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Transcribed from a PDF scan (189 pages; Google Books digitization of a copy from the British Museum library) of Simha C. Peixotto, Elementary Introduction to the Scriptures, for the Use of Hebrew Children, fourth edition (Philadelphia: Parry & McMillan, 5620 [1859–60]; copyright 1840; preface dated March 17th, 5614 [1854]). The book is a question-and-answer catechism of Bible history, from Creation to the last of the prophets, in twenty-nine lessons.

The text follows the original's wording, spelling (including British spellings such as "honour") and punctuation. Misprints are kept and flagged in footnotes. The spaces the printer set before question marks, semicolons and colons are not reproduced. Printed page numbers appear in grey brackets, e.g. [p. 7], where each page begins; [p. —] marks a page without a printed number. Running heads, signature marks and the scan's blank and cover pages are omitted, as are the British Museum stamps (on the back of the title page and after "The End", dated 30 Ju[ne] [18]91) and a pencil mark on the title page. Italics are reproduced for Bible references and for the Hebrew words the book explains. A few other words the original italicizes for emphasis are set in roman here.

This transcription was made from the scan's machine-read text. Every word the computer did not recognize was then checked against the page images, so the text should be reliable. Still, check it against the scan before quoting it in print.

[p. —] # ELEMENTARY INTRODUCTION

TO THE

SCRIPTURES,

FOR THE

USE OF HEBREW CHILDREN.

BY SIMHA C. PEIXOTTO.

FOURTH EDITION.

"Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure and right."—Prov. xx. 11.

PHILADELPHIA:
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SIMHA C. PEIXOTTO,
In the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States, for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

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[p. —] **DEDICATION.**

MR. A. C. PEIXOTTO.

THIS little production of my pen I most respectfully dedicate to you, as a slight acknowledgment of the many advantages I have received at your hand. The mind you have cultivated cannot withhold this public testimony of gratitude, humbly hoping that it may meet your approbation, and be accepted from

Your Neice,[1]
S. C. P.

[1] So printed (for "Niece").

[p. v] # PREFACE.

THE increased demand lately manifested for elementary books, in the Jewish religion, induces me to offer this little contribution, in which, no doubt, some errors may be found, as it was written at times when repose, both of body and mind, was greatly needed. I trust, however, it will be productive of a spirit of inquiry in the youthful students, and induce them to seek for further light in the Holy Volume containing that heavenly code announced from Sinai, and which has been the means of our wonderful preservation.

An acknowledgment is due to the American Sunday School Union for the liberality they have manifested in permitting us to make their "Child's Scripture Question Book" the basis of this production, and I, therefore, return them publicly my thanks for their kind permission.

[p. vi] I am permitted to state that Mr. Leeser, the minister of our congregation, has revised the work, and that, as a whole, it meets with his approbation.

The book has been carefully revised for the third edition, which is issued from stereotype plates, cast under the supervision of Mr. Leeser.

Philadelphia, March 17th, 5614.

ELEMENTARY INTRODUCTION

TO

THE SCRIPTURES.

[p. 7] LESSON FIRST.

Q. WHAT is the name of the book in which are contained the laws constituting the Jewish religion?

A. The Scriptures or the Bible.

Q. What is the meaning of the word Bible?

A. It means book, but it is only used for the Sacred Scriptures.

Q. What proves that the Bible is of Divine origin, or that it is the word of God?

A. Because it tells of many things that God alone could know.

Q. Why should we prize this book above all others?

A. Because it informs us of our duties to God and our fellow-men, and teaches us how to govern our passions and sinful inclinations, by which means we are enlightened on the path to eternal happiness.

Q. What is the first book in the Bible called?

A. Genesis.

Q. What is the meaning of the word Genesis?

A. Creation.

Q. Of what does the first book give an account?

A. Of the creation.

Q. Who created the heavens, the earth, and all that is therein?

A. God. *Gen.* i. 1.

Q. When did God create them?

A. [p. 8] In the beginning. *Gen.* i. 1.

Q. What existed prior the creation?

A. Nothing; but everything was produced by the Almighty's will.

Q. How long was God in creating all things?

A. Six days.

Q. What did God create on the first day?

A. Light.

Q. What did God say when he created the light?

A. "Let there be light," and there was light. *Gen.* i. 3.

Q. Could any other than the Supreme Being have had his will so instantaneously put into execution?

A. No; for He alone is able to create and produce the things which He wishes; as it is written: "For He spoke and it was; He commanded, and it stood fast." *Ps.* xxxiii. 9.

Q. What did God create on the second day?

A. The firmament. *Gen.* i. 6.

Q. What on the third?

A. Vegetables. *Gen.* i. 11.

Q. What on the fourth?

A. The sun, moon, and stars.

Q. What on the fifth?

A. Fishes, and fowls.

Q. What on the sixth?

A. Beasts, reptiles, and man.

Q. Who was the first man?

A. Adam.

Q. Why was he called Adam?

A. Because he was formed from the ground, which, in Hebrew, is called *Adamah*.

Q. Who was the first woman?

A. Eve (Heb., *Chavvah*, living).

Q. Why was she called Eve?

A. Because she was the mother of all living.

Q. [p. 9] **Of what was she formed?**

A. Of a rib taken from Adam while he slept. *Gen.* ii. 22.

Q. What did Adam say when Eve was presented to him?

A. "This is bone of my bone, and flesh of my flesh." *Gen.* ii. 23.

Q. Where were Adam and Eve placed?

A. In the garden of Eden. *Gen.* ii. 15.

Q. What were they forbidden to eat?

A. Of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. *Gen.* ii. 17.

Q. What punishment did God threaten them in case of disobedience?

A. That they should surely die.

Q. Who tempted Adam to sin?

A. Eve.

Q. Who tempted Eve?

A. The serpent.

Q. With what were they tempted?

A. With the forbidden fruit.

Q. Why did God first curse the ground, and cause it to bring forth thorns and thistles?

A. Because of the sin of Adam.

Q. Had Adam and Eve any other punishment for this great act of disobedience?

A. Yes: they were driven out of the garden of Eden, and compelled to labour all the days of their lives. As it is said, "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou returnest to the ground; for out of it wast thou taken; for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." *Gen.* iii. 19.

Q. What else did the LORD God create before He formed man?

A. The beasts of the field, and birds of every sort.

Q. Who gave names to them?

A. [p. 10] Adam.

Q. When was Adam honoured with this privilege?

A. While he was yet in a state of innocence and purity, that is, before he had eaten of the forbidden fruit.

Q. Who was Adam's first born son?

A. Cain.

Q. Who was the second?

A. Abel.

Q. What did Cain do for his support?

A. He tilled the ground.

Q. What was Abel's occupation?

A. He was a keeper of sheep, that is, a shepherd.

Q. Of what did Abel make an offering to the LORD?

A. Of the first-born and best of his flock.

Q. Did God accept this offering?

A. Yes; for it was given with a willing and devout heart?

Q. What is a devout heart?

A. The possession of a solemn conviction of the greatness and goodness of God, which induces man to practise his laws with a firm assurance of their purity and excellence.

Q. Of what did Cain make an offering?

A. Of the fruit of the ground.

Q. Was his offering acceptable to God?

A. No.

Q. Why was it not accepted?

A. Because it was not (like his brother's) offered in faith.

Q. What is faith?

A. It is the believing that God exists, and that He is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Q. Can any one please God without faith?

A. No; because sincerity alone can make our devotion acceptable.

Q. How did Cain feel towards his brother Abel, when his offering was rejected?

A. [p. 11] He felt angry, and envied him.

Q. What did Cain afterwards do to Abel?

A. He slew him, when they were alone in the field.

Q. How was Cain punished?

A. The ground was forbidden to yield to him the fruit of his labour, and he was condemned to be a wanderer on the earth.

Q. What did he say of his punishment?

A. That it was greater than he could bear. *Gen.* iv. 13. And being deprived of God's protection, he was in danger of being killed by anyone.

Q. What did God do to prevent the shedding of Cain's blood?

A. He set a mark on him, so that any one finding him might know him

Q. What became of Cain after this?

A. He fled from the presence of God, and lived in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden.

LESSON SECOND.

Q. WHAT patriarchs lived before the flood?

A. Adam, Seth, Enosh, Cainan, Mahalalel, Jared, Enoch, Methushelah, Lamech, and Noah.

Q. What is the meaning of patriarch?

A. The ruler of a family.

Q. How old was Lamech when his son Noah was born unto him?

A. A hundred and eighty-two years. *Gen.* v. 28.

Q. Why did Lamech call this son Noah?

A. Lamech being then old, began to feel weary of toil, and felt that his son would comfort him, and cause him to rest from labour; he therefore called him Noah, meaning rest.

Q. What patriarch lived at the time of the flood?

A. [p. 12] Noah.

Q. What became of Enoch?

A. He was taken up to heaven without dying. *Gen.* v. 24.

Q. Who was the oldest man?

A. Methushelah. *Gen.* v. 27.

Q. How old was he?
A. Nine hundred and sixty-nine years.

Q. How many sons had Noah?
A. Three: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Q. How old was Noah before these sons were born unto him?
A. Five hundred years. *Gen.* v. 32.

Q. Who brought the flood of waters upon the earth?
A. God.

Q. Why?
A. Because of the great wickedness of its inhabitants. *Gen.* vi. 13.

Q. Who found grace in the sight of the Lord at that time?
A. Noah.

Q. What was the character of Noah?
A. He was a righteous man, and upright in his generations, and walked with God. *Gen.* vi. 9.

Q. What do you mean by saying Noah walked with God?
Q. He led a life that was pleasing to God, and walked humbly before Him.[2]
Q. What was Noah instructed to build for his preservation from the flood?
A. An ark. *Gen.* vi. 14.

Q. How long was Noah in building the ark?
A. About one hundred and twenty years.

Q. Can you tell me in what manner the water was kept out of the ark?
A. God commanded Noah to caulk it both in and out [p. 13] with pitch. Ships are now caulked in the same manner before they are fit for use.

Q. How many persons were saved in the ark?
A. Eight.

Q. Who were they?
A. Noah and his wife, his three sons and their wives. *Gen.* vii. 13.

Q. What other creatures were saved in the ark?
A. Beasts, birds, and moving things of every sort. *Gen.* vii. 14.

Q. In what numbers did they enter the ark?
A. Of the clean animals of all flesh they went in by sevens, both males and females, and of those that were not clean by twos, the males and their females. *Gen.* vii. 2.

Q. How old was Noah when the flood of waters was upon the earth?
A. Six hundred years.

[2]So printed, with "Q."; this is the answer to the preceding question.

Q. How long did it rain on the earth?

A. Forty days and forty nights.

Q. What became of those animals that were left or dry-land out of the ark?

A. They all perished.

Q. How long did the waters prevail on the earth?

A. One hundred and fifty days. *Gen.* vii. 24.

Q. Where did the ark rest at the subsiding of the flood?

A. On the mountains of Ararat, in Armenia. *Gen.* viii. 4.

Q. How could Noah discover (being in the ark) that the waters had abated?

A. He sent out a raven, which returned to the ark without bringing any tokens of the earth with him; he then waited seven days longer and sent a dove which first returned equally unsuccessful; but after another week she was again sent out, when finding a branch on [p. 14] which to rest, she returned bearing an olive leaf in her mouth; so Noah discovered that the waters were decreasing, but not sufficiently to admit of his leaving the ark.

Q. How at last did Noah ascertain that the earth was dry?

A. He waited yet another seven days, and again sent out the dove, which, then finding the earth free from water, returned not again unto Noah. *Gen.* viii. 12.

Q. How long was Noah in the ark?

A. About a year.

Q. What religious service did he perform on leaving the ark?

A. He built an altar unto the Lord, and thereon offered burnt-offerings. *Gen.* viii. 20.

Q. What did God then promise?

A. That He would no more bring a flood of waters on the earth to destroy it. *Gen.* ix. 15.

Q. What else did God promise?

A. That while the earth lasts, seed-time, and harvest, and cold, and heat, and summer, and winter, and day, and night, should not cease. *Gen.* viii. 22.

Q. What did God do to Noah and his sons?

A. He blessed them, and commanded them to increase and multiply.

Q. What was the token of God's covenant with Noah and his descendant's?

A. The rainbow. *Gen.* ix. 13.

Q. How long did Noah live after the flood?

A. Three hundred and fifty years. *Gen.* ix. 28.

Q. How old was Noah when he died?

A. Nine hundred and fifty years. *Gen.* ix. 29.

Q. From whom are the human inhabitants of the earth descended?

A. From Noah's three sons.

[p. 15] **LESSON THIRD.**

Q. WHAT did the people undertake to build soon after the flood?

A. A city and a tower. *Gen.* xi. 4.

Q. Where?

A. In the plain of Shinar. *Gen.* xi. 2.

Q. For what purpose was the tower to be erected?

A. To make themselves a name, and prevent their being scattered abroad over the earth. *Gen.* xi. 4.

Q. How did the Lord frustrate their designs?

A. By confounding their language.

Q. What was the city called?

A. Babel. *Gen.* xi. 7. *Gen.* xi. 9.

Q. What is the meaning of Babel?

A. Confusion.

Q. What became of the people who so presumptuously endeavoured to build the tower?

A. They were scattered abroad over the face of all the earth. *Gen.* xi. 9.

LESSON FOURTH.

Q. WHO was the father of Abraham?

A. Terah. *Gen.* xi. 27.

Q. How many brothers had Abraham?

A. Two: Nahor and Haran.

Q. Who was Abraham's wife?

A. Sarah.

Q. What was the name of Nahor's wife?

A. Milcah. *Gen.* xi. 29.

Q. What became of his brother Haran?

A. He died before his father Terah in the land of his birth.

Q. [p. 16] **Had Surah, Abraham's wife, at that time any children?**

A. No.

Q. Where did God first appear to Abraham?

A. In Mesopotamia.

Q. When the Lord appeared to Abraham, what did He say to him?

A. "Get thee out from 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." *Gen.* xii. 1, 2.

Q. Did Abraham obey?

A. Yes; he removed from Charan, and went to Canaan. *Gen.* xii. 5.

Q. Who accompanied Abraham to Canaan, besides his own family?

A. Lot, his nephew, being a son of his brother Haran.

Q. What did the LORD say unto him?

A. "Unto thy descendants will I give this land." *Gen.* xii. 7.

Q. What did Abraham do before he left?

A. He built an altar unto the LORD. *Gen.* xii. 7.

Q. What country did he next visit?

A. Egypt. *Gen.* xii. 10.

Q. Why did he leave Canaan?

A. Because there was a famine in the land.

Q. What is a famine?

A. A scarcity of food.

Q. When Abraham left Egypt, where did he go?

A. "To the place where his tent had been at first, between Beth-el and Hai, unto the place of the altar; and there he called on the name of the LORD." *Gen.* xiii. 3, 4.

Q. Did Abraham and Lot live long together after they came to Beth-el?

A. [p. 17] No. Their cattle were so numerous, that the place could not afford sufficient support for them; they were, therefore, obliged to separate.

Q. What part of the country did Lot choose?

A. The plain of Jordan. *Gen.* xiii. 11.

Q. Why did he choose it?

A. Because it was well watered and fertile. xiii. 10. Gen.

Q. In what city did he dwell?

A. In Sodom (*Sedom*.) *Gen.* xiii. 12.

Q. What judgment befel Sodom, after awhile?

A. It was destroyed by brimstone and fire, which the LORD caused to descend from heaven. *Gen.* xix. 24.

Q. By whom was Lot warned of his danger?

A. By two angels, or messengers. *Gen.* xix. 1.

Q. What did he do?

A. He fled from the city.

Q. What became of his wife?

A. She looked back on Sodom, and became a pillar of salt. *Gen.* xix. 26.

Q. To what city did Lot repair?

A. To Zoar. *Gen.* xix. 23.

Q. How many cities were destroyed?

A. Four. Their names were, Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboyim. *Gen.* xiv. 2.

Q. What now occupies the place where those cities once stood?

A. It is covered by the Dead Sea.

Q. What was the cause of this visitation?

A. The great wickedness of the men of Sodom, who sinned exceedingly before the LORD. *Gen.* xiii. 13.

Q. What did the LORD say unto Abraham after Lot had separated from him?

A. "Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art, northward, and southward, east [p. 18] ward, and westward; for all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give, and to thy descendants forever." *Gen.* xiii. 14, 15.

Q. What did the LORD say with respect to the number of Abraham's descendants?

A. That they should be as numerous as the dust of the earth. *Gen.* xiii. 16.

Q. Where did Abraham go after this?

A. He removed his tent, and dwelt in the plain of Mamré, which is in Hebron; and there he built an altar unto the LORD. *Gen.* xiii. 18.

Q. What took place among the surrounding nations at that time?

A. They were engaged in war with some kingdoms of the East.

Q. What was the result?

A. The king of Sodom and his confederates were defeated.

Q. Did Abraham take part in this war?

A. Yes; because his kinsman Lot had been taken prisoner; and he therefore pursued the eastern kings, and rescued Lot and the other Sodomite prisoners.

Q. Did the Lord after this event reveal himself to Abraham?

A. Yes, He did, and promised him protection. *Gen.* xv. 1.

Q. Of what did Abraham complain to the LORD?

A. Of the want of an heir. *Gen.* xv. 3.

Q. What did the LORD then show Abraham?

A. He brought him out, and commanded him to look up at the stars, and try if he could number them.

Q. Was Abraham able to count them?

A. No. They were too numerous.

Q. What then did the LORD promise him?

A. That his descendants should be as numerous as the stars. *Gen.* xv. 5.

Q. [p. 19] **How did Abraham feel when he looked up?**

A. He believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him as righteous. *Gen.* xv. 6.

Q. After Abraham had communed with the LORD for some time, what fell upon him at the setting of the sun?

A. A deep sleep, and terror of great trouble.

Q. What did the Lord say unto Abraham?

A. "Know of a certainty that thy descendants shall be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and they shall make them work, and they shall afflict them four hundred years." *Gen.* xv. 13.

Q. Can you tell what land that was?

A. The land of Egypt.

Q. What did the LORD say should become of them at the end of the four hundred years?

A. That He would judge the nation whom they should serve, and after that, they should come out with great possessions. *Gen.* xv. 14.

Q. When did this vision take place?

A. Before the destruction of Sodom.

Q. Did God appear again to Abraham?

A. Yes.

Q. How old was Abraham when the Lord appeared to him as *El-Shadday*?

A. He was ninety and nine. *Gen.* xvii. 1.

Q. What change took place then in the life of this great patriarch?

A. The LORD changed his name from Abram to Abraham, signifying, in Hebrew, "father of a multitude;" as it is written, "Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be called Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee." *Gen.* xvii. 5.

Q. What then did the LORD say to Abraham?

A. That He would establish a covenant between [p. 20] Him and Abraham, and between Him and Abraham's descendants after him in their generations for an EVERLASTING covenant; to be a God unto him and his descendants. *Gen.* xvii. 7.

Q. What was the covenant?

A. The ordinance of circumcision. *Gen.* xvii. 10.

Q. How old was Abraham when he entered into the covenant?

A. Ninety and nine years. *Gen.* xvii. 24.

Q. Who besides Abraham then entered into the covenant?

A. His son Ishmael, born of the Egyptian Hagar, and all Abraham's household, as the LORD had commanded him *Gen.* xvii. 23.

Q. What is the penalty, should any male among us (the descendants of Abraham) not keep this covenant?

A. It is written that his soul shall be cut off from among his people. *Gen.* xvii. 14.

LESSON FIFTH.

Q. WHO was Abraham's child of promise?

A. Isaac.

Q. What is the meaning of *Yitzchak* (Isaac?)

A. Laughter.

Q. Why was his name called Isaac?

A. Because his father on being promised such a blessing, in his old age, laughed or rejoiced. *Gen.* xvii. 17.

Q. How old was Abraham when his son Isaac was born?

A. A hundred years. *Gen.* xxi. 5.

Q. Who was the brother of Isaac?

A. Ishmael, or *Yishmangale*?

Q. What is the meaning of Yismangale?

A. [p. 21] God will hear; for, as the LORD had heard the affliction of Hagar his mother, she was commanded to call his name *Yishmangale*. *Gen.* xvi. 11.

Q. Where did Ishmael dwell?

A. In the wilderness of Paran. *Gen.* xxi. 21.

Q. With whom did Abraham enter into a treaty of peace at Beër-sheba?

A. With Abimelech; and as there was an oath between them at the well, the place was called Beër-shebang, the WELL of the OATH. *Gen.* xxi. 32.

Q. What did Abraham plant in Beër-sheba?

A. A grove; and there he called on the name of the LORD the everlasting One.

Q. What took place after these things?

A. God commanded Abraham to take his beloved son Isaac, and offer him up as a burnt-offering.

Q. Did Abraham obey?

A. He did; nor was he long in showing his obedience to the Divine will; for he arose early in the morning, and took with him Isaac, and two young men (his servants) and directed his steps to the place which God had told him of. *Gen.* xxii. 3.

Q. As they were going to the place, what did Isaac say to his father?

A. "Behold the fire, and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt-offering?" *Gen.* xxiii. 7.

Q. What was Abraham's reply?

A. "God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt-offering, my son."

Q. When they reached the place, what did Abraham build?

A. An altar. *Gen.* xxii. 9.

Q. What did he do then?

A. He bound Isaac his son, laid him on the altar, and took the knife to slay him.

Q. Did Abraham slay him?

A. [p. 22] He did not.

Q. Why?

A. An angel of the LORD called to him from heaven saying, "Lay not thy hand upon the lad, neither do thou anything unto him; for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thy only one, from me. *Gen.* xxii. 12.

Q. Of what did this act of obedience give evidence?

A. Of Abraham's righteousness and firm faith in the LORD.

Q. When Abraham raised his eyes, what did he see?

A. "A ram caught in the thicket by his horns." *Gen.* xxii. 13.

Q. What did Abraham then do?

A. "He offered up the ram for a burnt-offering instead of his son."

Q. When the angel called a second time to Abraham, what did he say the LORD had promised to Abraham?

A. "That he would bless him, and multiply his descendants as the stars in the heaven, and as the sand on the sea-shore." *Gen.* xxii. 17.

Q. Who did he say should be blest in his seed?

A. All the nations of the earth. *Gen.* xxii. 18.

Q. Why?

A. Because he had obeyed the voice of the LORD.

Q. What name did Abraham give to the place at which his faith was so strongly tested?

A. He called it *Adonai Yirch*, signifying "the LORD will provide," the LORD having there provided a lamb to be slain instead of Isaac.

[p. 23] LESSON SIXTH.

Q. WHERE did Sarah die?

A. At Hebron.

Q. At what age did she die?

A. One hundred and twenty-seven years. *Gen.* xiii. 1.

Q. Where is Hebron?

A. About twenty-five miles south of Jerusalem.

Q. What burying-place did Abraham purchase?

A. The cave of Machphelah. *Gen.* xxiii. 19.

Q. Of whom did he purchase it?

A. Of Ephron, one of the sons of Heth.

Q. Where did Abraham send his servant to choose a wife for his son Isaac?

A. To Mesopotamia. *Gen.* xxiv. 10.

Q. To whose city?

A. The city of Nahor.

Q. What relation was Nahor to Abraham?

A. His brother.

Q. As Abraham's servant was praying at a well, who came to draw water?

A. Rebecca, the daughter of Bethuel.

Q. How did Rebecca treat Abraham's servant?

A. Very kindly. She gave him drink from her pitcher, and drew water for his camels also. *Gen.* xxiv. 18-20.

Q. What relation was Bethuel to Isaac?

A. Cousin.

Q. When the servant had made known his errand, what did Laban and Bethuel say?

A. "The thing proceedeth from the LORD; we cannot speak unto thee bad or good. Behold, Rebecca is before thee, take her and go; and let her be thy master's son's wife, as the LORD hath spoken." *Gen.* xxiv. 50, 51.

Q. [p. 24] **When Rebecca was asked, what did she say?**

A. "I will go." *Gen.* xxiv. 50, 58.

Q. What became of her?

A. She became the wife of Isaac. *Gen.* xxiv. 67.

Q. Unto whom did Abraham give all his wealth?

A. To Isaac, being his heir; but unto his other sons he gave presents.

Q. At what age did Abraham die?

A. One hundred and seventy-five years. *Gen* xxv. 7.

Q. Where was he buried?

A. In the cave of Machphelah.

Q. By whom?

A. By his sons Isaac and Ishmael. *Gen.* xxv. 9.

Q. Who were the sons of Isaac?

A. Esau and Jacob.

Q. Which of them sold his birth-right?

A. Esau.

Q. Why did he sell his birth-right?

A. Because he was faint and hungry from hunting, and thought his birth-right would be of no use as he was constantly exposed to danger.

Q. Who obtained the blessing that was intended for Esau?

A. His brother Jacob. *Gen.* xxvii. 36.

Q. To whom did Jacob flee after he had obtained the blessing?

A. To Laban, his mother's brother. *Gen.* xxviii. 5

Q. To what place did he go?

A. To Pandan-aram.[3]

Q. Where had Jacob a most wonderful dream?

A. At Beth-el?

Q. Where is Beth-el?

A. Ten or twelve miles north of Jerusalem.

Q. What did he dream?

A. He dreamt that he saw a ladder which stood on [p. 25] the earth, and the top of which reached to heaven, and that angels of God ascended and descended on it. *Gen.* xxviii. 12.

Q. What do you understand by ascending and descending?

A. Going up and coming down.

Q. Was there nothing else remarkable in this vision of Jacob's?

A. Yes; he heard the LORD speak to him, saying "I am the LORD the God of Abraham, thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give, and to thy descendants." *Gen.* xxviii. 13.

Q. What farther did the LORD promise him in this dream?

A. That his descendants should be as the dust of the earth, and that through him and his descendants all nations of the earth should be blessed.

