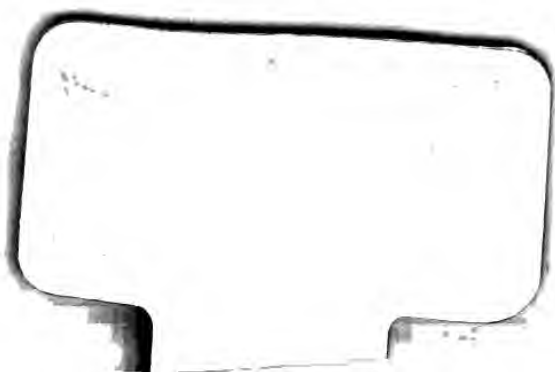
SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

1 "It is not for kings, to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink; lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted." *Proverbs* 31. 4, 5.

2 "They have prepared a net for my steps; my soul is bowed down; they have digged a pit before me, into the midst whereof they are fallen themselves." *Psalms* 57. 6.

3 "Unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings." *Malachi* 4. 2.





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