Q. What is meant in the promise, that they should be as the dust of the earth, and that the nations should be blessed through him?

A. That our nation should be so many in number that they may be compared to the dust which cannot be counted for multitude, and that through us the nations would learn that the Eternal alone is God.

Q. How do you interpret this most gracious appearance of the Creator and his angels to Jacob?

A. By the angels ascending and descending is shown the providence of God, who, though He dwells in heaven, extends His care and government to the earth by means of angels, who are His ministering spirits: and the LORD being above it and saying, "I am the LORD the God of thy father Abraham," was to inform him that both he and his descendants should be under His especial protection and care.

Q. [p. 26] **What verse in this chapter of Genesis must you read to strengthen this interpretation?**

A. The fifteenth; in which the LORD said,"And behold I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee until I have done that which I have spoken of to thee."

[3]So printed (for "Padan-aram").

Q. What did Jacob say when he awoke?

A. He said, "Surely the LORD is in this place and I knew it not. This is none other than the house of God." *Gen.* xxviii. 17.

Q. What name did he call the place?

A. He called it Bate-Ale, which is Beth-el, meaning the house of God.

Q. What was the first name of that place?

A. Luz.

Q. When Jacob left Beth-el where did he go to?

A. He went to the land of the people of the East.

Q. What did he first behold when he came there?

A. He saw a well in a field, and three flocks of sheep by it.

Q. To whom was he there introduced?

A. To his cousin Rachel, the daughter of Laban, his mother's brother.

Q. For what purpose had Rachel come to the well?

A. To water her father's flock; for Rachel was a shepherdess.

Q. How many daughters had Laban?

A. Two; their names are Rachel and Leah.

Q. Who were Jacob's wives?

A. Rachel and Leäh.

Q. How long did he serve for them?

A. Fourteen years.

Q. Which of them did he love most?

A. Rachel.

Q. How long did Jacob dwell in Padan-aram?

A. [p. 27] Twenty years.

Q. How did Laban treat Jacob?

A. Very ungenerously; for, as Jacob says, "Had not the God of my fathers, the God of Abraham, and the Fear of Isaac been with me, surely thou wouldst now have sent me away poor: God hath seen my affliction and the labour of my hands, and rebuked thee yesterday." *Gen.* xxxi. 42.

Q. How did they at last separate?

A. They entered into a covenant of peace. Laban kissed his daughters and grandchildren, and blessed them, and returned unto his home.

Q. As Jacob pursued his journey, whom did he expect to encounter?

A. His brother Esau.

Q. How did Jacob feel, when he thought of meet ing his brother?

A. He felt afraid, as he was conscious of having displeased him?

Q. In what manner did he seek to make peace with him?

A. He sent him presents; by which he meant to show his brother that his desire was to appease him.

Q. To whom did Jacob pray to be delivered from the hand of his brother?

A. He fervently prayed to the LORD, the God of his fathers, the God who had protected and guided his steps since he had left his father's house.

Q. When Jacob was left alone what occurred to him?

A. An angel wrestled with him. He also asked what was his name, and he said, "Jacob."

Q. What did the angel then say to him?

A. He blessed Jacob, and said, "Thy name shall no more be called Jacob, but Israel; for as a prince hast thou power with God and men, and hast prevailed." *Gen.* xxxii. 28-29.

Q. [p. 28] **Is it for this reason that we are called Israelites?**

A. Yes. Our nation is acknowledged over the known world to be the descendants of that great patriarch, whose glorious name we bear.

Q. What did Jacob call the place?

A. He called the name of that place Peniël; for, said he, "I have seen God face to face," meaning that he had communed with an angel, and been preserved alive.

Q. Whom did Jacob meet after this?

A. His brother Esau, and his four hundred men.

Q. How did they meet?

A. Affectionately; they embraced each other and wept. *Gen.* xxxiii. 4.

Q. Did Esau at first accept of the presents?

A. No. He said, "I have enough, my brother, keep what thou hast unto thyself." But Jacob entreated him so much, that he could not refuse his offering of peace.

Q. Did the brothers then remain together?

A. No; they separated for a time. Esau went to Seïr, and Jacob again took up his journey towards Succoth.

Q. Where did God direct Jacob to go?

A. To Beth-el.

Q. What did Jacob then do?

A. He desired all who were with him to make themselves clean and change their garments, and then to accompany him to Beth-el, there to build an altar unto God and worship Him.

Q. What did Jacob's household give up to him before they commenced their journey?

A. They gave up the molten gods in their hands, which they wore as ornaments, as also their ear-rings. *Gen.* xxxv. 4.

Q. [p. 29] **What did Jacob do with the ornaments?**

A. He buried them under an oak which was by Shechem.

Q. Why did Jacob bury them?

A. Because they had belonged to the inhabitants of Shechem, and had engraven on them the image of their were worn in honour of them. Jacob buried idols, and them, that no trace of idolatry might be left among his household.

Q. What happened when they came to Beth-el?

A. Deborah the nurse of Rebecca, died.

Q. Where was she buried?

A. Under an oak, which Jacob called *Allone Bachute*. *Gen.* xxxv. 8.

Q. What is meant by the Hebrew term *Allone Bachute*?

A. It signifies the oak of weeping.

Q. When Jacob came out of Padan-aram, who again appeared unto him and blessed him?

A. God; and He said unto him, "Thy name is now Jacob; thy name shall no more be called Jacob, but Israel shall thy name be called; and He called his name Israel," thus confirming what the angel had before said when he blest him. *Gen.* xxxv. 10.

Q. As they journeyed from Beth-el, what son was born unto Jacob?

A. Benjamin.

Q. Who died during this journey?

A. Rachel, Benjamin's mother, who, just before her spirit fled, called his name Benoni, meaning in Hebrew, Son of my sorrow.

Q. Where did Rachel die?

A. Between Beth-el and Ephrathah, or Bethlehem.

Q. Who were Rachel's sons?

A. Joseph and Benjamin.

Q. Where did Jacob go to see Isaac, his father?

A. [p. 30] To Hebron. *Gen.* xxxv. 27.

Q. How old was Isaac when he died?

A. One hundred and eighty years.

Q. Where, and by whom was he buried?

A. He was buried in the field of Machpelah, by his sons Esau and Jacob.

Q. Where did Jacob dwell after his father's death?

A. He dwelt in the land of Canaan.

Q. How many sons had Jacob?

A. Twelve, who became the fathers of the twelve tribes of Israel.

Q. What were their names?

A. Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issacher, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher.

Q. Of all Israel's children, whom did he love most?

A. Joseph; because he was the son of his old age. *Gen.* xxxvii. 3.

Q. What did his father give him as a token of his peculiar love?

A. A coat of many colours.

Q. How were Joseph's brothers affected, when they observed their father's partiality?

A. They hated Joseph. *Gen.* xxxvii. 4.

Q. What probably increased their hatred to Joseph?

A. The report which he brought to their father of their evil conduct. *Gen.* xxxvii. 2.

Q. What did Joseph request of his brothers?

A. That they should listen to his dreams. *Gen* xxxvii. 6.

Q. What was his first dream?

A. He dreamt that he and his brothers were binding sheaves in the field. *Gen.* xxxvii. 7.

Q. What did he dream that his brothers' sheaves did?

A. That they bowed to his sheaf, which was standing upright.

Q. [p. 31] **What did his brothers say when they heard his first dream?**

A. "Shalt thou indeed reign over us?" *Gen.* xxxvii. 8.

Q. What was his second dream?

A. He dreamt that the sun, moon, and eleven stars made obeisance to him. *Gen.* xxxvii. 9.

Q. What did his father say, when he told him also this dream?

A. "What is this dream that thou hast dreamt? shall I and thy mother, and thy brothers indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?"

Q. Was his father angry with him when he thus spoke?

A. No; his father rebuked him not in anger; but chid him to allay the angry feelings which he observed had been raised in the hearts of his brothers.

Q. Where did Joseph's brothers go to feed their father's flock?

A. To Shechem. *Gen.* xxxvii. 12.

Q. When Israel called him, desiring him to go and see if it were well with his brothers, what did he say?

A. Joseph said, "Here am I," meaning, here I am ready and willing to obey your command.

Q. What does this submission on the part of Joseph indicate?

A. It shows that he was a good obedient son, willing to obey the voice of his father, though he knew how much his brothers hated him.

Q. From what place did Joseph go to seek his brothers?

A. From Hebron. *Gen.* xxxvii. 14.

Q. Where did he find them?

A. In Dothan.

Q. When they saw him afar off, what did they say of him?

A. [p. 32] "Behold this master of dreams cometh."

Q. What conspiracy did they form against him?

A. To kill him. *Gen.* xxxvii. 18.

Q. What did they say of his dreams?

A. "We will now see what will become of his dreams." *Gen.* xxxvii. 20.

Q. Why did they call him the master of dreams?

A. Because they did not believe that he had dreamt, but merely devised the dreams.

Q. What was the counsel of Reuben, his eldest brother?

A. To cast him in a pit that was in the wilderness. *Gen.* xxxvii. 22.

Q. Did they put him in the pit?

A. They did.

Q. Did Joseph long remain in the pit?

A. No; while his brothers were at their meal, a company of Ishmaelitish merchants who were going to Egypt, bought him of them. *Gen.* xxxvii. 28.

Q. What was Reuben's object in proposing to cast him in the pit?

A. To deliver him out of their hands and bring him back to his father again. *Gen.* xxxvii. 22.

Q. How old was Joseph at that time?

A. About seventeen years. *Gen.* xxxvii. 2.

Q. What did Israel say when his sons presented to him Joseph's coat, which they had dipped in the blood of a goat?

A. "It is my son's coat; an evil beast has devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces."

Q. How was Israel affected by the loss of Joseph?

A. "He wept for him, and refused to be comforted." *Gen.* xxxvii. 35.

[p. 33] LESSON SEVENTH.

Q. WHAT did the Ishmaelites do with Joseph?

A. They sold him in Egypt, to Potiphar.

Q. Who was Potiphar?

A. An officer of Pharaoh.

Q. Who was Pharaoh?

A. The king of Egypt.

Q. Who was with Joseph when he was sold to Potiphar?

A. God, whose protecting hand is ever stretched out towards the innocent.

Q. How did Potiphar treat Joseph when he saw that the LORD favoured him?

A. Very kindly.

Q. What did he make him?
A. Overseer of his house. *Gen.* xxxix. 4.

Q. What was the effect of this upon Potiphar's welfare?
A. The LORD blessed his house for Joseph's sake. Gen. xxxix 5.

Q. After this had continued for some time, what was done to Joseph?
A. He was cast in prison.

Q. Why was he put in prison?
A. He was accused by Potiphar's wife of a crime he had not committed.

Q. Did the LORD then forsake Joseph?
A. He did not; and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison. *Gen.* xxxix. 21.

Q. What officers of Pharaoh were imprisoned with Joseph?
A. His chief butler and chief baker.

Q. What occurred that troubled them?
A. In one night they both dreamt dreams. Gen. xl 5.

Q. [p. 34] **What did they say to Joseph?**
A. 'That they had dreamt and had no one to interpret their dreams. *Gen.* xl. 8.

Q. What did Joseph say?
A. "Do not interpretations belong to God? tell them to me, I pray you."

Q. What did Joseph mean by this?
A. To convince the prisoners that interpreters of dreams were only agents, who without God's will could not interpret correctly.

Q. What did Joseph say that the chief butler's dream meant?
A. That in three days he should be released from prison, and restored to his place. *Gen.* xl. 13.

Q. What did Joseph request of the chief butler?
A. To think of him when he should be restored to his former honours.

Q. Did the chief butler remember Joseph?
A. No; nor would he at last have thought of him, had not the Omnipotent guarded the innocent Joseph.

Q. What reminded the ungrateful butler of Joseph?
A. God caused Pharaoh to dream such dreams as no one could be found to interpret. *Gen.* xli. 1.

Q. Of whom did the chief butler then speak?
A. Of Joseph. *Gen.* xli. 12.

Q. What did Pharaoh then do?
A. He sent for Joseph and told him his dreams. *Gen.* xli. 14.

Q. What did Joseph say?

A. "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace." *Gen.* xli. 16.

Q. To what did Pharaoh's dream relate?

A. To the seven years of plenty, and the seven years of famine which followed. *Gen.* xli. 25-32.

Q. When Pharaoh found so much wisdom in Joseph's words, what did he do to reward him?

A. [p. 35] He made him ruler over all his people, saying, "For as much as God hath shown thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art." *Gen.* xli. 36.

Q. What other mark of esteem did Pharaoh give Joseph?

A. He took his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand; he also clothed him with garments of honour. *Gen.* xli. 42.

Q. Why did Pharaoh put his ring on Joseph's hand?

A. As it was anciently the manner of conferring the post of prime minister; and the person to whom it was given was looked upon as second to the king.

Q. What did Joseph do when the king gave him liberty to act?

A. He caused all the farmers to bring in their surplus produce, and had it laid up in storehouses in every city.

Q. When the time of the famine came, had they enough laid up to supply all the people?

A. Yes; the people came even from different countries down to Egypt for corn. *Gen.* xli. 57.

Q. When the people applied to Joseph for food (according to Pharaoh's direction) what did he do?

A. He opened all the storehouses, which he had till then kept closed, and supplied them with food.

Q. When Jacob found that there was corn to be had in Egypt, what did he do?

A. He desired his sons to go down to Egypt and buy food. *Gen.* xlii. 2.

Q. How many of Jacob's sons went?

A. Ten. *Gen.* xlii. 3.

Q. Why did not Jacob send all his sons who were with him?

A. Because, Benjamin being the youngest, he was afraid to send him, as he said, lest some mischief befall him.

Q. [p. 36] **When they came to Joseph what respect did they show him?**

A. They bowed themselves down to him, with their faces to the earth. *Gen.* xlii. 6.

Q. Did Joseph know his brothers?

A. He did; but they knew him not.

Q. What did Joseph then remember?

A. His dreams. *Gen.* xlii. 9.

Q. How did Joseph speak to his brothers?

A. Roughly. *Gen.* xlii. 7.

Q. Do you think Joseph felt any enmity towards his brothers when he thus spoke to them?

A. No; he meant but to conceal his affection, which would have betrayed him to them had he not spoken as a stranger.

Q. In order to keep up this, of what did he accuse them?

A. Of being spies. *Gen.* xlii. 9.

Q. What was their reply?

A. "Nay, my lord; but thy servants are come to buy food." *Gen.* xlii. 10.

Q. What did Joseph do with them?

A. He put them in prison. *Gen.* xlii. 17.

Q. How long did he keep them in prison?

A. Three days.

Q. What did he then require of them?

A. That they should leave one of the brothers in Egypt.

Q. Which of the brothers did he detain?

A. Simeon. *Gen.* xlii. 24.

Q. What was done with the money they had paid for their corn?

A. It was restored to every one's sack. *Gen.* xlii. 25

Q. When they emptied their sacks how did they feel

A. They were afraid, and knew not what to think of it, and attributed all their troubles to the guilt they [p. 37] had practised on their brother; as Reuben said to them, "Did I not speak to you saying, Do not sin against the child; and ye would not listen? therefore, behold also, his blood is required." *Gen.* xlii. 22.

Q. Why did Reuben say his blood was required, when they had not killed him?

A. Because Reuben knew how tenderly the child had been brought up, and therefore thought that he could not have survived in a state of slavery.

Q. What did Jacob say when he was told that the ruler of Egypt required Benjamin also?

A. He felt this trial sorely, and said, "Ye have bereaved me; Joseph is not, and Simeon is not, and ye will take Benjamin; all these things are against me." *Gen.* xlii. 36.

Q. What else did he say when Reuben entreated him?

A. He still refused to let him go down, saying, "Should mischief befall him, (as it did his brother Joseph,) then shall ye bring down my gray hairs in sorrow to the grave." *Gen.* xlii. 38.

Q. When the famine continued and their corn was consumed, who entreated his father to let the lad go?

A. Judah. *Gen.* xliii. 3.

Q. Did Jacob at last consent to let Benjamin go?

A. He did; and caused his sons to take with them the money which had been (as he supposed) put in their bags by mistake. He gave them his blessing and they departed.

Q. When Joseph saw his brother Benjamin, the son of his own mother, what did he say?

A. "God be gracious unto thee, my son." *Gen.* xliii. 29.

Q. How was Joseph affected?

A. He wept in secret. *Gen.* xliii. 30

Q. When Joseph had recovered from his weeping, what did he do?

A. [p. 38] He set them down every one according to his age, and supplied them with a meal which he had provided for them.

Q. When they had finished and were about to depart, what did Joseph command his steward to do?

A. To put his silver cup in Benjamin's sack. *Gen.* xliv. 2.

Q. What did the brothers do when the cup was found in Benjamin's sack?

A. They rent their clothes, and returned to the city. *Gen.* xliv. 13.

Q. Why did they rend their garments?

A. Because the steward threatened to keep Benjamin as a servant for the supposed theft of which he had accused him.

Q. What did they do when they arrived at Joseph's house?

A. They fell before him to the ground. *Gen.* xliv. 14.

Q. Who spoke to conciliate Joseph?

A. Judah.

Q. How was Joseph affected by his words?

A. Joseph wept aloud, for he could no longer restrain his feelings.

Q. What did he then do?

A. He charged all his servants to leave his presence; and when he was left alone with his brothers, he made himself known unto them, and inquired after his father's health.

Q. How were his brothers affected?

A. They were troubled at his presence.

Q. What did Joseph say to comfort them?

A. "Be not grieved nor angry with yourselves."

Q. For what purpose did he say God had sent him before them?

A. To preserve life.

Q. [p. 39] **What farther did he say to satisfy his brothers?**

A. "It was not you that sent me hither, but God." *Gen* xlv. 8.

Q. What did he mean by saying that God had sent him, and not his brothers?

A. He meant, that as so much good had been done by his coming to Egypt, it was evident that God's wisdom had decreed it; consequently it was God in the first instance who sent him there, and Joseph's brothers were only the instruments in His hand.

Q. When Pharaoh heard that Joseph's brothers were with him, what did he say?

A. He directed him to send as much provision as his brothers could take with them, and request his father to come to Egypt, and enjoy with all his family the good of the land.

Q. Did Joseph then send for his father?

A. Yes, and requested him to come without delay.

Q. What did Joseph give his brothers?

A. "Changes of clothes." *Gen.* xlv. 22.

Q. To which of his brothers did he give most?

A. To Benjamin; he gave him five changes, and three hundred pieces of money also. *Gen.* xlv. 22.

Q. When Israel's sons came to him and told that their brother was yet alive, did he believe them?

A. He did not; but when he saw the wagons which his son had sent for him, his spirit revived.

Q. What did he say?

A. "It is enough; Joseph my son is yet alive: I will go and see him before I die." *Gen.* xlv. 28.

LESSON EIGHTH.

Q. WHEN Israel was on his journey, where did he stop to offer sacrifices?

A. [p. 40] At Beër-sheba. *Gen.* xlvi. 1.

Q. Who again spoke to him in the vision of the night?

A. God.

Q. What did God say to Jacob?

A. That He should not fear to go down to Egypt; as He would there protect him, and make of him a great nation. *Gen.* xlvi. 3.

Q. How many of Jacob's descendants went into Egypt?

A. Seventy. *Gen.* xlvi. 27.

Q. How did Joseph meet his father?

A. He fell on his neck, and wept. *Gen.* xlvi. 29.

Q. What did Jacob say to Joseph?

A. "Let me die now, that I have seen thy face, because that thou art yet alive." *Gen.* xlvi. 30.

Q. What was the occupation of Jacob's sons?

A. They were shepherds.

Q. What did they take with them into Egypt?
A. Their flocks and herds.

Q. What part of Egypt did Pharaoh give Jacob?
A. Goshen. *Gen.* xlvii. 6.

Q. After Jacob had resided some time in Egypt, what did Joseph hear?
A. That his father was ill.

Q. Whom did he take with him to visit his father?
A. His two sons, Menasseh and Ephraim.

Q. When Jacob was told that his son Joseph was with him, what did he do?
A. He sat up in the bed and spoke to Joseph. *Gen.* xlviii. 2.

Q. What did Jacob tell Joseph?
A. He told him of the promises which God had made him at Luz, in the land of Canaän.

Q. For what purpose did Jacob desire his grand sons to be brought to him?
A. [p. 41] That he might bless them.

Q. On which of them did he place his right hand?
A. On Ephraim. *Gen.* xlviii. 14.

Q. Who was the elder?
A. Menassah.

Q. What reason did Jacob give for preferring the younger brother?
A. That he should be the greater.

Q. In what light did Jacob consider these two sons of Joseph?
A. He considered them as his own sons; for he said, "as Reuben and Simeon they shall be mine." *Gen.* xlviii. 5.

Q. What did Israel mean by this?
A. That they should with his own sons inherit an equal portion of land.

Q. Why did Jacob desire all his sons to assemble before him?
A. That he might tell them what should befall them in the last days. *Gen.* xlix. 1, 2.

Q. Where did Jacob desire his sons to bury him?
A. In the cave of Machpelah. *Gen.* xlix. 29.

Q. After Jacob had spoken to his sons, what did he do?
A. He yielded up his spirit to God who gave it, and was gathered unto his people.

Q. What was done to the body of Jacob?
A. It was embalmed. *Gen.* l. 2.

Q. How old was Jacob when he died?
A. One hundred and forty-seven years. *Gen* xlvii. 28.

Q. How long had he been in Egypt?

A. Seventeen years.

Q. What did Joseph request of Pharaoh?

A. Permission to go and bury his father. *Gen.* l. 5.

Q. How long did the Egyptians mourn for Jacob?

A. [p. 42] Seventy days.

Q. Who went up with Joseph to bury his father?

A. A great many Egyptians and Israelites. *Gen.* l. 9.

Q. How long did Joseph and his brothers mourn for Jacob after they arrived in Palestine?

A. Seven days.

Q. When all the inhabitants of the land beheld this great mourning of the Egyptians, what did they call it?

A. *Abel-Mitsrayim*.

Q. What is the English of *Abel-Mitsrayim*.

A. Mourning of Egypt.

Q. What request did Joseph's brothers make of him after their father's death?

A. That he might forgive their cruel conduct towards him. *Gen.* l. 17.

Q. What did Joseph say to them?

A. "Fear not, I will nourish you and your little ones;" and he spoke kindly to them. *Gen.* l. 21.

Q. For what purpose did Joseph say that God had sent him to Egypt?

A. "To save much people alive." *Gen.* l. 20.

Q. How old was Joseph when he died?

A. One hundred and ten years.

Q. What had Joseph the pleasure of beholding in his old age?

A. He lived to behold his great grand-children.

Q. What did Joseph tell his brothers just before he died, that God would do for them?

A. That He would bring them into the promised land. *Gen.* l. 24.

Q. What is the promised land?

A. The land of Canaan, Palestine, or the Holy Land, which the LORD God promised to our fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as an inheritance to them and all their descendants after them.

Q. [p. 43] **What did Joseph request of his brothers?**

A. That they should carry his bones with them out of Egypt, for he knew that God would cause them to remove from that land.

Q. What was done with the body of Joseph?

A. It was embalmed, and put in a coffin in Egypt.

LESSON NINTH.

Q. WHAT is the name of the second book in the Bible.

A. Exodus.

Q. What is the meaning of Exodus?

A. Departure.

Q. Why is this book so called?

A. Because it treats of the Departure of the Israelites from Egypt.

Q. Did the same king reign in Egypt who lived in the time of Joseph?

A. No. "There arose up a new king over Egypt who knew not Joseph." *Exod.* i. 8.

Q. What were all the kings of Egypt called at that time?

A. Pharaoh.

Q. How did this Pharaoh treat the children of Israel?

A. Very cruelly.

Q. What method did the king first adopt to prevent their increase?

A. He set over them task-masters to afflict them with heavy burthens.

Q. Did Pharaoh succeed in this?

A. He did not; for "the more he afflicted them, the more they multiplied." *Exod.* i. 12.

Q. What did he order should be done to all the male infants?

A. [p. 44] That they should be destroyed at their birth.

Q. When Pharaoh found that he could not have them killed in this way, what did he command?

A. That they should be thrown into the river. *Exod.* i. 22.

Q. What was the name of the river?

A. The Nile.

Q. Who was the agent to deliver the Israelites from the Egyptian bondage?

A. Moses.

Q. Who were his parents?

A. Amram and Jochebed. *Exod.* vi. 20.

Q. Of what tribe were they?

A. Of the tribe of Levi. *Exod.* ii. 1.

Q. How long was Moses hidden by his mother?

A. Three months. *Exod.* ii. 2.

Q. What did she do with him when she could no longer hide him?

A. She put him in an ark made of bulrushes. *Exod.* ii. 3.

Q. Where did she place it?
A. Among the flags by the side of the river.

Q. What did she do to keep the water out of the box, or basket?
A. She daubed it with slime and pitch.

Q. Who was set to watch him?
A. His sister Miriam. *Exod.* ii. 4.

Q. Who found him?
A. Pharaoh's daughter. *Exod.* ii. 5.

Q. To whom did she commit him for nursing?
A. To his own mother. *Exod.* ii. 8.

Q. What did she call the child?
A. Moses.

Q. What is the meaning of Moses?
A. Moses, or Heb. Mosheh, from *Mashoh*, which signifies drawing up.

Q. [p. 45] **When Moses grew up, in what did he distinguish himself?**
A. In his zeal for the welfare of his people.

Q. What did Moses do to the Egyptian whom he saw smiting a Hebrew?
A. He struck him that he died.

Q. What did Pharaoh seek to do to Moses for slaying the Egyptian?
A. To kill him. *Exod.* ii. 15.

Q. How did Moses escape?
A. He fled into Midian. *Exod.* ii. 15.

Q. With whom did he dwell in Midian?
A. With Jethro, the priest of Midian. *Exod.* ii. 21.

Q. Whom did he marry?
A. Zipporah, Jethro's daughter. *Exod.* ii. 21.

Q. How many sons had Moses?
A. Two.

Q. What name did he call his first son?
A. Gershom; because he had been a stranger in a strange land; *Gare* in Hebrew meaning stranger.

Q. What was the name of his second son?
A. Eleazar; for God, said he, was my help, *Ngazer*, in Hebrew, meaning help. *Exod.* xviii. 4.

Q. Did Pharaoh continue to oppress the Israelites after Moses had filed?
A. He did; and the people cried unto the LORD by reason of the bondage. *Exod.* ii. 23.

Q. Did the LORD attend unto their cries?

A. He did; and remembered the promise made to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Q. We said that Moses went to Midian; where is Midian?

A. It is a part of Arabia Petrea, where some portion of Abraham's family had settled.

Q. How far is it from Egypt?

A. It is about eight day's journey from Egypt, the road to it lies through a desert.

Q. [p. 46] **Before we proceed with the history of the Israelites, it is proper that I put some geographical questions respecting that country.-Where is Egypt?**

A. It is the northeastern country of Africa.

Q. What sea has it on the north?

A. The Mediterranean.

Q. What country on the south?

A. Abyssinia.

Q. What sea has it on the east?

A. The Red Sea.

Q. What desert has it on the west?

A. One of the deserts of Africa, called the Desert of Barca.

Q. How is this country divided?

A. Into Upper and Lower Egypt. Its chief towns are Cairo and Alexandria.

Q. What is the name of that famous river which runs through it?

A. The river Nile.

Q. Have they much rain in that country?

A. No, they have not; but the want of it is made up by the river Nile.

Q. How can this river in so hot a country as Egypt supply the want of rain?

A. The river Nile overflows its banks every year and waters the whole country, thereby refreshing the thirsty soil, and causing an abundance of the most delightful fruit of various kinds.

Q. Will you name some of the fruit peculiar to that country?

A. Yes: the pomegranates, figs, olives, dates, grapes, and many others. The palm-tree also grows there.

Q. With all these luxuries the Israelites, we find, were not happy: can you tell me why?

A. Yes; because they were held as bondmen by Pharaoh.

Q. [p. 47] **We have said that the people cried, and the LORD heard their complaint. Whom did the LORD select to free them from their bondage?**

A. Moses, son of Amram.

Q. When the people's sufferings were so great, where was Moses?

A. He was still in Midian, where he kept the flock of Jethro his father-in-law.

Q. Where did Moses lead his flock?

A. To the back of the desert, and came to the mount of God, even to Horeb. *Exod.* iii. 1.

Q. Why did Moses select this mountain on which to feed his flock?

A. Because it was covered with rich pastures, well shaded from the sun.

Q. What most glorious and wonderful sight did Moses behold on Mount Horeb?

A. A bush that burnt and was not consumed. *Exod.* iii. 2.

Q. What did Moses say when he saw the burning bush?

A. "I will now see why the bush is not consumed." *Exod.* iii. 3.

Q. When Moses turned aside, who called to him from the midst of the bush?

A. The LORD. *Exod.* iii. 4.

Q. What did the LORD say to Moses?

A. The LORD told Moses, that He was the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and that He had then appeared to perform the promise of protection which He had made to them.

Q. What was that promise?

A. It was that their descendants should be led into the promised land.

Q. What did Moses do when he heard the voice, and saw this glory?

A. [p. 48] He hid his face. *Exod.* iii. 6.

Q. Why did he hide his face?

A. Because it was so awfully grand that it created terror in his heart; he therefore hid his face from fear of seeing the glory of the Most High.

Q. For what purpose did the LORD appear to Moses?

A. To charge him with a mission to Pharaoh to demand the freedom of His chosen people, and to deliver them out of the hand of their enemies. *Exod.* iii. 8.

Q. What did Moses say?

A. He professed to be of too little importance to speak to Pharaoh about letting Israel go free; not knowing that he had been destined to this office.

Q. What did the LORD do to encourage Moses to go?

A. He assured him of His protection, and promised to guide him.

Q. What did Moses ask the LORD?

A. "Who, shall I say, hath sent me to you?"

Q. How did God tell him to answer?

A. "I WILL BE WHO I WILL BE."

Q. What is meant by the great and mighty name by which the Creator is known?

A. It means that, "I know no change, I who am now, ever was, and ever will be. I am everlasting, I have had no beginning, and shall have no end."

Q. What farther did the LORD say to Moses?

A. "Thus shalt thou say to the children of Israel, The LORD the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you; this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations." *Exod.* iii. 15.

Q. What is the meaning of this?

A. It means, by this name God would be known and remembered for ever and to all eternity.

Q. [p. 49] **What was Moses' second objection to going?**

A. That the people would not believe him. *Exod.* v. 1.

Q. What did God do to encourage him?

A. He made him perform several miracles. *Exod.* iv. 3-9.

Q. What is a miracle?

A. A miracle is something that can only be done by the power of God.

Q. What was Moses' next objection?

A. That he was not eloquent. *Exod.* iv. 14.

Q. Why did Moses say he was not eloquent?

A. Because he could not speak well, and had not the power of expressing himself with fluency.

Q. What did God say to him at this objection?

A. "Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or the deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? is it not I the LORD? Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say." *Exod.* iv. 11, 12,

Q. Who did God say should assist Moses?

A. His brother Aaron. *Exod.* iv. 14.

Q. Where did Moses and Aaron meet each other after Moses had received directions from the LORD?

A. At the mount of God. *Exod.* iv. 27.

Q. By what other name is the mount sometimes called?

A. Mount Horeb, or Sinai.

Q. When Moses had told Aaron all the words of the LORD, what did they do?

A. They went and gathered together all the elders of Israel. *Exod.* iv. 29.

Q. For what purpose did they call together the elders of the people?

A. To make known to them all the words which the LORD had spoken to Moses. *Exod.* iv. 30.

Q. [p. 50] **What did the people do when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel?**

A. "They bowed their heads and worshipped." *Exod.* iv. 31.

Q. What message from the LORD did Moses and Aaron deliver to Pharaoh?

A. "Let my people go that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness." *Exod.* v. 1.

Q. What was Pharaoh's reply?

A. "I know not the LORD; neither will I let Israel go." *Exod.* v. 2.

Q. Of what were the Israelites accused by Pharaoh?

A. Of idleness. *Exod.* v. 8.

Q. What did Pharaoh require to be laid upon them?

A. More work. *Exod.* v. 9.

Q. When Pharaoh continued to oppress the people, what did the LORD again promise Moses?

A. To bring the people out from under the burthens of the Egyptians. *Exod.* vi. 6.

Q. What farther did the LORD promise to the people?

A. To take them to Him as a people, and to make them understand that their sole dependence for success was on Him, the LORD, who had rescued them from the hand of their oppressors?

Q. When Moses had told all this to the people, why did they not attend?

A. Because they were under the influence of extreme anguish from the cruel bondage which affected their spirits. *Exod.* vi. 9.

Q. By what did the LORD say He would deliver the Israelites from Egypt?

A. By great judgments. *Exod.* vi. 6.

Q. What are great judgments?

A. The actions of the Holy One, sent to punish evil-doers.

Q. What should the people know by these judgments?

A. [p. 51] That the LORD is God.

Q. When Moses and Aaron went unto Pharaoh the second time, what miracle was performed?

A. Aaron's rod was turned into a serpent. *Exod.* vii. 9.

Q. How many plagues were sent upon the Egyptians before they would let Israel go?

A. Ten.

Q. What was the first plague?

A. The waters were turned into blood. *Exod.* vii. 20.

Q. How long did this plague continue?

A. Seven days. *Exod.* vii. 25.

Q. What was the second plague?

A. The land was covered with frogs. *Exod.* viii. 6

Q. What did Pharaoh promise to do if the frogs were removed?

A. To let Israel go. *Exod.* viii. 8.

Q. Did he let them go then?

A. No; he was too wicked to keep this promise. which nothing but fear of suffering had caused him t make.

Q. What was the third plague?

A. The dust of the land was turned into lice. *Exod* viii. 17.

Q. When the magicians of Pharaoh found that the could not imitate this plague, what did they say?

A. "This is the finger of God." *Exod.* viii. 19.

Q. Did Pharaoh then submit?

A. No; he was too proud of his own power to ac knowledge to his servants that he could admit a higher One.

Q. What was the fourth plague?

A. A grievous swarm of flies. *Exod.* viii. 21.

Q. When Pharaoh found his power giving way, what did he say?

A. He called for Moses and Aaron, and bid them ge [p. 52] and sacrifice to their God, but also commanded them not to go far.

Q. What did Moses say when Pharaoh limited his time and distance?

A. He could not go less than three days' journey to sacrifice to the LORD. *Exod.* viii. 27.

Q. When Moses was going, what did Pharaoh request of him?

A. That he should entreat the Lord for him, and have the flies removed. *Exod.* viii. 29.

Q. In what part of Egypt were there no flies?

A. In the land of Goshen. *Exod.* viii. 22.

Q. When Moses had prayed to the LORD according to Pharaoh's request, what was done?

A. The flies were removed. *Exod.* viii. 31.

Q. What was destroyed by the fifth plague?

A. All the cattle of Egypt. *Exod.* ix. 6.

Q. With what were the Egyptians afflicted by the sixth plague?

A. With biles and blains. *Exod.* ix. 9.

Q. What, after this plague was removed, were they afflicted with?

A. With very severe thunder and hail; and fire ran along upon the ground. *Exod.* ix. 23.

Q. Where was there no hail?

A. "In the land of Goshen where the Israelites were." *Exod.* xi. 26.

Q. What did Pharaoh then acknowledge to Moses and Aaron?

A. That he had sinned, and said "The LORD is the righteous, and I and my people are the wicked." *Exod.* ix. 27.

Q. When this was removed, what did Pharaoh do?

A. He persisted in his evil way, and would not let the people go.

Q. What was the eighth plague?

A. [p. 53] Locusts covered the land. *Exod.* x. 12.

Q. What was the ninth?

A. Thick darkness. *Exod.* x. 22.

Q. Were the Hebrews also in darkness?

A. No; "The children of Israel had light in their dwellings." *Exod.* x. 23.

Q. How long was the darkness on the land?

A. Three days.

Q. What was the last and most dreadful pleague?[4]

A. The slaying of the first born of the Egyptians, and of all cattle.

Q. At what time were they slain?

A. At midnight. *Exod.* xi. 4.

Q. What was the charge which the LORD gave respecting the month in which the people were so gloriously rescued from the hand of their enemies?

A. "This month shall be unto you the beginning of months; it shall be unto you the first month of the year." *Exod.* xii. 2.

Q. Is it therefore that we commence counting from this month?

A. Yes; for in that month we began (as it were) a new life, we were wonderfully set free by a mighty Hand, to worship the God we adore.

Q. We have said that the angel of the Lord passed over the houses of the Israelites, and slew all the firstborn of the Egyptians from man to beast. Can you tell what was instituted to commemorate the preservation of Israel?

A. The Passover, the day before which festival every first-born son of Israel should keep as a fast.

Q. How is it recorded in the Bible?

A. "And it shall be that when ye come to the land which the LORD will give you, as He hath promised, that ye shall keep this service." *Exod.* xii. 25.

Q. What animal was sacrificed?

A. [p. 54] A lamb. *Exod.* xii. 3.

Q. How was it eaten?

A. In haste, and with bitter herbs. *Exod.* xii. 8.

Q. In what manner did the Israelites leave Egypt?

A. They were thrust out. *Exod.* xii. 39.

Q. How long was this after Abraham went into Egypt?

A. Four hundred and thirty years. *Exod.* xii. 41.

Q. How long after Jacob had emigrated to that country?

A. Two hundred and ten years.

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[4]So printed (for "plague").

Q. What was the number of Israelites that left Egypt?

A. About two millions.

Q. What farther are we told respecting the observance of this season?

A. "It is a night to be much observed unto the LORD for bringing them out from the land of Egypt: this is the night of the LORD to be observed of all the children of Israel in their generations." *Exod.* xii. 42.

Q. What is meant by its being kept in their generations?

A. That this great event of our history shall be celebrated not alone by us, but that we are so to instruct our descendants as to cause them and every generation after them to keep it likewise, wherever they may be; "for by strength of hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt." *Exod.* xiii. 16.

Q. Which was the nearest way from Egypt to the promised land?

A. By the way of the Philistines. *Exod.* xiii. 17.

Q. What way did God lead the Israelites?

A. By the way of the wilderness of the Red Sea. *Exod.* xiii. 18.

Q. Why not by the nearest way?

A. The Philistines were then at war; the LORD [p. 55] therefore led them not that way, lest the people on seeing war should repent having left Egypt, and wish to return. *Exod.* xiii. 17.

Q. What did Moses carry with him from Egypt?

A. The bones of Joseph. *Exod.* xiii. 19.

Q. Why?

A. Because Joseph had requested it. *Gen.* l. 25.

Q. What did the Israelites do with the bones of Joseph, which they had removed from Egypt?

A. They buried them in Shechem, in a lot of ground bought by his father Jacob, which became the inheritance of the children of Joseph. *Josh.* xxiv. 32.

Q. How did God lead the Israelites by day?

A. By a pillar of cloud. *Exod.* xiii. 21.

Q. How by night?

A. By a pillar of fire. *Exod.* xiii. 21.

Q. When Pharaoh heard that the people had fled, what did he do?

A. He pursued after them with his army. *Exod.* xiv. 8.

Q. How were the Israelites affected when they saw the Egyptians?

A. They were sore afraid. *Exod.* xiv. 10.

Q. Why were the people afraid when they had the LORD for their guide?

A. Because they had been so long in bondage, that they had become enfeebled by oppression, and for the moment thought not of the mighty wonders already performed for them.

Q. Unto whom did they cry?
A. Unto the LORD.

Q. What did the LORD say unto Moses?
A. "The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD." *Exod.* xiv. 18.

Q. What separated the Israelites and Egyptians during the night?
A. [p. 56] The pillar of cloud. *Exod.* xiv. 20.

Q. How did the pillar of cloud appear to the Egyptians?
A. As a cloud of darkness.

Q. Did it cause darkness to the Israelites also?
A. No; for the pillar of fire gave light to them.

Q. What did God tell Moses to do?
A. To stretch out his hand over the sea, and divide it. *Exod.* xiv. 21.

Q. Upon what did the Israelites go through the sea?
A. Upon dry ground. *Exod.* xiv. 22.

Q. What did the Egyptians do?
A. They followed them into the midst of the sea. *Exod.* xiv. 23.

Q. What became of the Egyptians?
A. They were drowned in the sea. *Exod.* xiv. 28.

Q. What is the name of the sea in which Pharaoh and his army were drowned?
A. The Red Sea.

Q. How did the Israelites acknowledge their deliverance?
A. In a song of praise to God. *Exod.* xv. 1.

Q. Can you recite a passage in this song of praise?
A. "The LORD is my strength and song, and He is become my salvation: He is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt Him." *Exod.* xv. 2.

Q. Who then took up the timbrel and played, and sang, while the women did the same?
A. Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Moses and Aaron. *Exod.* xv. 20.

Q. How long did the children of Israel travel from the Red Sea without water?
A. Three days. *Exod.* xv. 22.

Q. To what place did they come?
A. To Marah. *Exod.* xv. 23.

Q. [p. 57] **From what did it derive this name?**
A. .From the bitterness of its waters, Heb. Mar, signifying bitter.

Q. Where is Marah.
A. In a desert of Arabia.

Q. Could the people drink of the waters as they were?

A. No; "for they were bitter." *Exod.* xv. 23.

Q. How were they made sweet?

A. The LORD showed Moses a tree, which he cast into them, and they became sweet. *Exod.* xv. 25.

Q. To what place did they next come?

A. To Elim. *Exod.* xv. 27.

Q. What did they find there?

A. "Twelve springs of water, and seventy palm trees." *Exod.* xv. 27.

Q. What wilderness did they afterwards enter?

A. The wilderness of Sin. *Exod.* xvi. 1.

Q. What was their conduct there?

A. They murmured against Moses and Aaron. *Exod.* xvi. 2.

Q. For what did they say they had been brought into the wilderness?

A. To be killed with hunger. *Exod.* xvi. 3.

Q. What flesh did the LORD give them?

A. Quails. *Exod.* xvi. 13.

Q. How did they obtain bread?

A. God produced it miraculously. *Exod.* xvi. 15.

Q. What is it called?

A. Manna.

Q. From what is the name manna derived?

A. When the children of Israel saw it on the ground, "the one said to the other (Heb.) *Mahn hoo*, meaning, What is it? for they knew not what it was." *Exod.* xvi. 15.

Q. What did Moses tell them it was?

A. [p. 58] "This is the bread which the LORD hath given you to eat." *Exod.* xvi. 15.

Q. What was its appearance and taste?

A. "It was like coriander seed, white, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey." *Exod.* xvi. 31.

Q. Where did the people find it?

A. On the ground. *Exod.* xvi. 14.

Q. How often did they gather it?

A. Every morning, excepting the seventh day, which is the Sabbath, so called from *Shaboth* to rest. *Exod.* xvi. 26.

Q. How were they supplied on the Sabbath?

A. By gathering twice as much as usual on the preceding day. *Exod.* xvi. 22.

Q. What did Moses tell the people to do on the sixth day?

A. "To-morrow is the rest of the holy Sabbath unto the LORD; bake that which ye will bake (to-day), and seethe that which ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up to be kept for you till the morrow." *Exod.* xvi. 23.

Q. What are we to infer from this?

A. That we, the decendants of Israel, shall consider ourselves bound to keep the Sabbath holy, wherever we may be, always preparing on the sixth day for the seventh, and not do the slightest work on that day on any pretence whatever.[5]

Q. Why are the children of Israel to keep the day so strictly?

A. In honour of God, and in commemoration of his having created the world in six days, and ceasing on the seventh. He ordained that we should rest on the seventh day, as a continual memorial of His wonderful works.

Q. For what purpose was a pot of manna to be kept?

A. For future generations. *Exod.* xvi. 32.

Q. [p. 59] **What should the keeping of this manna teach us?**

A. It is to teach us that we like, our ancestors, should know that it is in the power of the Creator to remove all our difficulties, and to supply all our wants when we cry unto Him in time of need. It is also to teach us that we should never permit poverty to cause an infringement of the Sabbath; for the God who gave us a law will ever take care of its adherents.

Q. How long were the children of Israel fed on manna?

A. "Forty years." *Exod.* xvi. 35.

Q. Where did the people go when they left the wilderness of Sin?

A. To Rephidim.

Q. Of what were they in want at Rephidim?

A. Of water. *Exod.* xvii. 1.

Q. Against whom did they murmur?

A. Against Moses. *Exod.* xvii. 3.

Q. What did God tell Moses to do to procure water?

A. To Smite a rock in Horeb. *Exod.* xvii. 5, 6.

Q. Who fought with Israel at Rephidim?

A. 'Amalek. *Exod.* xvii. 8.

Q. Whom did Moses choose as the commander of the Israelites at this time?

A. Joshua. *Exod.* xvii. 9.

Q. Who went up to the top of the hill?

A. Moses, Aaron, and Hur.

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[5] So printed (for "descendants").

Q. Which party was victorious?

A. The Israelites. *Exod.* xvii. 13.

Q. What did the LORD then command Moses to do?

A. To write this event in a book for a memorial and rehearse it in the hearing of Joshua. *Exod.* xvii. 14.

[p. 60] LESSON TENTH.

Q. Who visited Moses at Rephidim?

A. His father-in-law, wife, and two sons. *Exod.* xviii. 5.

Q. What did Moses tell Jethro, his father-in-law?

A. All that the LORD had done to Pharaoh and the Egyptians. *Exod.* xviii. 8.

Q. For what did Jethro then rejoice?

A. For all the goodness of the LORD to Israel. *Exod.* xviii. 9.

Q. When Jethro heard of all the miracles and wonders which the LORD had performed on the Egyptians, what did he say?

A. "Now I know that the LORD is greater than all gods; for in that which they dealt proudly He was above them." *Exod.* xviii. 11.

Q. What characters did he recommend to Moses for judges.

A. Able men, men of truth, such as fear God. *Exod.* xviii. 21.

Q. Where did the people encamp after leaving Rephidim?

A. Before Mount Sinai. *Exod.* xix. 2.

Q. What did God then say they should be unto Him if they would obey His will?

A. A peculiar treasure. *Exod.* xix. 5.

Q. What did the people promise to do?

A. "All that the LORD hath spoken." *Exod.* xix. 8.

Q. What did the Lord command the people to do before they should assemble to hear His word?

Q. To sanctify themselves and make themselves clean and pure, in readiness for the day when they should all appear before the mount and hear the announcement of the law.[6]

Q. [p. 61] **On what mount was the law given?**

A. , On Mount Sinai. *Exod.* xix. 20.

Q. Where did the people stand when the law was given?

A. At the foot of the mount. *Exod.* xix. 17.

Q. What was then the appearance of Sinai?

A. It was covered with smoke. *Exod.* xix. 18.

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[6]So printed, with "Q."; this is the answer to the preceding question.

Q. How many commandments did God speak to Israel?

A. Ten.

Q. What is the first?

A. "I am the LORD thy God who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of slavery.

Q. What is the second?

A. "Thou shalt have no other gods but me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, nor any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the waters under the earth; thou shalt not bow down to them, nor serve them; for I the LORD thy God am a watchful God, visiting the iniquities of the fathers upon the children, upon the third and fourth generation of those who hate me; and showing mercy unto the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments." *Exod.* xx. 3-6.

Q. What is the third?

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

Q. What is the fourth?

A. "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; on it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy man-servant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within [p. 62] thy gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven, and earth, the sea, and all that is therein, and rested on the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and sanctified it."

Q. What is the fifth?

A. "Honour thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee."

Q. What is the sixth?

A. "Thou shalt not commit murder."

Q. The seventh?

A. "Thou shalt not commit adultery."

Q. The eighth?

A. "Thou shalt not steal."

Q. What is the ninth?

A. "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour."

Q. What is the tenth?

A. "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house; thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything which is thy neighbour's."

Q. In the fifth commandment, we are told to honour our parents: when can it be said that a child fulfils this command?

A. When he waits not to be told of duties of which he is sensible, but diligently serves his parents; when he anticipates their wishes, and does them without being driven; when he listens to and obeys their voice: it is only then that a child may be truly said to honour his father and mother.

Q. What is meant by "thou shalt not covet?"

A. It means that we shall not desire or wish for that which is the property of another.

Q. Is it wrong merely to wish or have a desire for anything which belongs to another?

A. [p. 63] Yes; for this desire often leads to the transgression of the eighth precept, in which we are forbidden to steal. Nothing was ever stolen which had not been coveted; and I now see clearly that it is wrong to covet, as it may lead to the commission of a positive sin against our neighbour's possessions.

Q. What was the appearance on the mount at the time of the delivery of the Ten Commandments?

A. There were thunder and lightning, and the sounding of trumpets.

Q. How did the people then feel?

A. They were afraid.

Q. What did they do?

A. They removed and stood afar off. *Exod.* xx. 18.

Q. To what did Moses draw near?

A. Unto the thick darkness where God was. *Exod.* xx. 21.

Q. How was the rest of the law given?

A. God communicated it to Moses, and Moses told it to the people, and wrote it afterwards in a book.

Q. When Moses took the book of the covenant and read in the presence of the people, what did they say?

A. "All the people said, We will observe it and be obedient." *Exod.* xxiv. 7.

Q. What is said in the Bible respecting the mentioning of other gods?

A. "In all that I have said unto you be circumspect: and make no mention of the name of other gods, neither let it be heard out of thy mouth." *Exod.* xxiii. 13.

Q. Do you know why we are so strictly forbidden to mention the name of other gods?

A. I think I do. By making ourselves familiar with the name, we by degrees forget the crime of their worshippers, and may insensibly fall into idolatry.

Q. How often in the year were the Israelites to keep a feast to the LORD?

A. [p. 64] Three times. *Exod.* xxiii. 14.

Q. Which was the first?

A. The Feast of Unleavened Bread, or Passover *Exod.* xxiii. 15.

Q. Is this a feast much regarded among our people?

A. Yes; for it is a feast yearly to be observed by all Israelites in whatever land they be. It is recorded thus, "Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses; for whosoever eateth that which is leavened, even that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he be a stranger, or born in the land." *Exod.* xii. 19.

Q. Which is the second?

A. The Pentecost, or Feast of Weeks. It is called in Hebrew *Shabungote*, meaning weeks, as we count seven complete weeks from the second night of Passover till this festival.

Q. For what is this day memorable?

A. It is the day on which the Creator appeared on Mount Sinai, and gave to our ancestors the Ten Commandments.

Q. In what month did this take place?

A. In the third month, Sivan, after the departure of Israel from Egypt.

Q. Why is this feast called also the Feast of Harvest, or First Fruits?

A. Because in Palestine the harvest commenced immediately after the Passover.

Q. Where is the observance of the feast commanded?

A. In the twenty-third chapter of Exodus: "And the feast of harvest, the first fruits of thy labours which thou hast sown in the field."

Q. What was the third feast?

A. The Feast of Ingathering, or Tabernacles. *Exod.* xxiii. 16.

Q. Give me some account of the manner of its observance.

A. [p. 65] This festival begins on the fifteenth day of the month Tishri. It is the Feast of Ingathering, as it is held at the time when all the produce of the field is gathered in and housed for the winter. It is therefore fit that we make proper acknowledgment to the LORD who by His care provides for His creatures in all seasons.

Q. Why do we erect booths, and dwell therein?

A. Because we are commanded in the Bible: "On the fifteenth day of the seventh month shall be held the Feast of Tabernacles unto the LORD. Ye shall dwell in booths seven days, that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt; I am the LORD your God." *Lev.* xxiii. 43.

Q. Who did the LORD say should go before the people into Canaan?

A. His angel. *Exod.* xxiii. 20.

Q. How long was Moses on the mount with God?

A. Forty days and forty nights. *Exod.* xxiv. 18.

Q. Of what did the LORD there show him the patterns?

A. Of the tabernacle, and all the vessels thereof. *Exod.* xxv. 9.

Q. Into how many apartments was the tabernacle divided?

A. Two.

Q. What was the name of the eastern apartment?
A. The holy place. *Exod.* xxvi. 33.

Q. What was the name of the western apartment?
A. The most holy place.

Q. By what other name is it sometimes called?
A. The holy of holies.

Q. Who ministered in the most holy place?
A. The high-priest.

Q. How often?
A. Once a year.

Q. [p. 66] **What was the ark of the covenant?**
A. A box or chest.

Q. Where was it placed?
A. In the holy of holies. *Exod.* xxvi. 34.

Q. Who was the first high-priest?
A. Aaron. *Exod.* xxviii. 1.

Q. What did the LORD direct Moses to have made for Aaron?
A. Holy garments. *Exod.* xxviii. 2.

Q. Whom was Moses to select to build the tabernacle and its vessels?
A. All those who were wise-hearted and filled with the spirit of wisdom. *Exod.* xxviii. 3.

Q. What did the Lord say should be sanctified by His glory?
A. The tabernacle. *Exod.* xxix. 43.

Q. What did the LORD promise to the people?
A. To be among them, and be their God. *Exod.* xxix. 45.

Q. What farther is said in the next verse of this chapter?
A. "And they shall know that I am the Lord their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, that, I may dwell amongst them; I am the LORD their God." *Exod.* xxix. 46.

LESSON ELEVENTH.

Q. WHILE Moses was on the mount with God, how did the people feel?
A. They were impatient, and began to think of making for themselves a leader.

Q. What sin did they then commit?
A. They made and worshipped a golden calf. *Exod.* xxii. 1-4.

Q. [p. 67] **What do you infer from this great act of wickedness?**
A. That the people had not yet forgotten the evil propensities derived from the nation among whom they had dwelt as slaves for so many years.

Q. When Moses saw the calf, and the people dancing around it, how did he feel?

A. His anger was great. *Exod.* xxxii. 19.

Q. What did he do with the two tables on which the Ten Commandments had been written by the agency of God alone?

A. He cast them down and broke them.

Q. What did he do with the golden calf?

A. He burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder. *Exod.* xxxii. 20.

Q. What did he do with the powder?

A. "He threw it in the water, and caused the people to drink of it." *Exod.* xxxii. 20.

Q. Why did Moses do this?

A. In order that the people should understand that this calf had no power, and to convince them of their sin and folly.

Q. What inquiry did Moses then make?

A. "Who is on the LORD'S side?" *Exod.* xxxii. 26.

Q. Who then gathered themselves unto him?

A. The sons of Levi, whom he ordered to slay the idolators.

Q. How many idolators were slain by them?

A. About three thousand. *Exod.* xxxii. 28.

Q. How were the two tables replaced?

A. Moses prepared two others, and God wrote the commandments upon them. *Exod.* xxxiv. 4.

Q. How long was Moses on the mount with God at the second writing of the commandments?

A. Forty days and forty nights. *Exod.* xxxiv. 28.

Q. How did his face appear when he came down?

A. [p. 68] It shone. *Exod.* xxxiv. 29.

Q. What caused his face to shine?

A. The glory of the LORD was upon him, and the people were dazzled at his presence.

Q. How were the people affected?

A. "They were afraid to come near him." *Exod* xxxiv. 30.

Q. With what did he cover his face?

A. With a veil. *Exod.* xxxiv. 33.

Q. What did Moses then do?

A. He gathered all the people together, and tole them all the words of the LORD. *Exod.* xxxv. 1.

Q. What did the people do afterwards?

A. They came both men and women, all who were willing hearted, and brought offerings unto the LORD.

Q. What were these gifts brought for?

A. They were free gifts for the building of the tabernacle. *Exod.* xxxv. 21, 22.

Q. Did the people bring many offerings?

A. Yes; they brought more than enough for the service of the work which was commanded. *Exod.* xxxvi. 5.

Q. Who were the principal workers for the tabernacle?

A. Bazalel, and Aholiab. *Exod.* xxxvi. 1.

Q. In what book do we read an account of this splendid tabernacle and its contents?

A. In Exodus, chapters xxxvi., xxxvii. and xxxviii.

Q. What are described in the next chapter?

A. The garments of the priest, the breastplate, the ephod, the robe of the ephod, and all the other garments. *Exod.* xxxix.

Q. When was Moses directed to set up the tabernacle of the congregation?

A. On the first day of the first month of the second year after leaving Egypt. *Exod.* xl. 2.

Q. What was he directed to put therein?

A. [p. 69] The ark of the testimony and the other holy vessels. *Exod.* xl. 3-5.

Q. Whom did the LORD say Moses should anoint and prepare for holy office?

A. Aaron and his sons. *Exod.* xl. 13-15.

LESSON TWELFTH.

Q. WHAT is the name of the third book in the Bible?

A. Leviticus.

Q. Of what does it principally consist?

A. Of laws concerning the temple-service, of birds and animals which may be eaten, and such as may not be eaten; of clean, and unclean; the festivals; the release-year, and other ceremonial institutions.

Q. Have we there an account of the unclean as well as the clean animals?

A. Yes; if we refer to this book we need never be at a loss to know what kind may or may not be eaten.

Q. Who were Nadab and Abihu?

A. Sons of Aaron. *Lev.* x. 1.

Q. Of what sin were they guilty?

A. Of offering strange fire to the LORD. *Lev.* x. 1.

Q. What is meant by "strange fire"?

A. That which God had not commanded.

Q. What became of Nadab and Abihu?

A. They were destroyed by fire from the LORD. Thus the very means, by which they sinned, the LORD caused them to perish.

Q. What was done to the son of Shelomith for cursing and blasphemy?

A. He was stoned to death. *Lev.* xxiv. 23.

Q. Are there no other days of holy observance commanded in the Bible, besides the three already mentioned?

A. [p. 70] Yes; the New-Year, in the month of Tishri, Heb. *Rosh Hashanah*, "the first of the year."

Q. By what other name is this great day called?

A. *Yome Hazzickahrone*, "the Day of Remembrance," signifying that we should call to mind our actions of the past year, and pray to the Creator to pardon our sins.

Q. Why is it also called *Yome Terungah*?

A. This Hebrew term signifies the day of blowing of trumpets. As we read in the Bible: "The first day of the seventh month shall be unto you a Sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation." *Lev.* xxiii. 24.

Q. What other day do we keep holy on the tenth day of the same month?

A. "The Day of Atonement," *Yome Hakkippurim*: on this day a solemn fast is ordered; and we are promised a remission of sins to all who are sincere in their appeal to the Most High for forgiveness. As we read in the law: "On the tenth day of this month shall be a day of atonement; it shall be an holy convocation unto you, and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD." *Lev.* xxiii. 27.

Q. Are we not very peremptorily commanded to keep this day?

A. We are, and no Israelite can expect to be forgiven for the wilful violation of this day; "For whatsoever soul it be that doeth any work on that day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people." *Lev.* xxiii. 30.

Q. Is there not much more said on this subject?

A. Yes; all of which can be found in the twenty third chapter of Leviticus.

Q. What else are we taught in this book?

A. Compassion for our fellow-creatures, and the exercise of equal justice to the stranger as well as the native Israelite.

[p. 71] LESSON THIRTEENTH.

Q. WHAT is the name of the fourth book of the Bible?

Q. Numbers.[7]

Q. Whom did the LORD command to number the children of Israel?

A. Moses. *Num.* i. 2.

[7]So printed, with "Q."; this is the answer to the preceding question.

Q. Where were they first numbered?
A. In the wilderness of Sinai. *Num.* i. 19.

Q. What tribe was not numbered among the others, but by itself?
A. The tribe of Levi. *Num.* i. 49.

Q. Who were appointed to keep charge of the tabernacle and its contents?
A. The Levites. *Num.* i. 50, 51.

Q. How did the people know when to journey?
A. When the cloud was taken from the tabernacle. *Num.* ix. 17.

Q. What went before them?
A. The ark of the covenant. *Num.* x. 33.

Q. For what purpose?
A. To search out a resting place for them. *Num.* x. 33.

Q. What did Moses say when the ark went forward?
A. "Rise up, O LORD! and let thine enemies be scattered." *Num.* x. 35.

Q. What did he say when it rested?
A. "Return, O LORD, unto the many thousands of Israel." *Num.* x. 36.

Q. Where did the people again complain?
A. At Taberah. *Num.* xi. 3.

Q. How were they punished?
A. "The fire of the LORD burnt among them." *Num.* xi. 1.

Q. [p. 72] **In answer to whose prayer was the fire quenched!**
A. The prayer of Moses. *Num.* xi. 2.

Q. What was the conduct of the people at Kibroth Hattaavah?
A. They desired flesh to eat, and wept, and became rebellious because of the want of it.

Q. What flesh did the LORD give them?
A. Quails. *Num.* xi. 31.

Q. With what were they smitten while eating?
A. With a very great plague. *Num.* xi. 33.

Q. Where did the people abide after leaving Kibroth Hattaavah?
A. At Hazeroth. *Num.* xi. 35.

Q. Against whom did Aaron and Miriam speak at Hazeroth?
A. Against Moses. *Num.* xii. 1.

Q. Why did they speak against him?
A. Because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married. *Num.* xii. 1.

Q. What plague was sent upon Miriam for having thus spoken against the chosen of the LORD?

A. Leprosy. *Num.* xii. 10.

Q. For what quality was Moses famed?

A. For his meekness. *Num.* xii. 3.

Q. At whose request did the Lord cause Miriam to be healed?

A. At the request of Moses. *Num.* xii. 13.

Q. How long was Miriam shut out from the camp?

A. Seven days. *Num.* xii. 15.

Q. In what wilderness did the people next pitch their tents?

A. In the wilderness of Paran.

Q. How many men were sent from Kadesh in Paran to spy out Canaan?

A. Twelve. *Num.* xiii. 2.

Q. How long were they in searching the land?

A. [p. 73] Forty days. *Num.* xiii. 25.

Q. What did they bring back with them?

A. Some of the fruit of the land.

Q. Please to name some of them!

A. Grapes, with which the valley abounded; one cluster was so large that it was carried by two men upon a barrow. *Num.* xiii. 23.

Q. What was this valley called?

A. The valley of Eshkol.

Q. Why was it so called?

A. Because of the cluster of grapes. *Num.* xiii. 24.

Q. What does the Hebrew term Eshkol signify?

A. A bunch of grapes.

Q. What did they say respecting the land?

A. That it flowed with milk and honey. *Num.* xiii. 27.

Q. What did they say of the people?

A. That they were strong and of great stature. *Num.* xiii. 28.

Q. While some of the spies showed great reluctance to possessing the land, who of them proposed an immediate entrance?

A. Caleb. *Num.* xiii. 30.

Q. Why?

A. Because they were able to overcome it. *Num.* xiii. 30.

Q. Who concurred with Caleb in this opinion?

A. Joshua. *Num.* xiv. 6-9.

Q. Why did the other spies object?

A. They said they were not able to possess it. *Num.* xiii. 31.

Q. Why did they say this?

A. Because they had seen the giants there. *Num.* xiii. 33.

Q. What effect had this evil report on the people?

A. They wept. *Num.* xiv. 1.

Q. [p. 74] **What did the people propose to do?**

A. To make a captain, and return to Egypt. *Num.* xiv. 4.

Q. Who attempted to quell the tumult?

A. Caleb and Joshua. *Num.* xiv. 6.

Q. What did the people threaten respecting them?

A. To stone them. *Num.* xiv. 10.

Q. What judgment did the LORD then denounce upon that generation? *Num.* xiv. 22-24.

A. That not one of them should enter Canaan except Caleb and Joshua.

Q. How long were the Israelites condemned to wander in the wilderness?

A. Forty years. *Num.* xiv. 33.

Q. What became of the spies who brought the evil report?

A. They died of the plague. *Num.* xiv. 37.

Q. What punishment is denounced against the presumptuous sinner?

A. "That soul, because he hath despised the word of the LORD, and has broken His commandments, shall be cut off: his sin shall be upon him." *Num.* xv. 31.

Q. What was done to the man who gathered sticks on the Sabbath?

A. He was stoned to death. *Num.* xv. 36.

Q. What did the Lord then command Moses to tell the people?

A. That they should make fringes to the borders of their garments, &c. *Num.* xv. 38, 39.

Q. What did the LORD say they should be reminded of when looking on them?

A. Of all the commandments, and that they should observe and do them; and that they should not indulge themselves in wickedness; but be holy unto their God. *Num.* xv. 40, 41.

Q. Who were engaged with Korah in his rebellion?

A. [p. 75] Dathan, Abiram, and On. *Num.* xvi. 1.

Q. How many princes were engaged with them?

A. Two hundred and fifty. *Num.* xvi. 2.

Q. Of what did they accuse Moses and Aaron?

A. Of taking too much on themselves. *Num.* xvi. 3.

Q. What became of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram?
A. The earth opened and swallowed them. *Num.* xvi. 32.

Q. What judgment befell the two hundred and fifty princes?
A. "There came out a fire from the LORD and consumed them." *Num.* xvi. 35.

Q. What did the people say to Moses and Aaron the next day?
A. "Ye have killed the people of the LORD." *Num.* xvi. 41.

Q. What punishment was inflicted upon them for this?
A. They were destroyed by the plague. *Num.* xvi. 46, 47.

Q. How many died of the plague?
A. Fourteen thousand seven hundred. *Num.* xvi. 49.

Q. Who made an atonement for the people?
A. Aaron. *Num.* xvi. 47.

Q. Where did the whole congregation then go?
A. To the desert of Zin.

Q. Where did Miriam die?
A. At Kadesh. *Num.* xx. 1.

Q. Of what were the people in want at Kadesh?
A. Of water. *Num.* xx. 2.

Q. How was Moses directed to procure water?
A. By speaking to a rock. *Num.* xx. 8.

Q. When Moses came to the rock, what did he do?
A. He smote it twice. *Num.* xx. 11.

Q. What was the effect?
A. The water came out abundantly. *Num.* xx. 11.

Q. [p. 76] **Of what were Moses and Aaron guilty?**
A. Of neglect; for, instead of speaking to the rock, Moses struck it?

Q. Do you think this holy man intended to have dis obeyed the LORD?
A. No; the people were so troublesome, that, in his haste to procure water, he committed this act which the LORD in his wisdom punished.

Q. What judgment did the LORD denounce upon him and Aaron?
A. That they should not bring the people into the promised land. *Num.* xx. 12.

Q. What did Moses call this water?
A. The water of *Meribah*. *Num.* xx. 13.

Q. What did Moses request of the king of Edom?
A. Permission to pass through his land. *Num* xx. 17.

Q. Did he permit them to go through?
A. No; he refused, saying, "Thou shalt not go through." *Num.* xx. 18.

Q. What did the Israelites do?
A. They turned away from him. *Num.* xx. 21.

Q. Where did the people go when they journeyed from Kadash?
A. They came unto Mount Hor. *Num.* xx. 22.

Q. Where did Aaron die?
A. On Mount Hor. *Num.* xx. 28.

Q. At what age?
A. One hundred and twenty-three years. *Num.* xxxiii. 39.

Q. Who succeeded Aaron as high priest?
A. El'azar, his son. *Num.* xx. 28.

Q. How long did the people mourn for Aaron?
A. Thirty days. *Num.* xx. 29.

[p. 77] LESSON FOURTEENTH.

Q. WHAT did the Israelites say respecting the manna?
A. "Our soul loatheth this light bread." *Num.* xxi. 5.

Q. How were they punished for complaining?
A. The LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, which bit them. *Num.* xxi. 6.

Q. What did they then acknowledge?
A. That they had sinned. *Num.* xxi. 7.

Q. What request did they make of Moses?
A. That he would pray for them. *Num.* xxi. 7.

Q. After they had jouneyed for some time, what place did they come to?[8]
A. To the borders of Moäb. *Num.* xxi. 13.

Q. What did they procure there?
A. Water. *Num.* xxi. 16.

Q. What message did Israel send to Sihon?
A. To let them pass through his land. *Num.* xxi. 22.

Q. Of what nation was Sihon king?
A. Of the Emorites. *Num.* xxi. 21.

Q. Would he permit them to go?
A. He would not; but gathered all his people against Israel. *Num.* xxi. 23.

[8]So printed (for "journeyed").

Q. Where did they fight against Israel?
A. At Jahaz. *Num.* xxi. 23.

Q. What was the issue of this battle?
A. Israel smote them with the edge of the sword. *Num.* xxi. 24.

Q. Where did Israel then dwell?
A. In the land of the Emorites. *Num.* xxi. 31.

Q. Who came out against the Israelites at Edreï?
A. ’Og. *Num.* xxi. 33.

Q. [p. 78] **Who was ’Og?**
A. King of Bashan. *Num.* xxi. 33.

Q. What became of him?
A. He was smitten by the Israelites. *Num.* xxi. 35.

Q. Near what river did the Israelites next pitch their tents?
A. The river Jordan. *Num.* xxii. 1.

Q. Where?
A. In the plains of Moäb. *Num.* xxii. 1.

Q. Opposite what city?
A. Jericho.

Q. How were the Moäbites affected?
A. They were sorely afraid and distressed.

Q. Why were they so much afraid?
A. Because they knew what they had done to the Emorites, and how numerous they were. *Num.* xxi. 2, 3.

Q. Who was king of Moäb?
A. Balak. *Num.* xxii. 4.

Q. To what gentile prophet did Balak send messengers?
A. Bala’am. *Num.* xxii. 5.

Q. What did he wish him to do?
A. To come and curse Israel. *Num.* xxii. 6.

Q. What did Balak say respecting the Israelites?
A. That they were too mighty for him.

Q. Why did not Bala’am go with the messengers?
A. Because the LORD would not permit him. *Num.* xxii. 13.

Q. What did Balak offer Bala’am in his second message?
A. To promote him to very great honour. *Num.* xxii. 17.

Q. Did Bala'am accept this offer?

A. No; he refused, saying, He would not go beyond the word of the LORD. *Num.* xxii. 18.

Q. [p. 79] **Who opposed Bala'am as he was going to Balak!**

A. The angel of the LORD. *Num.* xxii. 22.

Q. Why was God angry with Bala'am for going?

A. Because he went from wrong motives. *Num.* xxii. 32.

Q. How was he reproved?

A. By the miraculous speaking of the ass on which he rode. *Num.* xxii. 30.

Q. What death did Bala'am wish to die?

A. The death of the righteous. *Num.* xxiii. 10.

Q. Why did he wish to die the death of the righteous?

A. Because he would then please God, and abide in heaven, where he would enjoy eternal felicity.

Q. What did he say respecting God?

A. "God is not a man that He should lie, nor the son of man that He should repent." *Num.* xxiii. 19.

Q. When Balak saw that Bala'am had blessed the Israelites, how did he feel?

A. Very angry. *Num.* xxiv. 10.

Q. What did he say to him?

A. "I called thee to curse my enemies." *Num.* xxiv. 10.

Q. What had he done instead of that?

A. He had blessed them three times. *Num.* xxiv. 10.

Q. Of what did he prophesy?

A. Israel's happiness at the last days.

Q. What became of Bala'am?

A. He retired to his place. *Num.* xxiv. 25.

Q. What sin did the Israelites commit on the plains of Moäb?

A. They worshipped the gods of Moäb. *Num.* xxv. 2.

Q. With what judgements were they afflicted for their sin?

A. [p. 80] With the plague. *Num.* xxv. 8.

Q. How many of the people died of the plague?

A. Twenty-four thousand. *Num.* xxv. 9.

Q. Where were the Israelites numbered the second time?

A. On the plains of Moäb. *Num.* xxvi. 3.

Q. Had they increased or diminished between the two numberings?

A. They had diminished.

Q. How many?

A. Nearly two thousand. *Num.* ii. 32. and xxvi. 51.

Q. What did this diminution of the people indicate?

A. That the Creator would not suffer idolatry and other sins to go unpunished.

Q. When the Midianites were destroyed, who was killed among them?

A. Bala'am. *Num.* xxxi. 8.

Q. What did the chiefs of the army do with the gold which they had obtained in Midian?

A. It was brought unto the tabernacle of the congregation. *Num.* xxxi. 54.

Q. For what purpose?

A. "As a memorial for the people of Israel." *Num.* xxxi. 54.

Q. For what land did the Reubenites and Gadites entreat Moses?

A. For the land on the east side of Jordan; because this land was well adapted for the raising of cattle, of which they had a great multitude. *Num.* xxxii. 5.

Q. Did Moses grant their request?

A. He did not at first, and chid them, reminding them of their fathers, who had discouraged the people from going to possess the land which had been promised to them. *Num.* xxxii. 6-9.

Q. After Moses had convinced them of the impropriety of their request, what did they say?

A. [p. 81] "Thy servants will do as my lord commandeth." *Num.* xxxii. 25.

Q. Upon what condition was the request of the Reubenites at last granted?

A. Upon their assisting the other tribes in the conquest of the land on the west side of the Jordan.

Q. How many journeys had the Israelites performed before they came to the borders of Canaan, the land of promise?

A. Forty-two. *Num.* xxxiii.

Q. During these journeys what did Moses do besides guiding them?

A. He wrote down their journeys according to the word of the LORD. *Num.* xxxiii. 2.

Q. Who were appointed to divide the land?

A. El'azar the priest, and Joshua son of Nun. *Num.* xxxiv. 17.

LESSON FIFTEENTH.

Q. WHAT did Moses rehearse to the people at the end of the fortieth year of their journeying through the wilderness?

A. All that the Lord had promised; also His anger at their want of faith.

Q. In what book is this recorded?

A. Deuteronomy.

Q. Why did Moses tell these things again to the people who had themselves witnessed all?

A. Because Moses wished to impress deeply on their heart and mind, all that the LORD had done for them, in order that they might keep themselves distinct from other nations, as the Creator had desired.

Q. Can you give me some farther particulars of this reca pitulation?

A. [p. 82] Yes; he also reminded them of their murmuring and discontent, and exhorted them to be mindful of the Mighty One who had so graciously protected them, notwitstanding all their rebellions.[9]

Q. What was Moses' injunction to the people?

A. That they should not forget the day when they stood before the LORD God on Horeb. *Deut.* iv. 10.

Q. What farther?

A. That they should keep their souls diligently, lest they should forget the miracles which they had seen. *Deut.* iv. 9.

Q. What did Moses tell them of their children?

A. That they should diligently teach their children all the words of the law, and all that they had seen and heard.

Q. What did Moses tell the people respecting their possessing the land of Canaan?

A. He dissuaded them from believing in their own righteousness.

Q. How did he convince them of this?

A. He repeated to them their several rebellions, and that of their fathers before them.

Q. Did he reflect also on the people who were to be driven out of that land?

A. He did.

Q. Can you repeat his word as they are written in the Bible?

A. "Not for thy righteousness, or for the uprightness of thy heart, dost thou go to possess their land; but for the wickedness of these nations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee, and that He may perform the word which the LORD declared unto thy fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." *Deut.* ix. 5.

Q. When Moses again collected all the children of Israel together, to what did he tell them to listen?

A. To the words which the LORD had spoken; and [p. 83] he told them of the reward for obedience, and their punishment in case of disobedience.

Q. What did he charge them?

A. To love the LORD with all their heart, and with all their soul. *Deut.* xi. 13.

Q. What did he say the land should then yield them?

A. Fruit in due season.

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[9] So printed (for "notwithstanding").

Q. Can you recite a verse to that effect?

A. "I will give you rain for your land in due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayst gather in thy corn, thy wine, and thine oil." *Deut.* xi. 14.

Q. What fruit yields the oil here mentioned?

A. The olive.

Q. What the wine?

A. Grapes.

Q. What is said concerning the acquirement of the knowledge of the will of God?

A. That it is not beyond our reach; as the Creator has endowed us with reason and capacity for its acquirement, and the word is very nigh unto us, in our mouth, and in our heart, that we may do it. *Deut.* xxx. 14.

Q. For what other purpose than the first mentioned did Moses repeat the law to the people of Israel as we find in Deuteronomy?

A. Many of the people were too young at their redemption from bondage, and when the law was given, to have a distinct recollection of these events, and many bad been born since. Moses, therefore, before he died endeavoured to impress the entire people with a knowledge of the goodness and the commandments of the LORD, in order that they might be induced to be sincere observers of the law, and teach it also to their children after them.

Q. Can you explain the meaning of the Ten Commandments in general terms?

A. [p. 84] In them we are taught to know and acknowledge the sole Creator, who with great power released our fathers from the bondage of Egypt; and that we are not in any manner to represent Him by images, or acknowledge any other deity.

Q. What farther?

A. That we shall consider His name too holy to be used on every occasion; also to keep very sacredly the day which He, in His wisdom, hath set apart for rest.

Q. Tell me some more concerning the beauties of these Divine commandments?

A. We ought ever to be ready to show obedience to our parents, and to do nothing which would be calculated to offend them. We are also taught to consider the life of man as a gift from the Creator, and as such it should be held sacred; we must consequently do nothing which would tend to shorten his days.

Q. I perceive that you have only gone as far as the sixth commandment; can you briefly explain all the others?

A. In the others, we are taught fidelity, honesty, and truth, added to which, we are strictly forbidden to covet the property of our fellow-men.

Q. After Moses had given all the laws to the people and exhorted them to obey them, what did he do?

A. He pronounced a blessing on each of the twelve tribes. *Deut.* xxxiii.

Q. To whom did he give a charge concerning the people?

A. Joshua. *Deut.* xxxi. 23.

Q. When Moses made an end of writing the law, what did he command the Levites to do?

A. To take the Book of the Law, and put it at the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD. *Deut.* xxxi. 26.

Q. [p. 85] **After Moses had done all this and blessed the people, where did he go?**

A. Up to Mount Nebo. *Deut.* xxxiv. 1.

Q. For what purpose?

A. To commune with the LORD.

Q. What did the LORD show him from the top of Pisgah?

A. All the land of promise *Deut.* xxxiv. 1.

Q. Did this man of God return to the people?

A. No; he yielded up his spirit to Him who had given it.

Q. Where did he die?

A. On Mount Nebo, in the land of Moäb. *Deut.* xxxiv. 5.

Q. Does any one know where he was buried?

A. He was buried in a valley in the land of Moäb, "but no one knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day." *Deut.* xxxiv. 6.

Q. How old was Moses when he died?

A. One hundred and twenty years. *Deut.* xxxiv. 7.

Q. How long did the people mourn for him?

A. Thirty days. *Deut.* xxxiv. 8.

Q. Where did Moses spend all the years of his life?

A. He spent the first part of his life in Egypt, the land of his birth, the second in Midian, and the third in the wilderness.

Q. What books of the Bible have we now gone through?

A. The first five.

Q. Can you name them?

A. Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

Q. What name is sometimes applied to them, taken together?

A. The Pentateuch, or Torah, "the Law."

[p. 86] LESSON SIXTEENTH.

Q. WHOM did the Lord appoint as leader of Israel after the death of Moses.

A. Joshua. *Josh.* i. 1, 2.

Q. Whither was Joshua to lead the people?

A. Into the promised land.

Q. What charge did the LORD give to Joshua?

A. To be strong and courageous.

Q. What farther did the LORD command him?

A. To meditate on the law day and night. *Josh.* i. 8.

Q. What did the LORD promise Joshua?

A. To be with him as He was with Moses: and said, "I will not fail nor forsake thee." *Josh.* i. 5.

Q. For what purpose did Joshua send men over the river Jordan?

A. To spy out Jericho. *Josh.* ii. 1

Q. With whom did the spies lodge?

A. With Rahab. *Josh.* ii. 1

Q. From whom did Rahab hide the spies?

A. From the messengers of the king of Jericho *Josh.* ii. 3-6.

Q. What did she demand of them for her kindness?

A. That when they came to take possession of the land they should save her and her family alive. *Josh.* ii. 12.

Q. Did they promise to do this?

A. They did.

Q. By what means did the LORD magnify Joshua in the sight of the people?

A. By causing them to pass the river Jordan on dry ground. *Josh.* iii. 17.

Q. Where did they encamp after passing the Jordan?

A. At Gilgal. *Josh.* iv. 19.

Q. What did Joshua set up in Gilgal in presence of the people?

A. [p. 87] Twelve stones. *Josh.* iv. 20.

Q. For what purpose?

A. As a memorial for them, and a testimony to their descendents, of their having passed through the Jordan on dry ground. *Josh.* iv. 22.

Q. Why did he so particularly desire this to be known?

A. "That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty; and that they might fear the LORD for ever." *Josh.* iv. 24.

Q. What did Joshua cause those who were born in the wilderness to enter into at Gilgal?

A. The covenant of circumcision. *Josh.* v. 9.

Q. What feast did they keep at Gilgal?

A. The Passover. *Josh.* v. 11.

Q. When did they cease to eat manna?

A. When they entered Canaan. *Josh.* v. 12.

Q. What city did the Israelites first take in Canaan?

A. Jericho. *Josh.* vi. 20.

Q. How many days did they encompass Jericho in succession?

A. Seven. Josh. vi 14, 15.

Q. What was carried round with them?

A. The ark of the covenant. *Josh.* vi. 13.

Q. Who went before the ark?

A. Seven priests, who carried with them trumpets of ram's horns. *Josh.* vi. 13.

Q. What did they do with the trumpets?

A. They sounded them.

Q. What was done on the seventh going round?

A. The priests blew the trumpets, the people cried aloud, and the walls of Jericho fell down. *Josh.* vi. 20.

Q. What became of the people of Jericho?

A. They were slain. *Josh.* vi. 21.

Q. Who were saved alive?

A. Rahab and her father's family, according to the promise the spies had made for her kindness to them.

Q. [p. 88] **Who was with Joshua and caused him to succeed in his undertakings?**

A. The LORD. *Josh.* vi. 27.

Q. What city did the Israelites next besiege?

A. 'Ai. *Josh.* vii. 3.

Q. What was the issue of their first attack upon ' Ai?

A. The Israelits were smitten. *Josh.* vii. 5.[10]

Q. In what manner did Joshua express his grief at this event?

A. "He rent his clothes, and fell upon his face to the earth," and prayed to the LORD. *Josh.* vii. 6, 7.

Q. What was the cause of this defeat.

A. Israel's sin.

Q. In what had they sinned?

A. They had taken of the spoils of their enemies and concealed it among their own things. *Josh.* vii. 11.

Q. Who had taken of the spoils?

A. 'Achan. *Josh.* vii. 18.

[10]So printed (for "Israelites").

Q. What had ’Achan taken?

A. A Babylonish garment, two hundred sheckels of silver, and a wedge of gold. *Josh.* vii. 21.

Q. Where ought the gold and silver to have been placed?

A. In the treasury of the LORD. *Josh.* xi. 11.

Q. What was done to ’Achan?

A. He was stoned and burnt, in order to put away the evil which was among Israel.

Q. Did Joshua succeed in his next attack upon ’ Ai?

A. He did.

Q. What did he do unto the city of ’Ai?

A. He burnt it. *Josh.* viii. 28.

Q. How many of its inhabitants were destroyed?

A. Twelve thousand. *Josh.* viii. 25.

Q. What was done unto the king of ’Ai?

A. [p. 89] Joshua caused him to be hung on a tree, till the going down of the sun. *Josh.* viii. 29.

Q. After this, what did Joshua do?

A. He built an altar unto the LORD on Mount ’Ebal. *Josh.* viii. 30.

Q. What did he then read to the people?

A. All the words of the law. *Josh.* viii. 34.

Q. Did he omit reading anything in the law?

A. No; “there was not a word of all that Moses commanded, which he did not read before all the congregation of Israel.” *Josh.* viii. 35.

Q. What did the kings of Canaan do when they heard of the destruction of Jericho and ’Ai?

A. They assembled together to fight against Israel. *Josh.* ix. 2.

Q. How did the Gibeonites deceive Joshua?

A. By pretending that they had come from a great distance. *Josh.* ix. 4.

Q. In what did Joshua enter with this people?

A. He entered into a league with them. *Josh.* ix. 15.

Q. How long after this did the Israelites discover that they had deceived them, and were their neighbours?

A. Three days. *Josh.* ix. 16.

Q. Why did the children of Israel not smite them for this deception?

A. Because their princes had promised, by an oath in the name of the LORD, to let them live. *Josh.* ix. 15.

Q. How were they treated?

A. They were made bondmen by Joshua. *Josh.* ix. 23-27.

Q. Who then made war against the Gibeonites?

A. The five kings of the Emorites. *Josh.* x. 5.

Q. Why?

A. [p. 90] Because they had made peace with Israel. *Josh.* x. 4.

Q. What did the people of Gibeon then request of the Israelites?

A. That they would come up speedily and help them. *Josh.* x. 6.

Q. What was the issue?

A. Israel destroyed the Emorites. *Josh.* x. 10.

Q. What miracle did Joshua perform?

A. He commanded the sun and moon to stand still. *Josh.* x. 12.

Q. How long did they stand still?

A. About one day. *Josh.* x. 13.

Q. What became of the five kings of the Emorites?

A. They were hung. *Josh.* x. 26.

Q. Who was Jabin?

A. King of Hazor. *Josh.* xi. 1.

Q. For what purpose did he assemble a number of kings?

A. To fight against Israel *Josh.* xi. 5

Q. Where did they encamp?

A. By the waters of Merom.

Q. What became of them?

A. They were smitten by the Israelites. *Josh* xi. 8.

Q. How many kings did the Israelites conquer?

A. Thirty-one. *Josh.* xii. 24.

Q. How was Joshua directed by the LORD to divide the land of Canaan?

A. By lot. *Josh.* xiii. 6.

Q. To how many tribes was the land to be divided?

A. To nine and a half. *Josh.* xiii. 7.

Q. Why was it not divided to twelve tribes?

A. Because Moses had given two tribes and a half their inheritance on the other side of the Jordan. *Josh.* xiii. 8.

Q. [p. 91] **To what tribe was there no inheritance given?**

A. To the tribe of Levi. *Josh.* xiii. 33.

Q. How were they then to be supported?

A. By a tenth part of the produce of the land. *Num.* xviii. 21.

Q. Where did the Israelites first set up the tabernacle?

A. At Shiloh. *Josh.* xviii. 1.

Q. After they had subdued the land, what did Joshua say to the tribes who had obtained their inheritance on the other side of Jordan?

A. "Return ye unto the land of your possessions." *Josh.* xxii. 4.

Q. What did they build as they returned?

A. An altar. *Josh.* xxii. 10.

Q. When the children of Israel heard of it what did they do?

A. "They assembled together at Shiloh." *Josh.* xxii. 12.

Q. For what purpose?

A. To go to war against them.

Q. For what purpose did they think their brethren had built the altar?

A. To rebel against the LORD. *Josh.* xxii. 16.

Q. What reason did the tribes of Reuben and Gad and the half of Menasseh give for building the altar?

A. That it might be a witness between them, that they might serve the LORD. *Josh.* xxii. 27.

Q. How did the people feel when this was told to them?

A. They were pleased. *Josh.* xxii. 33.

Q. What did they call the altar?

A. 'Ed (Witness), "Saying, it shall be a witness between us that the LORD is God." Josh. xxii, 34.

Q. Where did Joshua assemble the people just before his death.

A. [p. 92] At Shechem. *Josh.* xxiv. 1.

Q. To what did he exhort them?

A. To fear and serve the LORD. *Josh.* xxiv. 14.

Q. What resolution did Joshua then express?

A. "As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." *Josh.* xxiv. 15.

Q. What did the people say?

A. "God forbid that we should forsake the LORD, to serve other gods." *Josh.* xxiv. 16.

Q. What reason did they give?

A. That the LORD God it was who had brought them out from slavery, and performed great miracles in the sight of the nations. *Josh.* xxiv. 17, 18.

Q. What did Joshua do after this?

A. He wrote in a book all their promises, together with all that had occurred while he was their leader; and said, it should be a witness unto them that they deny not their God. *Josh.* xxiv. 27.

Q. How old was Joshua when he died?

A. One hundred and ten years. *Josh.* xxiv. 29.

Q. What is said of Joshua's character?

A. He was a good man, beloved by God and all his people.

LESSON SEVENTEENTH.

Q. AFTER the death of Joshua by whom were the Israelites ruled?

A. By judges.

Q. Whom did the LORD say should go up first for the people against the Canaanites?

A. The tribe of Judah. *Judg.* i. 2.

Q. What tribe assisted Judah?

A. . The tribe of Simeon. *Judg.* i. 3.

Q. What king did they capture?

A. [p. 93] Adoni-bezek. *Judg.* i. 5, 6.

Q. What did they do to him?

A. They cut off his thumbs and great toes. *Judg.* i. 6.

Q. How many kings did he say he had treated in the same manner?

A. Seventy. *Judg.* i. 7.

Q. When Israel sinned in the sight of the LORD, in whose power were they put?

A. In that of the King of Mesopotamia. *Judg.* iii. 8.

Q. How long were they in this state?

A. Eight years. *Judg.* iii. 8.

Q. When Israel cried unto the LORD, whom did He raise as their deliverer?

A. 'Othniel. *Judg.* iii. 9.

Q. Who was his brother?

A. Caleb.

Q. How long did 'Othniel judge Israel?

A. Forty years. *Judg.* iii. 11.

Q. After this, to whom did the LORD give power against them?

A. 'Eglon, the king of Moäb. *Judg.* iii. 14.

Q. How long had they served him when they cried unto the LORD because of their oppression?

A. Eighteen years. *Judg.* iii. 14.

Q. Whom did the LORD then cause to deliver them from 'Eglon?

A. Ehud, the son of Gera, a Benjamite. *Judg.* iii. 15.

Q. With what did Shamgar slay six hundred Philistines?
A. With an ox-goad. *Judg.* iii. 31.

Q. Who oppressed Israel after the death of Ehud?
A. Jabin, the king of Canaan. *Judg.* iv. 2.

Q. How long were they oppressed by him?
A. Twenty years. *Judg.* iv. 3.

Q. [p. 94] **To whom did they again cry?**
A. To the LORD. *Judg.* iv. 3.

Q. Who judged Israel at that time?
A. Deborah. *Judg.* iv. 4.

Q. By whom was Deborah assisted?
A. By Barak.

Q. What did Barak do?
A. He commanded the army against Sissera, the general of Jabin.

Q. Did they succeed in their endeavours to deliver Israel from Sissera?
A. They did.

Q. What became of the hosts of Sissera?
A. They were slain with the sword. *Judg.* iv. 15.

Q. Who killed Sissera the commander?
A. Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite. *Judg.* iv. 71.

Q. In what manner did she kill him?
A. She drove a nail in his temples, while he was asleep. *Judg.* iv. 21.

Q. How did Deborah and Barak celebrate this victory?
A. By a song of thanksgiving to God. *Judg.* v. 1.

Q. What did they say in its commencement?
A. "Hear, O ye kings; give ear, O ye princes; I will sing praises to the LORD the God of Israel." *Judg.* v. 3.

Q. After this, who devastated the land of Israel?
A. The Midianites. *Judg.* vi. 1.

Q. Who delivered Israel from them?
A. Gideon.

Q. By what other name is Gideon sometimes called?
A. Jerubbaal. *Judg.* vii. 1.

Q. How many men assembled to Gideon to go against the Midianites?
A. Thirty-two thousand. *Judg.* vii. 3.

Q. [p. 95] **What was done to those who were afraid?**
A. They were sent home. *Judg.* vii. 3.

Q. Why were they sent home?
A. Lest they by their fear might intimidate the others, and cause them to lose the battle.

Q. How many were afraid?
A. Twenty-two thousand.

Q. How many remained?
A. Ten thousand.

Q. How many at last fought against the Midianites?
A. Three hundred. *Judg.* viii. 8.

Q. Why were but three hundred retained?
A. Because the LORD wanted to prove to the people that their victory was obtained, not by their own power and great numbers, but by his especial assistance.

Q. When they attacked the Midianites, what did they cry?
A. "The sword of the LORD and of Gideon." *Judg.* vii. 20.

Q. Did they succeed?
A. Yes; the Midianites were defeated, and fled. *Judg.* vii. 21.

Q. What did the men of Israel then request of Gideon?
A. That he should rule over them. *Judg* viii. 22.

Q. Why did they say they wished him for their ruler?
A. Because he had delivered them from the hand of Midian. *Judg.* viii. 22.

Q. Did he consent to become their ruler?
A. He did not.

Q. Why did he refuse?
A. He said that the LORD should rule over them *Judg.* viii. 23.

Q. How long was the country in peace during the days of Gideon?
A. [p. 96] Forty years. *Judg.* viii. 28.

Q. How many sons had Gideon?
A. Seventy. *Judg.* viii. 30.

Q. After the death of Gideon, who was made king?
A. Abimelech his son. *Judg.* ix. 1.

Q. By whom was Abimelech made king?
A. By the men of Shechem and the house of Millo. *Judg.* ix. 6.

Q. Did he gain this honour by fair means?
A. No; he bribed the people, and entreated them to make him king.

Q. To accomplish his design, what bloody act did he commit?

A. He slew his brothers. *Judg.* ix. 5.

Q. Did not one of his brothers escape from his hand?

A. Yes; his youngest brother Jotham. *Judg.* ix. 5.

Q. In what manner did he escape?

A. He had hid himself. *Judg.* ix. 5.

Q. When Jotham heard of his brother's success, what did he do?

A. He went and stood on at the top of Mount Gerizzim, and raised his voice, proclaiming aloud to the people, and entreating them to listen to him.

Q. To what did he wish them to listen?

A. To his parable of the trees which went forth on a time to anoint a king over them. *Judg.* ix. 8–10.

Q. Why did he give them this parable?

A. He very ingeniously gave to the people this parable to show them that those who put their trust in the wicked must surely fall.

Q. Did Abimelech reign long?

A. He reigned but three years. *Judg.* ix. 22.

Q. Who then opposed him?

A. Ga'al. *Judg.* ix. 39.

Q. Did Ga'al succeed against Abimelech?

A. [p. 97] He did not, and was defeated by Abimelech. *Judg.* ix. 40.

Q. What did Abimelech do to Shechem?

A. He beat it down and sowed it with salt. *Judg* ix. 45.

Q. What city did he next take?

A. Thebez. *Judg.* ix. 50.

Q. Who wounded him at Thebez?

A. A woman.

Q. Where was he wounded?

A. In the head. *Judg.* ix. 53.

Q. With what did she wound him?

A. She stood on the top of a tower and threw a stone upon him?

Q. What did he direct his armour-bearer to do?

A. To slay him with his sword. *Judg.* ix. 54.

Q. Why did he desire this?

A. He knew that he could not survive the wound, and would not have it said that he died by the hand of a woman. *Judg.* ix. 54.

Q. Who judged Israel after this?
A. Tolah. *Judg.* x. 1.

Q. How long did Tolah judge Israel?
A. Twenty-three years. *Judg.* x. 2.

Q. Who succeeded him?
A. Ja'ir the Gileadite. *Judg.* x. 3.

Q. How long did Ja'ir judge Israel?
A. Twenty-two years. *Judg.* x. 3.

Q. How many sons had Ja'ir?
A. Thirty. *Judg.* x. 4.

Q. How many cities had his sons?
A. Thirty.

Q. Where were these cities?
A. In the land of Gilead. *Judg.* x. 4.

Q. When the people again sinned, in whose hand did the LORD deliver them?
A. [p. 98] In the hand of the Pilistines and 'Ammonites. *Judg.* x. 7.[11]

Q. Who was Jephthah?
A. He was a courageous man, and delivered Israel from the hand of the 'Ammonites, a great number of whom he slew. *Judg.* xi. 33.

Q. How long did Jephthah judge Israel?
A. Six years. *Judg.* xii. 7.

Q. How long did the Philistines oppress the Israelites?
A. Forty years. *Judg.* xiii. 1.

Q. Who was their deliverer?
A. Samson (*Shimshon*).

Q. Who was Samson?
A. A man who was distinguished for his great strength?

Q. In what consisted this great strength?
A. It had been foretold to his mother before he was born, that he should be a Nazarite, and that his hair should never be cut off; and consequently the loss of his hair would deprive him of his extraordinary strength.

Q. How many Philistines did he slay with a jawbone of an ass?
A. A thousand. *Judg.* xv. 15.

[11] So printed (for "Philistines").

Q. How did the Philistines at last get Samson in their power?

A. By bribing a woman whose name was Delilah to betray him. *Judg.* xvi. 18, 19.

Q. How did she betray him?

A. She cut off his hair while he slept. Judg. xvi 18, 19.

Q. What did the Philistines do with Samson?

A. They put out his eyes, and bound him in fetters of brass. *Judg.* xvi. 21.

Q. Where was he obliged to labour?

A. [p. 99] In the prison-house.

Q. What did they call Samson to do while they were enjoying their festival?

A. To amuse them; for these people rejoiced in the downfall of so strong an enemy.

Q. Did Samson long amuse them?

A. He did not; for his hair had grown again, and with it his strength had returned.

Q. Was Samson conscious of his returning force?

A. He was; and called on the LORD to aid him in destroying his enemies.

Q. In what manner did he avenge himself for the loss of his eyes?

A. He took hold of the principal pillars of the building in which they were assembled, and pulled with all his might, when he was crushed with thousands of his enemies.

Q. Was Samson buried among the rest of the dead?

A. No; his brothers came down and took him to Zorah, and there buried him in the burying place of his father Manoäh. *Judg.* xvi. 31.

Q. How many years did he judge Israel?

A. Twenty.

LESSON EIGHTEENTH.

Q. AFTER the death of Samson, who judged Israel?

A. They were for some time without a judge, acting as they pleased, and corrupting themselves in various ways, till Eli the high priest became judge of Israel.

Q. How long did Eli judge Israel?

A. Forty years.

Q. Was he a good judge?

A. He was not; for he permitted his sons to lead a [p. 100] profane and wicked life for want of care on his part; he was therefore not it favour with God.

Q. What celebrated woman lived at that time?

A. Ruth.

Q. Who was Ruth?

A. A Moäbite, who married Mahlon an Israelite, the son of Naomi, to whom Ruth was much attached and whom she treated as her own mother.

Q. Why had Naomi and her family left the land of Israel for that of Moäb?

A. Because there was a famine in the land.

Q. Did Ruth accompany her mother-in-law Naomi when she returned to Palestine, after her sons and husband had died?

A. She did, and would not consent to leave her, saying, "Entreat me not to leave thee, nor keep me from following thee; for whither thou goest there I will go; and where thou lodgest I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God; where thou diest will I die, and there will I be buried." *Ruth* i. 16, 17.

Q. Whom did Ruth marry as her second husband?

A. Boäz. *Ruth* iv. 13.

Q. What relation was Ruth to the great king David?

A. Great-grandmother. *Ruth* iv. 21, 22.

Q. What is said of Elkanah the Levite?

A. That he worshipped the LORD at Shiloh every year.

Q. How many wives had Elkanah?

A. Two; their names were Hannah and Peninnah 1 *Sam.* i. 2.

Q. Had Hannah in the early part of her life any children?

A. She had not, and grieved very much in consequence; but Elkanah her husband was kind to her, [p. 101] and loved her exceedingly, always making her presents of more value than to the rest of his family.

Q. Did Hannah continue to lament the want of children, notwithstanding the kindness of her husband?

A. She did; for Peinnah taunted her. 1 *Sam.* i. 7.[12]

Q. What effect had this on Elkanah?

A. It grieved him much, and he said to Hannah, "Why dost thou weep? and why dost thou not eat? why is thy heart grieved? am I not better to thee than ten sons?" 1 *Sam.* i. 8.

Q. Did Hannah long continue childless?

A. She did not; for she had fervently prayed to the LORD for a son, and the LORD heard her prayer, and granted her desire.

Q. What should we infer from the granting of this petition?

A. That the LORD will always receive and grant the supplications of his creatures, if they be offered with humility and a contrite heart.

Q. What did Hannah call this son?

A. Samuel, (Heb. *Shemuale*,) meaning, asked of God; as it is said, "She called his name Samuel, saying, Because I have asked him of the LORD." 1 *Sam.* i. 20.

[12]So printed; spelled "Peninnah" in the previous answer.

Q. When the child Samuel was weaned, where did his mother carry him?

A. To the house of the LORD, at Shiloh. 1 *Sam.* i. 24.

Q. Who was then the high priest?

A. Eli. 1 *Sam.* i. 9.

Q. To whom did Hannah devote her son?

A. Unto the LORD. 1 *Sam.* i. 28.

Q. How long did Hannah say he should be devoted to the LORD?

A. As long as he lived. 1 *Sam.* i. 28.

Q. [p. 102] **In what manner did Hannah express her thanks at this great event of her life?**

A. In a song of praise, in which she says, "My heart rejoiceth in the LORD; my horn is exalted in the LORD; because I rejoice in thy salvation." 1 *Sam.* ii. 1.

Q. What farther did she say?

A. "There is none holy as the LORD; for there is none beside thee: neither is there any like our God." 1 *Sam.* ii. 2. "The pillars of the earth are the LORD'S, and He hath set the world upon them." 1 *Sam.* ii. 8.

Q. At what time of life did Samuel commence to serve the LORD?

A. In his childhood. 1 *Sam.* ii. 18.

Q. What were the names of the sons of Eli?

A. Hophni and Phinehas. 1 *Sam.* i. 3.

Q. Were they good men?

A. They were not; they were wicked, and knew not the LORD.

Q. What was the cause of their wickedness?

A. Their father Eli restrained them not when they were young, and they pursued their evil ways unchecked by his reproof.

Q. What became of Hophni and Phinehas?

A. They were slain in battle; and the ark of the covenant, which they had in charge, was taken by the Philestines. 1 *Sam.* iv. 11.[13]

Q. What effect had this on Eli?

A. On hearing that the ark of God was in possession of the enemy, he fell back from his chair, and broke his neck. 1 *Sam.* iv. 18.

Q. How old was Eli when he died?

A. Ninety-eight years. 1 *Sam.* iv. 15.

Q. Who was Eli's successor?

A. The prophet Samuel.

[13] So printed (for "Philistines").

Q. What was done in the meantime to the Philistines for profaning the ark of God?

A. [p. 103] God sent plagues on the Philistines; and Dagon their chief idol was found prostrate before the ark. 1 *Sam.* v. 4.

Q. What did the Philistines then do?

A. They became alarmed, and restored to the Israelites this pledge of their covenant with God; it was received with much joy by the people. 1 *Sam.* vi. 13.

Q. What advice did Samuel then give to the people?

A. He told them that they should put away their strange gods, and prepare their hearts to serve the LORD God only; for until then they would not be delivered from the hand of the Philistines. 1 *Sam.* vii. 3.

Q. What did the Israelites ask of Samuel when they feared the enemy?

A. They requested him to pray to the LORD God; as they thought that the prayers of so good a man would be heard in heaven. 1 *Sam.* vii. 8.

Q. Where did the people assemble and make acknowledgment of their sins?

A. At Mizpeh, where they fasted and made expiation for their crimes. 1 *Sam.* vii. 7.

Q. What did Samuel offer as a burnt-offering?

A. A young lamb. 1 *Sam.* vii. 9.

Q. On the prayers of Samuel, what did the LORD send upon the enemy?

A. A terrible storm, which discomfited the Philistines, and they were smitten before Israel. Thus the Israelites, being divinely assisted, obtained a decisive victory over their enemies. 1 *Sam.* vii. 10.

Q. How often did Samuel visit the different chief cities of the land?

A. He went around once a year to Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpeh. 1 *Sam.* vii. 16.

Q. Where was his own house?

A. At Ramah; there also he judged Israel, and there he built an altar unto the LORD. 1 Sam. vii 17.

Q. [p. 104] **What was the administration of Samuel?**

A. It was wise and prudent; for a man who governs in the fear of God cannot fail to do justice to his people.

Q. When he became old, whom did he employ as his deputies?

A. His sons, Joel and Abiah. 1 *Sam.* viii. 2.

Q. Did the people like them?

A. They did not; and their injustice induced the people to demand of Samuel a king to rule over them.

Q. What was the character of Joel and Abiah, Samuel's sons?

A. They were not like Samuel their father; they walked not in his ways; but took bribes, and looked more for gain than justice. 1 *Sam.* viii. 3.

Q. Did Samuel willingly consent to give a king to the people?

A. No; he remonstrated with them; but after doing so in vain, he had to yield to their request, and by the direction of the LORD he chose a king over them from the tribe of Benjamin. 1 *Sam.* ix. 2.

Q. What did Samuel tell them previous to his selecting a king for them?

A. He pointed out the disadvantages of despotism over the happiness that would follow their remaining as they were, with the Creator as their only sovereign. 1 *Sam.* viii. 11-18. i

Q. What farther did Samuel tell the people?

A. All that would befall them from the hand of their king, and foretold the whole effects of his reign.

Q. After Samuel had told the people the impropriety of their demand, what did he do?

A. He brought Saul forward and anointed him with oil. 1 *Sam.* x. 1.

Q. When the people (his companions) heard Saul prophesy, what did they say?

A. [p. 105] They all exclaimed, "Is Saul also among the prophets?" 1 *Sam.* x. 11.

Q. Were all the people in favour of Saul?

A. No; some received him proclaiming, "Long live the king," while others rejected him saying, "How shall this man save us? And they despised him, and brought him no token of good will; but he held his peace." 1 *Sam.* x. 27.

Q. What occurred at this time?

A. Nahash the 'Ammonite came and encamped against Jabesh-gilead; and the men went to him and asked him to enter into a covenant with them. 1 *Sam.* xi. 1.

Q. On what conditions did he say he would enter into a league with them?

A. On condition that they would allow him to put out every man's right eye, that he may lay it as a reproach upon all Israel. 1 *Sam.* xi. 2.

Q. Did the men consent to this?

A. They did not; but feeling alarmed at this most singular demand, they asked for seven days respite in order to make the matter known and be saved from the hand of so dreadful an enemy. 1 *Sam.* xi. 3.

Q. What benefit did Saul derive from this circumstance?

A. It afforded him an opportunity of showing his bravery, and thus gaining the love and confidence of the people.

Q. Did Saul succeed in his attack upon the enemy?

A. He did, and completely defeated them: they were so scattered that there were not two left together. 1 *Sam.* xi. 11.

Q. How did those men feel who were at the first opposed to Saul?

A. They were now delighted; and offered to put to death all who had been against him. 1 *Sam.* xi. 12.

Q. [p. 106] **Did Saul allow them to shed blood for this?**

A. He did not; and declared that the blood of no Israelite should defile the glory of his triumph. 1 *Sam.* xi. 13.

Q. Who did he say had wrought this salvation in Israel?

A. The LORD. 1 *Sam.* xi. 13.

Q. What did Samuel then propose to the people?

A. To go to Gilgal and there renew the kingdom. 1 *Sam.* xi. 14.

Q. Did they all go to Gilgal?

A. They did; and there they offered sacrifices of peace-offerings before the LORD, and made Saul king, and the people rejoiced exceedingly. 1 *Sam.* xi. 15.

Q. Before Samuel resigned his office, in what manner did he address the people?

A. He appealed to all as witnesses of his integrity and upright administration, and solemnly resigned his office. 1 *Sam.* xii. 3-5.

Q. What more did he say to the people?

A. He reproved them for all their evil conduct, and exhorted them to live in the fear of the LORD. 1 *Sam.* xii. 14.

Q. When Samuel prayed unto the Lord, what came upon them?

A. The LORD sent a great storm which was unusual at the harvest-season, which alarmed them greatly; and they asked Samuel to pray for them as he had done on former occasions, and they acknowledged that they had sinned in asking a king. 1 *Sam.* xii. 19.

Q. What again did Samuel advise the people to do?

A. To serve the LORD diligently, with all their hearts, and not turn after vain things; for then the LORD would not forsake His people. 1 *Sam.* xii. 22.

Q. Who aided Saul in the administration of his government?

A. His son Jonathan. 1 *Sam.* xiii. 2.

Q. [p. 107] **What was the character of Jonathan?**

A. He was a very affectionate man, though one of much valour.

Q. Can you give me an instance of this?

A. Yes; he attacked the garrison of the Philistines at Geba, at a time even when the Israelites were not prepared for war. 1 *Sam.* xiv. 1.

Q. What do you mean by their being unprepared for war.

A. Because they had not swords nor other implements of war; for the Philistines had removed all the smiths from the country; and the people had to go down to the land of the Philistines to have their ploughs and edge-tools sharpened, or to use a file for that purpose. 1 *Sam.* xiii. 19-21.

Q. Were Saul and Jonathan without swords and spears?

A. No; they were the only ones with whom these weapons were found.

Q. Did Jonathan succeed in delivering the people from the hand of the enemy?

A. He did, notwithstanding all disadvantages. *Sam.* xiv. 21.

Q. Who was the chief man in gaining this victory?

A. Jonathan.

Q. Where did Saul summon the people to appear before the battle?

A. At Gilgal, the usual gathering place of the Israelites.

Q. Did they all assemble unto him?

A. They did not; as some crossed to the eastern side of the Jordan, whilst the others came to Saul to Gilgal dispirited and trembling. 1 *Sam.* xiii. 7.

Q. What farther disheartened the people?

A. The absence of Samuel who was to have offered a solemn sacrifice. 1 *Sam.* xiii. 8.

Q. [p. 108] **Did Saul wait long for Samuel?**

A. He waited not many hours after the appointed time; but, impatient of delay, he offered up the sacrifice himself. 1 *Sam.* xiii. 9.

Q. Did Samuel then come?

A. He did; immediately after Saul had made the offering. 1 *Sam.* xiii. 10.

Q. What did Samuel tell him should be the consequence of his precipitancy?

A. He announced to him that the kingdom should not be hereditary in his family. 1 *Sam.* xiii. 14.

Q. What took place after this?

A. The famous battle with the Philistines, as I have already described, in which the brave Jonathan so fearlessly distinguished himself.

Q. On whom was Saul ordered to execute vengeance?

A. On the ’Amelekites, a people who had been for a long time the most inveterate enemies of our nation 1 *Sam.* xv. 2, 3.

Q. What was Saul commanded respecting the captives and spoils?

A. He was commanded not to take captives, nor to preserve the spoil. 1 *Sam.* xv. 3.

Q. Did he obey?

A. No, he violated both these injunctions; for he brought home with him the king as a prisoner, and an immense prey of cattle; but every thing that was vile and refuse he destroyed. 1 *Sam.* xv. 9.

Q. Who then executed the commmand?[14]

A. Samuel; he put Agag the king of the ’Amalekites to death in Gilgal. 1 *Sam.* xvi. 33.

[14]So printed (for “command”).

Q. What did Samuel say to Saul?

A. He rebuked him, and told him in more emphatic terms than he did on a former occasion, that his disobedience would be punished by the transference of the crown to one more deserving of the honour. 1 *Sam.* xvi. 28.

Q. [p. 109] **What farther did Samuel say to him.**

A. He said, "Hath the LORD as much delight in the fat of rams, and in burnt-offerings, as in obedience to his will? Behold to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken is better than the fat of rams." 1 *Sam.* xvi. 22.

Q. Can you repeat anything else that Samuel told Saul?

A. He compared rebellion to the sin of idolatry, and stubbornness to iniquity; and farther told him that as he had rejected the command of the LORD, He had rejected him from being king. 1 *Sam.* xv. 23.

Q. What effect had this upon Saul?

A. Remorse and grief produced a fatal effect on his mind, and he became subject to fits of frenzy. 1 *Sam.* xvi. 14, 15.

Q. Who was chosen as successor to Saul?

A. David, a Bethlehemite of the tribe of Judah. 1 *Sam.* xvi. 13.

Q. What was David distinguished for, when but a youth in his father's house?

A. For his bravery. He slew a lion and a bear that attempted to devour some of his father's flock then under his charge. 1 *Sam.* xvii. 35, 36.

Q. Who at this time invaded again the land of Israel?

A. The Philistines. 1 *Sam.* xvii. 1.

Q. Who appeared as their champion?

A. Goliath of Gath, who challenged any Israelite warrior to meet him in single combat. 1 *Sam.* xvii. 8.

Q. Whom did this powerful Goliath defy?

A. The armies of Israel. 1 *Sam.* xvii. 10.

Q. Who accepted this challenge?

A. David. For some days no one could be found bold enough to meet this gigantic man of Gath, but David coming then in the camp, offered himself to Saul [p. 110] to fight him, though armed only with a sling and a few pebbles which he gathered from a brook. 1 *Sam.* xvii. 32-40.

Q. What strengthened David to this when Saul refused him on the score of his youth and inexperience in war?

A. He said, "The LORD who hath delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, He will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine." 1 *Sam.* xvii. 37.

Q. What did Saul say to David when he found him ready to go armed with faith?

A. He consented to his going against Goliah, saying, "Go, and the LORD be with thee." 1 *Sam.* xvii. 37.

Q. Did David succeed against this powerful enemy?

A. He did, having for his shield the great Ruler of the world.

Q. When David presented himself to the Philistine with his staff in hand, how did he treat him?

A. He disdained David, and cursed him, saying, "Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves?" 1 *Sam.* xvii. 42, 43,

Q. What did David then say to Goliah?

A. He said "Thou comest to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a shield; but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied." 1 *Sam.* xvii. 45.

Q. David, we have said, killed the enemy; with what did he kill him?

A. With a stone. 1 *Sam.* xvii. 50.

Q. What did this gain for David?

A. The warmest affection of Jonathan; and he loved David as his own soul. 1. *Sam.* xviii. 1.

Q. What did David begin to do from this time?

A. Being promoted by Saul, he began to take an active part in public life. 1 *Sam.* xviii. 5.

Q. [p. 111] **When David returned from the slaughter of the Philistines, who came out of the cities of Israel to meet him and Saul?**

A. Women with instruments of music, with dancing and singing. 1 *Sam.* xviii. 6.

Q. What did they say in their song?

A. "Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands." 1 *Sam.* xviii. 7.

Q. What effect had this on Saul?

A. It excited his jealousy; and from that day forward he disliked and envied David. 1 *Sam.* xvii. 9-29.

Q. To whom had Saul offered his daughter?

A. To the man who should slay Goliath.

Q. Did Saul comply with this promise?

A. He did; as he after some delay gave his second daughter, Michal, to David for a wife, after bestowing the elder, Merab, on another.

Q. Did this connection seem to stop the king's enmity to David?

A. It did not; for David was once saved from the hand of Saul by the stratagem of his wife, and another time by the ever-active friendship of Jonathan.

Q. When David saw that his life was no longer safe at court what did he do?

A. He resolved to seek safety in exile. 1 *Sam.* xxi. 1.

Q. How and by whom was he entertained on the way?

A. He was hospitably entertained by the priests at Nob. 1 *Sam.* xxi. 6..

Q. What weapon did they give to David?

A. The sword of Goliath. 1 *Sam.* xxi. 9.

Q. When Saul heard of these things, what did he do?

A. He ordered all of the priests of Nob to be slaughtered. 1 *Sam.* xxii. 17-19.

Q. [p. 112] **How many priests were slain?**

A. Eighty-five. 1 *Sam.* xxii. 18.

Q. Who escaped?

A. (*Ebyathar*), Abiathar who fled after David. 1 *Sam.* xxii. 20.

Q. Did Saul continue to pursue David?

A. He did, and sought him everywhere to slay him.

Q. Was Saul ever in the power of David?

A. He was twice; but David would not shed the blood of the anointed of the LORD, and only informed Saul of the danger he had been in. 1 *Sam.* xxvi. 23, 24.

Q. Did Saul at this proof of David's innocence become reconciled to him?

A. He did in a measure; but this reconciliation was only temporary; and David observing it, left him and went to the court of Achish, the king of the Philistines. 1 *Sam.* xxvii. 2.

Q. How long did David dwell in the country of the Philistines?

A. One year and four months. 1 *Sam.* xxvi. 7.

Q. While the Philistines were at war with the Israelites, what occurred?

A. Samuel died, and all Israel mourned for him.

Q. Where did they bury Samuel?

A. In Ramah, in his own city. 1 *Sam.* xxviii. 3.

Q. What effect had the death of Samuel on Saul?

A. He was in a most dreadful state of mind; he felt that he was indeed abandoned by the LORD; Samuel was dead, the prophets filed from him, and the priests had been slaughtered; all these afflictions tended greatly to distress the already troubled spirit of Saul.

Q. In addition to all this, what other calamity came upon Saul?

A. Achish with the Philistine chiefs invaded the [p. 113] country, and Saul found that a war had become unavoidable. 1 *Sam.* xxix. 1.

Q. Did David (who was then with Achish) join this invasion?

A. He did not, being saved from so awful a deed by the jealousy and fear of the Philistine chiefs, who had not lost sight of David's valour, and had not forgotten the loud acclamations with which he had been received. 1 *Sam.* xxix. 4, 5.

Q. Were the Israelites victorious in this battle?

A. No; they were completely defeated, and Jonathan with his brothers fell while bravely fighting. 1 *Sam.* xxxi. 2.

Q. Did Saul escape?

A. No; he was sorely wounded by the archers, and being unwilling to die by the hand of the enemy, he threw himself on his sword and died. 1 *Sam.* xxxi. 4.

Q. What became of his armour-bearer?

A. When he beheld the dead body of Saul, he also fell on his sword and died with him. 1 *Sam.* xxxi. 5.

Q. Where did all this take place?

A. On Mount Gilboä. 1 *Sam.* xxxi. 8.

Q. How did the Philistines treat the bodies of Saul and his sons?

A. With great indignity. 1 *Sam.* xxxi. 9, 10.

Q. Who rescued the bodies of Saul and his sons?

A. The inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead, who remembered with gratitude that Saul had once been their deliverer. 1 *Sam.* xxxi. 11-13.

Q. When David heard these dreadful tidings, how did he feel?

A. He was filled with sorrow; he mourned, wept, and fasted; and composed the most sublime and beautiful lamentations over Saul and Jonathan his son. *Sam.* i. 11-27.

Q. Can you account for this lamentable event?

A. [p. 114] Yes; had Saul strictly obeyed the voice of God, He would not have forsaken him; thus it is that a departure from the holy law will ever prove fatal to man.

LESSON NINETEENTH.

Q. AFTER the death of Saul, who was greeted as king by the tribe of Judah?

A. David. 2 *Sam.* ii. 4.

Q. By whom was David opposed?

A. By Abner, captain of Saul's army, who took Ish-bosheth the son of Saul, and brought him to Mahanaïm, and made him king over all Israel except the house of Judah, who alone followed David. 2 *Sam.* ii. 8-10

Q. Where did David then reign?

A. In Hebron. 2 *Sam.* i. 1.

Q. How long was David king in Hebron?

A. Seven years and six months. 2 *Sam.* ii. 11.

Q. How long did Ish-bosheth retain the honour he had obtained?

A. Only two years, and was then assassinated by two of his own servants, who were executed by the command of David. 2 *Sam.* iv. 7-12.

Q. When David found himself freed from his enemies, and at liberty to act, what did he do?

A. He went and brought up the ark of God. *Sam.* vi. 2.

Q. In what manner was it borne to Jerusalem?

A. In a triumphal procession; David himself joined in psalms of praise on all manner of instruments. 2 *Sam.* vi. 5.

Q. What was the ark of God?

A. A box containing the two tables of stone on which the Ten Commandments were engraved.

Q. [p. 115] **When David found himself comfortably settled in his own house, what did he propose to Nathan the prophet?**

A. To build a house for the ark. 2 *Sam.* vii. 2.

Q. What was the prophet Nathan directed to inform David?

A. That a warrior whose hands had been stained with blood was not a proper person to build a temple to the LORD, but that this honour was reserved for his successor, who should be his own son. 2 *Sam.* vii. 12, 13.

Q. What did the LORD promise David?

A. That his kingdom should be established for ever. 2 *Sam.* vii. 16.

Q. By whom was this message conveyed to David?

A. By the prophet Nathan, to whom the LORD had spoken in a vision. 2 *Sam.* vii. 17.

Q. What son was David promised should build the temple of God?

A. Solomon.

Q. What took place under the reign of King David?

A. A series of wars with many nations; among the rest the Philistines were humbled, and had to give up a large portion of their territory together with the powerful city of Gath. 1 *Chro.* xviii. 1.

Q. After these successful battles, how far did David's eastern boundary extend?

A. It extended to the river Euphrates. 2 *Sam.* viii. 3.

Q. Was the whole life of David pure?

A. No; he sinned, for which besides the punishment which was sent upon him, his conscience smote him greatly; during the time of his afflictions, which were the result of his transgressions, he poured forth his sorrow in some of the most beautiful Psalms, which are called the Penitential Psalms.

Q. Who endeavoured to supplant David?

A. [p. 116] His own son Absalom. 2 *Sam.* xv. 1, 2.

Q. How was Absalom punished for this outrage?

A. The mule on which he rode during the battle against his father's troops passed under an oak, and as his hair was very long he was caught in the branches of the tree, and there he remained hanging (the mule having left him) till Joäb, David's general, with his followers came and killed him. 2 *Sam.* xviii. 9-15.

Q. What effect had this on David?

A. He wept most bitterly for his son Absalom. *Sam.* xviii. 33.

Q. When David had once become faint in battle, what did his men say to him?

A. They dissuaded him from joining any more in battle, lest (as they thought) the light of Israel be extinguished. 2 *Sam.* xxi. 17.

Q. How did David spend the remainder of his life?

A. He employed himself chiefly in collecting materials for the temple, to be erected by his son Solomon.

Q. When David found that he was approaching his last days, what did he do?

A. He sent for Solomon, and, after having entreated him to persevere in the worship of the true God, and given him general directions for the government of the kingdom, he expired, after a reign of forty years. 1 *Kings* ii. 1-10.

Q. How long did he reign in Jerusalem?

A. Thirty-three years. 1 *Kings* ii. 11.

Q. Where was David buried?

A. In the City of David.

Q. Who then sat on the throne of David?

A. Solomon. 1 *Kings* ii. 12.

Q. With whom did Solomon make affinity?

A. With Pharaoh, the king of Egypt.

Q. Whom did he marry?

A. [p. 117] The daughter of Pharaoh. 1 *Kings* iii. 1.

Q. What occurred to Solomon soon after his marriage?

A. The LORD God appeared to him in a vision, and offered him the choice of any gift he pleased. 1 *Kings* iii. 5.

Q. What did he choose?

A. He chose wisdom; saying, "Give thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and evil; for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?" 1 *Kings* iii. 9.

Q. Did this choice please the LORD?

A. It did; and the thing pleased the LORD that Solomon had asked. Not only was his request granted, but unbounded riches and honour were added, and a promise of a long life, on condition of his persevering in obedience to the divine commandments. 1 *Kings* iii. 12-14.

Q. What was the first example of his wisdom thus divinely obtained?

A. The two mothers contending for a child which was brought to him. 1 *Kings* iii. 25.

Q. What did Solomon begin to build soon after his accession to the throne?

A. The temple of the LORD. 1 *Kings* v. 2-5.

Q. Who aided Solomon in cutting cedars on Lebanon, for this magnificent building?

A. Hiram the king of Tyre, who supplied him with Tyrian workmen for the erection of that holy house. 1 *Kings.* v. 9, 10, 18.

Q. How long after the departure of the Israelites from Egypt did Solomon begin to build the temple?

A. Four hundred and eighty years. 1 *Kings* vi. 1.

Q. In what manner were the materials for the building prepared?

A. The best artificers of the East exerted their in [p. 118] genuity and skill for this holy purpose. The stones and timbers were so correctly prepared, as to be put together without the use of a hammer or any other noisy implement. 1 *Kings* vi. 7.

Q. What were the dimensions of the building?

A. It was in length sixty cubits, in breadth twenty cubits, and in height thirty cubits. 1 *Kings* vi. 2.

Q. How long were they in building it?

A. Seven years. 1 *Kings* vi. 38.

Q. What did Solomon do with the treasures which his father David had prepared and dedicated?

A. He brought and put them among the treasures of the house of the LORD. 1 *Kings* vii. 51.

Q. When the building was finished in all its parts and ornamented throughout, what did Solomon do?

A. He assembled all the elders of Israel, and dedicated it to the LORD in a most solemn manner, first bringing in the ark of the covenant, it being borne by priests. 1 *Kings* viii. 1.

Q. Was there anything in the ark beside the sacred tables?

A. No; "There was nothing in the ark save the two tables of stone which Moses had put there at Horeb, when the LORD made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt." 1 *Kings* viii. 9.

Q. When the priests came out of the holy place, what filled the house?

A. The cloud of glory. 1 *Kings* viii. 10, 11.

Q. Where was this *Bath Hammikdash*, or Holy temple situated?

A. In Jerusalem.

Q. On what mount?

A. On Mount Moriah.

Q. Do you know of any particular circumstance which occurred on this mount?

A. [p. 119] Yes; it was there that our forefather Abraham was commanded to offer up his son Isaac to the LORD. *Gen.* xxii. 2-9.

Q. When Solomon had assembled all Israel together in the temple, what did he do?

A. He stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands towards heaven, and most earnestly addressed the Eternal. 1 *Kings* viii. 22.

Q. What did Solomon say in his address to God?

A. He said, "LORD God of Israel! there is no god like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath, who keepest covenant and mercy with thy servants that walk before thee with all their heart." 1 *Kings* viii. 23.

Q. Did he continue praying to the LORD?

A. He did.

Q. What was the purport of his prayers?

A. He prayed to God to bless the house he had built, and to receive the prayers and supplications of all persons who should offer them in that house, and also for the acceptance of those who, being afar off, should direct their voice with a contrite heart towards that house. 1 *Kings* xiii. 29, 30.

Q. After Solomon had prayed to the LORD, what did he tell the people?

A. He requested them to let their hearts be perfect with the LORD our God, to walk in His statutes, and to keep His commandments. 1 *Kings* viii. 61.

Q. After this, what did the king and all Israel do?

A. They offered sacrifice before the LORD. 1 *Kings* viii. 62.

Q. How long did Solomon and the people hold a feast before the LORD our God?

A. Fourteen days. 1 *Kings* viii. 65.

Q. At the end of the feast, what did the people do?

A. [p. 120] Solomon then discharged them; and "they blessed the king, and went unto their tents joyful and glad of heart, for all the goodness that the LORD had done for David his servant, and for Israel His people." 1 *Kings* viii. 66.

Q. What occurred after this?

A. It pleased the LORD to appear a second time to Solomon, as He had done to him at Gibeon. 1 *Kings* ix. 2.

Q. What did the LORD tell Solomon?

A. That He had received his prayers and hallowed the house; promising farther, that, if he would obey His voice, his kingdom should be established for ever. 1 *Kings* ix. 5.

Q. Where did Solomon build his palace?

A. On Mount Zion, to the south of Mount Moriah.

Q. How long was he building it?

A. Thirteen years. 1 *Kings* vii. 1.

Q. What is said of this house?

A. It is said to have been the most magnificent mansion ever known; it had a throne of ivory and gold with sculptured lions, and numerous other costly ornaments. 1 *Kings* x. 18, 19.

Q. Who furnished Solomon with materials for this splendid building?

A. Hiram, the king of Tyre, with whom Solomon had entered into a treaty. He also supplied him with Tyrian mariners who were the greatest navigators of antiquity, and who, together with Solomon's servants, undertook many distant expeditions. 1 *Kings* ix. 11, 27.

Q. Of what use were these great mariners to Solomon?

A. They enabled him to have communication with Tarshish, (probably in the present western Europe,) and from his ports on the shore of the Red Sea, vessels [p. 121] sailed to Ophir, probably on the shores of the Indian Ocean. 1 *Kings* ix. 26-28.

Q. When the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, what did she do?

A. She travelled from her own country, which was probably in the remote extremity of Arabia to see his court. 1 *Kings* x. 1, 2.

Q. After she had seen the king and questioned him, what did she say?

A. She told him, that she had heard of his acts and wisdom, and thought them too great to be believed; but that she was now satisfied that his wisdom and prosperity exceeded all she had heard. 1 *Kings* x. 6, 7.

Q. What farther did the queen of Sheba say?

A. She said, "Blessed be the LORD thy God who delighted in thee to set thee on the throne of Israel; because the Lord loved Israel for ever, therefore made He thee king, to do judgment and justice." 1 Kings x 9.

Q. Did Solomon use his talents in any other way besides that of governing the people?

A. He wrote several books, and these are their names both in Hebrew and English: *Safer Mishlay* or the Book of Proverbs, *Shir Hahshireem*, or the Song of Songs, and *Safer Kohalet*, Ecclesiastes or the Preacher, all of which are contained in the Bible. He is said to have written poems and treatises on natural history and botany, which have been lost.

Q. What was the state of Palestine during the reign of Solomon?

A. That of perfect peace and harmony; as we are told in the Bible: "And Judah and Israel dwelt safely, every man under his vine and under his fig-tree, from Dan even unto Beer-sheba, all the days of Solomon." 1 *Kings* iv. 25.

Q. [p. 122] **How many years did Solomon reign over Israel?**

A. He reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel forty years, and was buried in the city of David his father. 1 *Kings* xi. 42, 43.

LESSON TWENTIETH.

Q. Who succeeded Solomon?

A. Rehoboam his son. 1 *Kings* xi. 43.

Q. Where did Rehoboam go to be made king?

A. To Shechem. 1 *Kings* xii. 1.

Q. Did Rehoboam inherit the wisdom of his father Solomon?

A. He did not; and he showed this want of wisdom when the people demanded of him to diminish the taxes which Solomon had imposed on them.

Q. Whom did he consult?

A. He first consulted the old councillors of his father, who advised him to yield to the people's wishes; and next he applied to the young men who had grown up with him, who told him to increase yet more the people's burdens.

Q. Whose advice did he follow?

A. That of the young men; as it suited best to his own headstrong disposition. 1 *Kings* xii. 8.

Q. Was the counsel of the young men consonant with wisdom?

A. It was not; and therefore the people rebelled against the house of David. 1 *Kings* xii. 16.

Q. When Rehoboam discovered too late that he had attended to bad counsel, what did he do to escape from the infuriated people?

A. He was forced to take refuge with the tribe of Judah in Jerusalem. 1 *Kings* xii. 18.

Q. What tribes remained faithful to Rehoboam?

A. [p. 123] The tribes of Judah and Benjamin. 1 *Kings* xii. 20, 21.

Q. Whom did the other ten tribes choose for their ruler.

A. Jeroboam, the son of Nebat. 1. *Kings* xii. 20.

Q. Did the people act well under Jeroboam and his successors?

A. They did not; but sinned greatly and worshipped idols, for which the LORD punished them. 1 *Kings* xii. 30.

Q. Who was Jeroboam?

A. One of Solomon's officers.

Q. When Jeroboam was one day offering to his idol upon his altar, who came to him?

A. A prophet of the LORD from the land of Judah. 1 *Kings* xiii. 1.

Q. What did the prophet tell Jeroboam?

A. That the altar on which he was offering should be destroyed. 1 *Kings* xiii. 3.

Q. What did Jeroboam then do?

A. He put out his hand to lay hold of the man of God; but the Lord caused his hand to wither and dry up, as a just punishment for the attempted outrage. 1 *Kings* xiii. 4.

Q. What became of the altar?

A. It was rent, and the ashes were poured out upon the ground, according to the words of the prophet. 1 *Kings* xiii. 5.

Q. What did the king Jeroboam do to recover the use of his hand?

A. He asked the prophet to pray unto the LORD God that his flesh should be healed.

Q. Did the prophet pray for him?

A. He did; and the LORD who is ever merciful caused his hand to be healed. 1 *Kings* xiii. 6.

Q. What became of this prophet?

A. [p. 124] He did not in every respect obey the Divine injunctions, and was therefore killed by a lion on his return homeward. 1 *Kings* xiii. 23, 24.

Q. How long did Jeroboam reign?

A. Twenty-two years.

Q. Who succeeded him?

A. His son Nadab. 1 *Kings* xv. 25.

Q. Was he a good king?

A. He was not; and pursued the evil ways of his father. 1 *Kings* xv. 26.

Q. How long did he reign?

A. Only two years. 1 *Kings* xv. 25.

Q. Who reigned after him?

A. Baasha, the son of Ahijah, of the house of Issachar, who slew Nadab, and reigned in his stead. 1 *Kings* xv. 27, 28.

Q. Whose ways did he adopt?

A. Those of Jeroboam; and the prophets of the LORD told him that a fate similar to that of Jeroboam should await himself and family. 1 *Kings* xv. 34; xvi. 3.

Q. What was he told should be done to the bodies of his family?

A. That those who died in the city should be eaten by dogs, and those who died in the field should be eaten by the birds. 1 *Kings* xvi. 4.

Q. How long did Baasha reign?

A. Twenty-four years. 1 *Kings* xv. 33.

Q. Who succeeded Baasha?

A. His son Elah. 1 *Kings.* xvi. 6.

Q. What kind of king was he?

A. He was a very weak and intemperate king; his servants conspired against him while he was drinking and feasting in the house of his steward. 1 *Kings* xvi. 9

Q. How long did Elah reign?

A. [p. 125] Two years. 1 *Kings* xvi. 8.

Q. Who reigned after Elah?

A. Zimri the principal murderer of Elah. 1 *Kings* xvi. 10.

Q. How long did Zimri reign?

A. Seven days. 1 *Kings* xvi. 15.

Q. Whom did the people make king in the place of Zimri?

A. Omri. 1 *Kings* xvi. 16.

Q. Did all the people follow Omri?

A. Half followed him, and half followed Tibni, the son of Ginath; but at his death Omri became sole king.

Q. How long did Omri reign?

A. Twelve years. 1 *Kings* xvi. 23.

Q. Who succeeded Omri, who had likewise followed the sins of Jeroboam?

A. Ahab his son, who reigned twenty-two years. 1 *Kings* xvi. 29.

Q. In whose reign did the prophet Elijah live?

A. In the reign of Ahab.

Q. Why was Elijah obliged to fly from the presence of Ahab?

A. Because the prophet told him of all the evil that should befall him for his wickedness. 1 *Kings* xvii. 1.

Q. Where did the prophet conceal himself?

A. By the brook Kerith.

Q. Who brought him food?

A. The ravens. 1 *Kings* xvii. 6.

Q. When the brook of which Elijah drank became dry, what did he do?

A. He went by Divine direction to Zarephath, where he was supported by a widow. 1 *Kings* xvii. 10.

Q. Had the woman much food when the prophet came to her?

A. [p. 126] She had not; but the LORD increased her store, and sustained both Elijah and herself and family. 1 *Kings* xvii. 16.

Q. What happened to the son of the widow while Elijah was with her?

A. He became extremely ill and died, and was restored to life in consequence of the prayers offered up to God by the prophet. 1 *Kings* xvii. 22.

Q. What was then in the land?

A. A dreadful famine, which lasted three years. Now it came to pass, that Ahab went himself one way, and sent his servant Obadiah another, to seek for grass at different fountains, in order to preserve alive the few cattle that had remained. While Obadiah was on his way he saw Elijah, who had come by direction of the LORD to meet Ahab. 1 *Kings* xviii. 1-7.

Q. On meeting Elijah, what did Ahab say?

A. He inquired if he were the one who had troubled Israel. 1 *Kings* xviii. 17.

Q. Whom did the prophet accuse of having troubled Israel?

A. Ahab and his family. 1 *Kings* xviii. 18.

Q. When Elijah prayed unto the LORD to prove to the people which was the true faith, what descended from heaven?

A. Fire fell and consumed the burnt-offerings and all the sacrifices which had been placed on the altar which he had built. 1 *Kings* xviii. 38.

Q. What did the people proclaim when convinced by this great miracle?

A. They acknowledged the LORD, by exclaiming, “The LORD He is God, the LORD He is God.”

Q. Whom did Elijah cause to be slain?

A. The false prophets of the idol Baal. 1 *Kings* xviii. 40.

Q. [p. 127] **What female took an active part in public affairs?**

A. Jezebel, the wife of Ahab, who threatened Elijah with vengeance, because he had slain the prophets of her idol. 1 *Kings* xix. 2.

Q. Where did Elijah flee when threatened by this wicked woman?

A. Into the wilderness, where he witnessed the wondrous manifestations of Divine power. 1 *Kings* xix. 11-12-13.

Q. What was he commanded to announce?

A. The extermination of Ahab's family, and the accession of other sovereigns. 1 *Kings* xix. 15, 16.

Q. Whom did Elijah afterwards appoint to assist him?

A. Elisha, who became subsequently his successor.

Q. How were the Israelites rewarded for their partial return to the worship of the true God?

A. By two brilliant victories over Benhadad, the king of Syria. 1 *Kings* xx. 20, 21.

Q. Of what new crime was Ahab soon guilty?

A. He coveted Naboth's vineyard, and by the advice of Jezebel procured false witnesses to a charge against Naboth, which caused that innocent man to be put to death by corrupt judges. 1 *Kings* xxi. 1, 10, 13.

Q. What alarmed Ahab, while he was enjoying the sight of this ill-acquired vineyard?

A. The appearance of Elijah, who told him that a severe punishment awaited him and Jezebel. 1 *Kings* xxi. 22, 23.

Q. What became at last of Ahab?

A. He went to battle in disguise, and was mortally wounded by the enemy, his blood mixed in the pool of Samaria, where dogs licked it, according to the words of the prophet. 1 *Kings* xxii. 34-38.

Q. What should we infer from the life and death of this man?

A. [p. 128] That the wicked will never prosper in his ways; and if Ahab had worshipped the true God, and walked in the path of righteousness, he would not have been thus punished.

LESSON TWENTY-FIRST.

Q. We will now revert to Rehoboam, the king of Judah. How long did he reign?

A. Seventeen years.

Q. What took place in his reign?

A. Shishak the king of Egypt took Jerusalem and carried away the treasures of the house of the LORD and of the king's house, because the people had sinned. 1 *Kings* xiv. 22-26.

Q. Was there friendship between Judah and Israel?

A. There was constant warfare between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all their days.

Q. Who succeeded Rehoboam?
A. His son Abijam.

Q. How long did he reign?
A. Three years.

Q. Was he more pious than his father?
A. He was not; but followed in his steps.

Q. Who succeeded Abijam?
A. His son Asa.

Q. How long did he reign?
A. Forty-one years.

Q. What was his conduct?
A. "He did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD, as did David his father." 1 *Kings* xv. 11.

Q. What relation subsisted between Asa and Baasha the king of Israel?
A. There was constant war between them?

Q. To whom did Asa send for assistance in his war against Baasha?
A. [p. 129] To Benhadad son of Tabrimon, the king of Syria.

Q. Who succeeded Asa?
A. His son Jehoshophat.

Q. Was he pious?
A. He walked in the good ways of his father David.

Q. Did he continue at war with the king of Israel?
A. No; he made peace with him, and even went with Ahab to battle against the Syrians.

Q. How long did he reign?
A. Twenty-five years.

Q. What else is related of him?
A. That he built large ships to go to Ophir, but they were wrecked at Ezion-geber.

Q. Who succeeded Ahab during the reign of Jehoshophat, in the kingdom of Israel?
A. Ahaziah, the son of Ahab.

Q. What is said of him?
A. That he was as sinful as his father had been.

Q. How long was he king?
A. Two years.

Q. What was the cause of his death?
A. He fell through a lattice in his upper chamber in Samaria.

Q. Of Whom did he send to inquire whether he should recover?

A. Of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron.

Q. Who was sent to rebuke him?

A. Elijah the prophet, who told him: "Thus saith the LORD, Forasmuch as thou hast sent messengers to Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, (is it because there is no God in Israel to inquire His word?) therefore thou shalt not come off that bed, on which thou art gone up, but thou shalt surely die." 2 *Kings* i. 16.

Q. Who succeeded him?

A. His brother Jehoram.

Q. [p. 130] **What was his character?**

A. It was sinful, but not equally so as his father's had been.

Q. How did he begin his reign?

A. By entering into alliance with the kings of Judah and Edom.

Q. For what purpose did he enter into this alliance?

A. To chastise the Moäbites, who had rebelled against Israel. 2 *Kings* iii. 7.

Q. When his army suffered for want of water, to whom did he apply?

A. To the prophet Elisha. 2 *Kings* iii. 12.

Q. What did the prophet direct him to do?

A. To dig trenches, which the rain filled during the night. 2 *Kings* iii. 16-20.

Q. How did the water appear to the Moäbites?

A. The rays of the sun were so powerfully reflected from the waters, that the distant Moäbites mistook them for blood; and believing the confederates had quarrelled, they advanced to plunder the spoil. 2 *Kings* iii. 22, 23.

Q. What was the consequence?

A. The Moäbites were easily repulsed, and completely defeated by the Israelites. 2 *Kings* iii. 24.

Q. What remarkable occurrence took place about this time?

A. Elijah the prophet was translated to heaven in a fiery chariot. 2 *Kings* ii. 11.

Q. Who took Elijah's place when he ascended from the earth?

A. Elisha, on whom fell a double portion of Elijah's spirit. 2 *Kings* ii. 9, 10.

Q. What proved to the people the truth of Elisha's mission?

A. Several signal miracles: with the mantle of Elijah he divided the waters of the Jordan and passed [p. 131] over; he purified the waters of Jericho, and on his way to Bethel met many children. 2 *Kings* ii. 14-22.

Q. Did the children on meeting Elisha bow to and salute him, as they ought to have done?

A. They did not; but mocked him, saying, "Go up, thou bald head." 2 *Kings* ii. 23.

Q. What became of these wicked children?

A. They were destroyed by two bears which came out from the woods. 2 *Kings* ii. 24.

Q. How many children did the bears tear in pieces?

A. Forty-two.

Q. Are there any other remarkable acts in the life of this prophet?

A. There are: he multiplied a vessel of oil, and restored a child to life. 2 *Kings* iv. 6, 34.

Q. Can you name a few more of the miracles performed by Elisha?

A. He restored Naäman the leper to health, having healed him of his leprosy. 2 *Kings* v. 14.

Q. In what waters did Naäman bathe for this purpose?

A. The Jordan.

Q. Who was Naäman?

A. The general of the king of Syria.

Q. When Naäman found himself healed of that loathsome disease, what did he say to the prophet?

A. "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel." 2 *Kings* v. 15.

Q. Who was afflicted with the disease from which Naäman was relieved?

A. Gehazi, the servant of the prophet. 2 *Kings* v.. 27.

Q. What sin did he commit for which he was sc punished?

A. He was disobedient, and used fraudulent means to obtain money from Naäman. 2 *Kings* v. 21, 22.

Q. [p. 132] **Who sent to surprise the prophet at Dothan?**

A. Benhadad, the king of Syria; he attributed to the prophet his want of success against Israel. 2 *Kings* vi. 14.

Q. What befell the Syrians sent to take Elisha?

A. They were smitten with blindness, and made prisoners. 2 *Kings* vi. 18.

Q. Whither did Elisha lead these people?

A. To Samaria. 2 *Kings* vi. 20.

Q. What took place after this?

A. Benhadad a second time besieged Samaria.

Q. What had the inhabitants to undergo?

A. The worst of famines. 2 *Kings* vi. 25.

Q. How, at last, did they procure food?

A. The Syrians became terrified by a loud noise which resembled the approach of a large army, and fled, leaving all their cattle and substance before Samaria. 2 *Kings* vii. 6, 7.

Q. What became of Benhadad?

A. He died by the hand of his own servant Hazael, who usurped the throne of Syria. 2 *Kings* viii. 15.

Q. Whom did Elisha cause to be anointed king of Israel at that time?

A. Jehu. 2 *Kings* ix. 2, 3.

Q. How long did Jehu reign?

A. Twenty-eight years. 2 *Kings* x. 36.

Q. Who succeeded Jehu?

A. His son Jehoähaz.

Q. By whom were the people then oppressed?

A. By the Syrian king Hazael.

Q. To whom did Jehoähaz pray for protection from the enemy?

A. The LORD, who caused the Israelites to dwell in safety from the power of that king. 2 *Kings* xiii. 5.

Q. How long did Jehoähaz reign?

A. Seventeen years. 2 *Kings* xiii. 1.

Q. [p. 133] **By whom was he succeeded?**

A. By his son Joäsh.

Q. Was Joäsh a good king?

A. He was not; but walked in the evil ways of his predecessors. 2 *Kings* xiii. 11.

LESSON TWENTY-SECOND.

Q. WHEN Elisha was ill, who came to see him?

A. Joäsh the king of Israel. 2 *Kings* xiii. 14.

Q. What did he exclaim on beholding the prophet on the bed of death?

A. "O my father! my father! the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof." 2 *Kings* xiii. 14.

Q. Who then invaded the land?

A. The bands of the Moäbites. 2 *Kings* xiii. 20.

Q. Did the miraculous powers of Elisha cease with his life?

A. No; for a dead body was restored to life by touching his bones in the tomb. 2 *Kings* xiii. 21.

Q. Who gained the three victories over the Syrians?

A. Joäsh. 2 *Kings* xiii. 25.

Q. What was the consequence?

A. The Israelites recovered the ancient limits of their kingdom, and were restored to their former state of prosperity. 2 *Kings* xiv. 25.

Q. Who was the next king?

A. Jeroboam the second, who was the son of Joäsh. 2 *Kings* xiv. 23.

Q. What was his reign?

A. Very prosperous; he restored the boundaries of Israel, and added to his hereditary dominions several districts conquered from the kings of Syria and Judah. 2 *Kings* xiv. 25, 28.

Q. [p. 134] **How long did he reign?**

A. Forty-one years. 2 *Kings* xiv. 23.

Q. What kings reigned in Judah after the death of Jehoshophat, previous to the accession of Zechariah to the throne of Israel?

A. Jehoram, the son of Jehoshophat succeeded his father, and reigned eighteen years.

Q. Did he imitate his father's piety?

A. No; "he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as did the house of Ahab; for the daughter of Ahab was his wife; and he did evil in the sight of the LORD." 2 *Kings* viii. 18.

Q. What took place under his reign?

A. The Edomites revolted against Judah, and appointed a king of their own.

Q. Who succeeded Jehoram?

A. His son Ahaziah, who reigned but one year, and was as wicked as his father.

Q. By whom was he slain?

A. By Jehu, the son of Nimshi, when he conspired against the house of Ahab.

Q. Who usurped the government after his death?

A. His mother Athalia, who slew all the princes of the royal family, with the exception of Joäsh, who was saved by his aunt Jehosheba.

Q. How long did Athalia rule?

A. About six years, when through the influence of the high priest Jehoyada, the young Joäsh was proclaimed king, and Athalia was slain.

Q. How long was Joäsh king?

A. Forty years.

Q. Can you tell me what his conduct was?

A. He was virtuous as long as his uncle the high priest lived; but after his death he was misled by the flattery of his servants to sin against the LORD.

Q. How did he die?

A. [p. 135] He was killed in a conspiracy by some of his servants.

Q. Who was the next king of Judah?

A. Amaziah, son of Joäsh, who reigned twenty nine years.

Q. What did he do to the murderers of his father?

A. He had them punished with death, but did not trouble their children. 2 *Kings* xiv. 5, 6.

Q. How did he act?

A. At first virtuously; but after some success over the Edomites he became an idolater.

Q. Had he any battles with Joäsh king of Israel?

A. He had, and was defeated at Beth-shemesh belonging to Judah; after which Joäsh took Jerusalem, and broke down the walls of the city.

Q. Did Amaziah die a natural death?

A. No; he fled from Jerusalem, on account of a conspiracy, to Lachish, where he was killed.

Q. Who succeeded him?

A. Azariah, or Uzziah, his son.

Q. How long did he reign?

A. Fifty-two years.

Q. Was he religious?

A. He was; and he was successful, therefore, in all his undertakings.

Q. What sin did he commit?

A. He went into the temple to burn incense, which could be done only by the priests descended from Aaron, and he was therefore punished with leprosy.

Q. Who succeeded to the kingdom of Israel during the reign of Azariah?

A. Zechariah.

Q. Who was Zechariah?

A. A wicked king who reigned over Israel but six months. 2 *Kings* xv. 8, 9.

Q. What king reigned in Samaria one month?

A. [p. 136] Shallum, who was killed by Menahem who reigned in his stead. 2 *Kings* xv. 14.

Q. How long did he reign?

A. Ten years. 2 *Kings* xv. 17.

Q. Who succeeded him?

A. His son Pekahiah, who reigned two years 2 *Kings* xv. 23.

Q. Who reigned next?

A. Pekah.

Q. How long did he reign?

A. Twenty years. 2 *Kings* xv. 27.

Q. Who conspired against Pekah?

A. Hoshea the son of Elah. 2 *Kings* xv. 30.

Q. How long did Hoshea reign over Israel?

A. Nine years. 2 *Kings* xvii. 1.

Q. What did the Israelites do during his reign?

A. They sinned against the LORD. 2 *Kings* xvii. 7.

Q. In what did Israel sin?

A. They worshipped idols and disobeyed the voice of the true God. 2 *Kings* xvii. 12-17.

Q. How were they punished for this great transgression?

A. The LORD delivered them into the hands of their enemies. 2 *Kings* xvii. 20.

Q. Who succeeded Azariah as king over Judah?

A. His son Jotham, who reigned sixteen years, and did what was right in the eyes of the LORD.

Q. Who became king at his death?

A. His son Ahaz, who did what was wicked, and followed in the ways of the kings of Israel, and deserted the house of God, and even made his son pass through the fire after the abominations of the heathen. 2 *Kings* xvi. 3.

Q. How long did he rule?

A. Sixteen years.

Q. Who endeavoured at this dark period to restore the worship of the true God?

A. [p. 137] Hezekiah who succeeded Ahaz and reigned twenty-nine years; he, warned by the calamities which impiety and idolatry had brought on his father Ahaz, reëstablished the national worship in all its former splendour, cleansed the temple from its pollutions, reinstated the priests and Levites, and solemnized the passover with unusual magnificence. 2 *Chron.* xxx. 1, 15.

Q. Who came up against Israel in the reign of Hezekiah?

A. The Assyrians. 2 *Kings* xviii. 9.

Q. Did they succeed against Israel?

A. They did, and carried them captives into Assyria. 2 *Kings* xviii. 11.

Q. Did Hezekiah venture to resist the Assyrians?

A. He did; and under his wise government the kingdom of Judah obtained much force. 2 *Kings* xviii. 7, 8.

Q. Who then invaded Judea?

A. Sennacherib. 2 *Kings.* xviii. 13.

Q. Who went out to meet him?

A. Hezekiah; he prepared ammunitions, and encouraged his people to fight bravely. 2 *Chron.* xxxii. 7.

Q. When Hezekiah received a letter from Sennacherib, what did he do?

A. He entered the temple and supplicated the assistance of the LORD. 2 *Kings* xix. 14, 15.

Q. Who announced to Hezekiah the acceptance of his prayer?

A. The prophet Isaiah. 2 *Kings* xix. 20.

Q. How many of Sennacherib's army were slain in a single night?

A. One hundred and eighty-five thousand. 2 *Kings* xix. 35.

Q. By whom were they slain?

A. [p. 138] The angel of the LORD. 2 *Chron.* xxxiii. 7.

Q. What became of Sennacherib?

A. After this defeat he returned home and was murdered by his two sons while in the act of paying adoration to his idol. 2 *Kings* xix. 37.

Q. What occurred to Hezekiah after this mighty deliverance?

A. He became very ill, and the prophet Isaiah came and spoke to him. 2 *Kings* xx. 1.

Q. What did Isaiah tell him?

A. To put his house in order as he would die.

Q. What did Hezekiah understand by this?

A. That he was to prepare for death.

Q. When the king heard that he was to die, what did he do?

A. He prayed solemnly with all his heart to the LORD to heal him. 2 *Kings* xx. 3.

Q. Whom did the LORD then command to predict his recovery?

A. Isaiah. 2 *Kings* xx. 4, 5.

Q. Did the king recover?

A. He did; and according to the word of the LORD had fifteen years added to his life. 2 *Kings* xx. 6.

Q. After Hezekiah's recovery, who sent ambassadors to congratulate him?

A. Berodach-Baladan, the king of Babylon. 2 *Kings* xx. 12.

Q. What did Hezekiah show these ambassadors?

A. All his treasures, and with foolish vanity forgot that he owed them all to the mercy and kindness of God. 2 *Kings* xx. 13.

Q. Is it proper to be vain of the possession of wealth and splendour?

A. No; we should ever be mindful of the Mighty One who bestows them, and only glory in the knowledge of Him and the observance of His laws.

Q. [p. 139] **Who rebuked Hezekiah for this pride?**

A. Isaiah.

Q. What did Isaiah foretell the king?

A. That after his death his vanity should be visited with exemplary punishment. 2 *Kings* xx. 17, 18.

Q. How did the king bear this rebuke?

A. With pious resignation to the Divine will, and he yielded himself to the dispensation of Providence. 2 *Kings* xx. 19.

Q. How old was Hezekiah when he began to reign?

A. Twenty-five years. 2 *Kings* xviii. 2.

Q. When Hezekiah died who honoured his memory?

A. All Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. *Chron.* xxxii. 33.

Q. What signal benefits did he confer on the splendid city of Jerusalem?

A. He strengthened and beautified it, and furnished it with an aqueduct to supply the want of water. 2 *Kings* xx. 19.

Q. By whom was he succeeded?

A. By Menasseh his son, who reigned fifty-five years, and was very wicked, as he took pleasure in the worst abominations of idolatry. 2 *Kings* xxi. 3-7.

Q. Was Menasseh punished for this evil life?

A. He was; for the LORD caused him to be carried captive to Babylon. 2 *Chron.* xxxiii. 11.

Q. What effect did this affliction produce on the character of Menasseh?

A. He became a sincere penitent, and the rest of his reign was spent in the observance of God's law; for through the sincerity of his prayers the LORD had restored him to his kingdom. 2 *Chron.* xxxiii. 13.

Q. Who took the throne at the death of Menasseh?

A. Amon, another wicked man, who humbled himself not to the LORD, but trespassed even more than his father had done. 2 *Chron.* xxxiii. 22, 23.

Q. [p. 140] **What became of him?**

A. He was slain by his servants after a reign of two years. 2 *Kings* xxi. 23.

Q. Who reigned in his stead?

A. Josiah his son.

Q. Give me some account of this king!

A. He was a very wise and good ruler; he made the most vigorous exertions to restore the worship of the true God. 2 *Kings* xxii. 2.

Q. What did they find while repairing the house of the LORD?

A. The original copy of the law.

Q. By whom was it found?

A. By Hilkiah the high priest. 2 *Kings* xxii. 8.

Q. What did they do with the book?

A. Shaphan, the scribe, read it aloud to the king. 2 *Kings* xxii. 10.

Q. What effect had the reading of this holy book on the king?

A. He was terrified by the awful threats denounced against the sin of apostacy, and he rent his clothes, thus evincing the sorrow of his heart for all the crimes that had been committed. 2 *Kings* xxii. 11.

Q. What did the king and all the people after this promise to do?

A. To observe all the words of the law with all their hearts and all their soul. 2 *Kings* xxiii. 3.

Q. What did Josiah command the people to do?

A. To keep the Passover. 2 *Kings* xxiii. 21.

Q. Did the people obey?

A. They did; and this festival was again celebrated with great solemnity, many worshippers from the ruined kingdom of Israel came up to join in commemorating the delivery of our fathers from Egyptian bondage. 2 *Chron.* xxxv. 18.

Q. What is said of the observance of this Passover?

A. [p. 141] There was never such a Passover kept from the lays of the Judges of Israel. 2 *Kings* xxiii. 22.

Q. To whom did Josiah lend his assistance in war?

A. To the king of Assyria against the king of Egypt. 2 *Kings* xxiii. 29.

Q. Did Josiah succeed against the Egyptian king?

A. He did not; but fell a victim to the arrows of the archers. 2 *Chron.* xxxv. 23.

Q. Where did his servants carry him?

A. To Jerusalem, where he was buried in the sepulchre of his ancestors. 2 *Chron.* xxxv. 24.

Q. How did the people of Judah and Jerusalem feel at the death of this good king?

A. They mourned deeply for him, and all the men and women spoke of him in great lamentations. 2 *Chron.* xxxv. 25.

Q. What distinguished man also lamented the death of this pious king?

A. The prophet Jeremiah. 2 *Chron.* xxxv. 25.

Q. How old was Josiah when he took the throne?

A. Eight years. 2 *Kings* xxii. 1.

Q. How many years did Josiah reign in Jerusalem?

A. Thirty-one years. 2 *Kings* xxii. 1.

Q. Whom did the people then choose for their king?

A. Jehoähaz, the son of Josiah, who sinned against the LORD, departing greatly from the ways of his father Josiah. 2 *Kings* xxiii. 32.

Q. Who deposed him?

A. Pharaoh-nechoh deposed him after a reign of three months, and, transferring the crown to Eliakim, also of the royal family, he changed his name to Jehoiakim; this king reigned eleven years. 2 *Kings* xxiii. 34.

Q. What became of Jehoähaz?

A. He was taken to Egypt, where he died.

Q. What was the character of Jehoiakim?

A. [p. 142] He was a weak and irreligious prince, and sinned greatly against the LORD. 2 *Kings* xxiii. 37.

Q. Who came up against Jerusalem during the reign of this weak monarch?

A. Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, whom he served three years, and then rebelled. 2 *Kings* xxiv. 1.

Q. Did the Lord deliver him out of his hands?

A. He did not; for though he was for a time saved by paying a large tribute, he did not at last escape the hand of Nebuchadnezzar, who plundered Jerusalem, removed some of the sacred vessels from the temple, and carried them with the king to Babylon. 2 *Chron.* xxxvi. 6, 7.

Q. Who took the place of this monarch?

A. His son Jehoiachin, whose short reign of six months was not less wicked: he was also sent to Babylon with many other captives. 2 *Chron.* xxxvi. 10.

Q. Who was next chosen king?

A. Zedekiah his uncle, who was equally weak with his predecessors. 2 *Kings* xxiv. 19.

Q. Who gave him counsel?

A. Jeremiah, the prophet of the LORD.

Q. Did he receive his counsel?

A. He did not, and rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar. 2 *Chron.* xxxvi. 12, 13.

Q. Who then besieged the city?

A. Nebuchadnezzar.

Q. What had the people to endure?

A. A great famine. 2 *Kings* xxv. 3.

Q. What became of Zedekiah?

A. He was dragged in chains before his cruel conqueror; his children were slain before his face, his eyes put out, and in that state was he sent to end his miserable existence in a foreign prison, after a reign of eleven years. 2 *Kings* xxv. 7.

Q. Give some account of the state of Jerusalem?

A. [p. 143] This our holy and once lovely city suffered every calamity that barbarity and cruelty could inflict. The enemies burnt the house of God, and broke down the walls of Jerusalem, laid waste by fire all the palaces, and totally destroyed all the contents thereof. Thus for the transgressions of man, was the temple, the object of our national affection and glory, laid in ashes and levelled to the ground; and during seventy years the once great and populous city scarcely existed, except in the memory of our captive people. 2 *Chron.* xxxvi. 17-19.

Q. What has been instituted to commemorate this lamentable event among us?

A. Days of fasting and humiliation.

Q. Please to name those days

A. The seventeenth day of Tammuz, the day on which the sacrifices ceased in the temple; the same is the day on which the law was burnt, and many other calamities befell our nation.

Q. Name the next day of fasting?

A. The ninth of Ab, called in Heb. Tishnga Beat; on which day the total destruction of the city and temple took place.

Q. Of how many events is this day kept in commemoration?

A. Five.

Q. Name them?

A. On that day of the month, though differing in years, it was decreed that the Israelites who had rebelled, because of the report of the spies, against Moses, should not enter the promised land; both the first and second temples were destroyed on that day; our wise men were slaughtered, and on that day were the walls of our holy temple ploughed up as foretold by the prophet Jeremiah xxvi. 18, and *Micah* iii. 12.

[p. 144] LESSON TWENTY-THIRD.

Q. WHOM did the king of Babylon set as governor over Judah?

A. Gedaliah the son of Ahikam. 2 *Kings* xxv. 22.

Q. What was the character of Gedaliah?

A. He was a man of Judah who lived in the fear of the LORD.

Q. Did this good man long rule the people?

A. He did not; but was slain with many other Jews by Ishmael the son of Nathaniah, a young man of the royal blood. 2 *Kings* xxv. 25.

Q. How is this mournful event commemorated among us?

A. By a strict fast, called the Fast of Gedaliah.

Q. On what day is this fast kept?

A. The third day of Tishri, that being the day of the month on which Gedaliah was murdered.

Q. Whose spirit did the LORD at length, that is after the expiration of seventy years, stir up in favour of our people?

A. Cyrus.

Q. Who was Cyrus?

A. A king of Persia. *Ezra* i. 1.

Q. By whom was Cyrus's power predicted?

A. Isaiah. *Isaiah* xlv. 1.

Q. How long before?

A. About two hundred years.

Q. What did Cyrus command the people to rebuild?

A. The temple of the LORD.

Q. Under whose direction was the temple built?

A. Jeshua the priest, and Zerubbabel the governor of Judah. *Ezra* iii. 2.

Q. [p. 145] **What did the people do, when the foundation of the temple was laid?**

A. They appointed, according the ancient order, the priests and Levites to sing praises to the LORD for His great mercy toward His people Israel. *Ezra* iii. 11.

Q. What were the feelings of the ancients at the erection of the second temple?

A. The Levites and chiefs who had seen the first temple wept with a loud voice; so that the noise of the weeping could scarcely be discerned from that of joy among the people. *Ezra* iii. 12, 13.

Q. In what consisted the inferiority of this second house?

A. Not merely its being less splendid; for there were more powerful deficiencies to call forth this national sorrow.

Q. What were they?

A. The ark of the covenant was gone; and the *Shechinah*, the great and visible manifestation of the presence of the LORD, which filled the first house with glory, returned not to a place that had once been desecrated by the presence of the enemy, and the slaughter of the worshippers.

Q. When the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard, that they were building the temple unto the LORD the God of Israel, what did they do?

A. They came to Zerubbabel and requested to build with them. *Ezra* iv. 1, 2.

Q. What did Zerubbabel and Jeshua say to this request?

A. They refused, saying, "Ye have nothing to do with us to build a house to our God; but we ourselves together alone will build unto the LORD God of Israel, as Cyrus the king of Persia hath commanded us. *Ezra* iv. 3.

Q. What was the consequence of this denial?

A. [p. 146] The opponents of the Jews troubled them greatly in building. *Ezra* iv. 4.

Q. How long did they thus impede the work?

A. From the days of Cyrus unto the reign of Darius. *Ezra* iv. 5.

Q. Who were these opponents?

A. The Samaritans.

Q. Who were the Samaritans?

A. A mixture of nations, who professed to have adopted the creed of the Jews, but also retained a portion of idolatrous worship. They had been brought to the land of Israel after Shalmaneser, the king of Assyria, had expelled the Israelites from their land.

Q. Did these people finally carry their point?

A. They did not; for the LORD was against them.

Q. When was the temple finished?

A. In the sixth year of the reign of Darius. *Ezra* vi. 15.

Q. In what month?

A. Adar, or the twelve months.

Q. How long were they building the temple?

A. About twenty years.

Q. What did the people do when the house was finished?

A. They dedicated it to the LORD with much joy, and made many offerings. *Ezra* vi. 16, 17.

Q. What festival did they then keep?

A. The Passover.

Q. In what month did they keep this festival?

A. On the fourteenth day of the month Nissan, according to the command of the LORD, the same which we their descendants now annually observe. *Ezra* vi. 19-22

Q. What did Ezra obtain after this?

A. Permission to lead a second division of the Jews from Babylon to Jerusalem, and to carry with him all [p. 147] the gold and silver which had been offered for the house of God. *Ezra* vii. 13-15.

Q. What did the king do in addition to this permission?

A. He devoted a liberal contribution from his treasury for the service of the temple.

Q. For what purpose?

A. To supply the sacrifices. *Ezra* vii. 20-22.

Q. What else did he do?

A. He authorized Ezra to punish all those who transgressed the law of the LORD and the ordinances of the king; and forbade any toll or tribute to be levied on the Jews or their servants. *Ezra* vii. 24-26.

Q. What was the name of this good king of Persia.

A. Artaxerxes. *Ezra* vii. 1..

Q. How did Ezra use this great power?

A. With much wisdom and piety. He went to Jerusalem and zealously applied himself to reform the abuses that had crept in by the example of surrounding nations, and had great influence among the people. *Ezra* x. 7-19.

Q. Who was Ezra?

A. A priest and scribe of the law of God; and was in great favour with the king of Persia. *Ezra* vii. 1-10.

Q. Who succeeded Ezra?

A. Nehemiah.

Q. In what state was the City of Jerusalem at that time?

A. It yet remained unfinished, and the people were greatly annoyed by their enemies in their attempt at rebuilding and fortifying it. Nehemiah i. 3.

Q. What intelligence did Nehemiah receive respecting the City?

A. That the people were in great distress, and the walls were broken down. Nehemiah i. 3.

Q. [p. 148] **What effect had this on Nehemiah?**

A. He wept sorely, and appeared very sad in th presence of the king, who inquired the cause of his sorrow. Nehemiah i. 4, ii. 1.

Q. What did Nehemiah ask of the king?

A. Permission to go and build the city. Nehemiah ii. 5.

Q. Where was Nehemiah then?

A. In the palace at Shushan, the ca pital of Persia. Nehemiah i. 1.

Q. What office did he hold in the court of Persia?

A. He was cup-bearer to the king. Nehemiah i. 11.

Q. Before he had asked this permission of the king, to whom did he pray for success in this undertaking?

A. To the LORD.

Q. Did the king grant his request?

A. He did; and thus Nehemiah left the wealth, the splendour, and all the luxuries of a court to visit a scene of poverty, and to share in the danger and distress of his afflicted nation.

Q. In what manner did the builders proceed?

A. With implements of labour in one hand, and weapons of defence in the other. Nehemiah iv. 17.

Q. Why had they to be so armed?

A. Because they feared the approach of their enemies.

Q. When their enemies heard that the city was finished, how did they feel?

A. Much cast down; for they knew that the LORD was with his people. Nehemiah vi. 16.

Q. How long were they in rebuilding the wall?

A. Fifty-two days. Nehemiah vi. 15.

Q. When was it finished?

A. On the twenty-fifth day of Elul.

Q. What was the number of the people who returned from Babylon to Jerusalem?

A. [p. 149] The whole congregation together was forty-two thousand three hundred and sixty, beside their servants and singers. Nehemiah vii. 66.

Q. What did the people request of Ezra?

A. To bring the book of the law of Moses which the LORD had commanded to Israel. Nehemiah viii. 1.

Q. Did Ezra comply with his request?

A. He did, and stood on an elevated stand or pulpit, where he read unto all the people the book of the law. Nehemiah viii. 3.

Q. What did he do besides reading the law in the presence of the people?

A. He blessed God while the people all said Amen, and bowed themselves and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground. Nehemiah viii. 6.

Q. What did they find in the law to be observed in that month?

A. That the children of Israel should dwell in booths.

Q. What did the people do in consequence of this law?

A. They made themselves booths and dwelt therein, and kept the feast seven days. Nehemiah viii. 18.

Q. How was the eighth day kept?

A. On the eighth day was a solemn assembly, and the people rejoiced greatly in that season.

Q. Can you tell me any other remarkable acts of Nehemiah?

A. He corrected many abuses which had become common among the people, and diligently applied himself to cleanse them from sin, and to induce them to observe the law strictly. Nehemiah xiii. 30.

Q. What means did he use to accomplish this?

A. Some of the transgressors whom he found too obstinate and wicked he banished; but to the others who were penitent he spoke in words of affection, and exhorted them to obedience. 13 * Nehemiah xiii. 22-28.

Q. [p. 150] **Did he spend all that time in Jerusalem from the rebuilding of the city?**

A. He had returned to the king; but on hearing of the unsettled state of the people and government, he returned to them in time to save them from disunion. Nehemiah xiii. 6.

Q. How should we, therefore, regard the righteous Nehemiah?

A. We should love and revere his name, bearing in mind his many virtues and the rebuilding of our once holy city through his pious activity.

LESSON TWENTY-FOURTH.

Q. WHAT event is there in the reign of Ahasuerus of so much interest to us?

A. The great salvation of our people who lived under the dominion of the king of Persia, as recorded in the book of Esther.

Q. By what other name is the king Ahasuerus known?

A. Xerxes

Q. Why did Ahasuerus divorce his queen Vashti?

A. Because she refused obedience to his will. *Esth.* i. 12-19.

Q. Whom did the king take in the place of Vashti?

A. Esther, the cousin of Mordecai. *Esth.* ii. 7.

Q. Who was Mordecai?

A. A Jew, the son of one of the captives of Nebuchadnezzar. *Esth.* ii. 5, 6.

Q. What service did Mordecai render the king?

A. He discovered, and revealed a conspiracy against the king's crown and life. *Esth.* ii. 21, 22.

Q. Who was then the chief favourite of the king?

A. [p. 151] Haman. *Esth.* iii. 1.

Q. Who refused to do him reverence?

A. Mordecai. *Esth.* iii. 2.

Q. What effect had this upon Haman's pride?

A. He became very angry, and endeavoured to exterminate Mordecai and all the Jews in Persia. *Esth.* iii. 6.

Q. What did Haman procure from the king?

A. An edict to destroy all the Jews. *Esth.* iii. 12, 13.

Q. Was this dreadful purpose effected?

A. No; the LORD our God, whose protecting hand is ever extended towards His people, averted it in a most remarkable manner.

Q. When Mordecai found that the decree had gone forth, what did he do?

A. He rent his clothes, and cried with a loud and bitter cry. *Esth.* iv. 1.

Q. Whom did he direct to sue for his people?

A. Esther.

Q. In what manner did the king welcome Esther's presence?

A. By extending to her the golden sceptre which he held in his hand, as a token of his favour. *Esth.* v. 2.

Q. What occurred on that night?

A. The king could not sleep, and ordered the book of records to be brought and read to him. *Esth.* vi. 1.

Q. What did he find recorded there?

A. The benefits he had received from Mordecai, to whom he as yet owed gratitude for the preservation of his life. *Esth.* vi. 2.

Q. When the king found that the preserver of his life was yet unrewarded, what did he do?

A. He enquired of Haman, "What should be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour?"

Q. [p. 152] **What did Haman say?**

A. Believing that he was the person to be honoured, he advised that he should be clothed in royal robes; be put on a horse on which the king had ridden; and be led by one of the officers through the streets of the city. *Esth.* vi. 9.

Q. How did Haman feel when he found that these honours were for Mordecai?

A. Greatly distressed and downcast at the sudden change of positions between him and the man whom he had sought to destroy.

Q. When Haman told his wife and the wise men all that had befallen him, what did they say?

A. "If Mordecai, before whom thou hast begun to fall, be of the seed of the Jews, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt surely fall before him." *Esth.* vi. 13.

Q. What did Esther procure of the king?

A. The salvation of her people.

Q. What was done to Haman for his cruel intentions?

A. He was put to death by the command of the king. *Esth.* vii. 10.

Q. Who was then set over the house of Haman?

A. Mordecai.

Q. What became of the Jews?

A. They were permitted to defend themselves from their enemies, many of whom were slain by them. *Esth.* ix. 5.

Q. How is this event commemorated among us?

A. By great rejoicing on the festival called Pureem. *Esth.* ix. 22.

Q. Is it only by mirth that we celebrate this great deliverance?

A. No; for on the thirteenth day of the month Adar, the day before the feast, we keep a fast, called the [p. 153] Fast of Esther. The poor also should not be forgotten; but donations should be given them, that they may rejoice at the great redemption which was extended to the Jews.

LESSON TWENTY-FIFTH.

Q. WHAT is the name of that pious man who lived in the land of Uz?

A. Job.

Q. Where is the land of Uz?

A. In northern Arabia.

Q. Give some account of Job?

A. He was a very pious man, who greatly feared the LORD. *Job* i. 1.

Q. What is said of his wealth?

A. He possessed large flocks and herds, and was the greatest man of all the East. *Job* i. 3.

Q. How did Job bring up his children?

A. In the knowledge and fear of God.

Q. How many children had Job?

A. Seven sons and three daughters. *Job* i. 2.

Q. Why did Job offer burnt-offerings for his sons?

A. Because he feared that they might have sinned. *Job* i. 5.

Q. What did the LORD say of Job?

A. That “there was none like him on the earth.” *Job* i. 8.

Q. In what manner was Job’s faith tested?

A. By many very great afflictions. He was told that his children had died, and that all his property had been carried away; and, lastly, he was afflicted with sore disease from his head to the sole of his feet. *Job* i. 15, 16, ii. 7.

Q. When Job heard of the death of his children, and of all his loss, what did he say?

A. [p. 154] He rent his clothes and worshipped; then said, "The LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." *Job* i. 21.

Q. What did Job mean by this?

A. That all the blessings which he had enjoyed, and of which he was then bereft, had been bestowed on him by the LORD who now in wisdom afflicted him.

Q. When Job's friends heard of his distressed situation, what did they do?

A. They came to mourn with him, and to comfort him. *Job* ii. 11.

Q. What did they do when they saw his altered state and diseased body?

A. They raised their voices in weeping. *Job* ii. 12.

Q. How long did they sit in silence with him?

A. Seven days and seven nights. *Job* ii. 13.

Q. Why?

A. Because they saw that his grief was very great. *Job* ii. 13.

Q. When Job, on the eighth day, gave vent to his sorrow, who reproached him?

A. His three friends. *Job* iv. 1.

Q. How did Job treat these reproaches?

A. He vindicated himself, and declared his righteousness, for which his friends rebuked him the more.

Q. What did Job say of his friends?

A. That they were miserable comforters. *Job* xvi. 2.

Q. What did Job then say farther?

A. "All the while my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils, my lips shall not speak wickedness, nor my tongue utter deceit." *Job* xxvii. 3, 4.

Q. What did he say of God?

A. "I know that my Redeemer liveth:" "He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength."

Q. [p. 155] **What did the LORD say unto Job, when He enumerated His wondrous works?**

A. "Shall man, contending with the Almighty, instruct Him?" *Job* xl. 2.

Q. What did Job say?

A. "I know that Thou canst do everything, and no thought can be withholden from Thee." "I have uttered things that I understood not. Hear, I beseech Thee, and I will speak; I will ask of Thee, and declare Thou unto me." *Job* xlii. 2-4.

Q. Who rebuked Job's friends?

A. The LORD. *Job* xlii. 7.

Q. Why were they rebuked?

A. Because they had not spoken unto Job the things that were right.

Q. What did He tell them to do?

A. To offer up a burnt-offering. *Job* xlii. 8.

Q. Who did the LORD say should pray for them?

A. Job. *Job* xlii. 8.

Q. What does this prove?

A. That Job's sufferings had been brought upon him as a trial of his patience, and not as a punishment for sin, as his friends had thought.

Q. When Job had prayed for his friends, what did God do for him?

A. He restored him to health and prosperity, and gave bim abundance of blessings; so that the latter days of this righteous man were happier than the first. *Job* xlii. 12.

Q. What does the book of Psalms contain?

A. A collection of hymns and prayers, written by David and other inspired men.

Q. Who wrote the greater number of them?

A. David, the anointed of the LORD..

Q. Please to repeat a few passages of those sacred songs!

A. [p. 156] "The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" *Ps.* xxvii. 1.

Q. Who does the Psalmist say shall ascend on high, or stand in the holy place?

A. "He who hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully." *Ps.* xxiv. 3, 4.

Q. Recite one more?

A. "Ye who fear the LORD, praise Him; all ye the seed of Jacob, glorify Him; and fear Him all ye the seed of Israel." *Ps.* xxii. 23.

Q. Who wrote the Proverbs?

A. King Solomon, the son of David. *Prov.* i. 1.

Q. Can you repeat one of them?

A. "Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right." *Prov.* xx. 11.

Q. What other book did Solomon write?

A. Ecclesiastes, or the Preacher.

Q. At what time of life and under what circumstances did he write it?

A. When he was old and had repented of his transgressions.

Q. Can you quote a passage from this poem of the Preacher?

A. "I know that whatsoever God doeth shall be for ever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; and God doeth it, that mankind should fear before Him." *Ec.* iii. 14.

Q. Please to repeat another?

A. "Consider the work of God; for who can make that straight which He hath made crooked?" *Ec.* vii. 13.

Q. What parable also did Solomon write?

A. The Song of Songs, also called he Song of Solomon.

[p. 157] LESSON TWENTY-SIXTH.

Q. WHO was Isaiah?

A. A prophet of the LORD.

Q. Who was his father?

A. Amoz. *Isaiah* i. 1.

Q. Concerning what did he prophecy?

A. Judah and Jerusalem. *Isaiah* i. 1.

Q. What did he say to the people?

A. "Hear the word of the LORD, ye rulers of Sodom; give ear unto the law of our God, ye people of Gomorrah." *Isaiah* i. 10.

Q. What did Isaiah say should be the state of the world at the coming of the Messiah?

A. That all shall dwell in peace and unanimity; that nations shall no more be at war with each other; that the lamb shall not fear the wolf, and even a little child shall not dread the ferocious animals of the forest. *Isaiah* xi. 6.

Q. From what family shall the Messiah be?

A. That of Jessé, the father of David.

Q. Who, did he say, shall be gathered at the advent of the Messiah?

A. The remnant of Israel and the dispersed of Judah from all quarters of the globe; and that they shall be reinstated in their own, holy, happy land. Then shall the earth be full of the knowledge of the LORD. *Isaiah* xi. 9-12.

Q. What is said of the union of other nations with us the chosen of the LORD?

A. "The LORD will have mercy on Jacob, and will yet choose Israel, and set them in their own land; and the strangers shall be joined with them, and they shall cleave to the house of Jacob." *Isaiah* xiv. 1.

Q. [p. 158] **What is said by Zechariah, so completely corresponding with this?**

A. "Thus saith the LORD of hosts, In these days it shall come to pass that ten men of every nation shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you, for we have heard that God is with you." Zechariah viii. 23.

Q. Did Isaiah speak of Babylon?

A. He did, and compared it to Sodom and Gomorrah. *Isaiah* xiii. 19.

Q. How long did he say it should be left without inhabitants?

A. For ever. *Isaiah* xiii. 20.

Q. What should dwell there?

A. Wild beasts.

Q. Of what country is Babylon the ca pital?

A. Of Chaldea.

Q. On what river was it situated?

A. On the Euphrates.

Q. Where is the Euphrates?

A. In Asia.

Q. By whom was Babylon overthrown?

A. Cyrus, the king of Persia.

Q. To what did Isaiah exhort the people?

A. To repentance for transgressions.

Q. What did he say of sinners?

A. "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and let him return unto the LORD, and He will have mercy on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." *Isaiah* lv. 7.

Q. To whom does he entreat them to return?

A. Unto the LORD.

Q. At what time did Isaiah perform his prophetic office?

A. In the successive reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, the kings of Judah.

Q. [p. 159] **Who was Jeremiah?**

A. A prophet, and was the son of Hilkiah.

Q. What was Jeremiah before the LORD had inspired him with a spirit of prophecy?

A. A priest in the land of Benjamin. *Jer.* i. 1.

Q. What did he prophesy concerning Jerusalem?

A. Its downfall and restoration, also the captivity of the people.

Q. What did the king Zedekiah do to Jeremiah, for thus prophesying against the people?

A. He caused him to be cast into a dungeon. *Jer.* xxxviii. 6.

Q. Did he remain long in prison?

A. He did not; for Ebed-melech pleaded for him, and he was drawn up out of the dungeon by a rope. *Jer.* xxxviii. 8, 13.

Q. To whom did Zedekiah apply for advice, when he heard that the city should be given into the hand of the enemy?

A. Jeremiah. *Jer.* xxxviii. 14.

Q. What did the prophet advise him to do?

A. To deliver himself into the hand of the Chaldeans. *Jer.* xxxviii. 17.

Q. When Zedekiah expressed his fear, what did he say unto him?

A. "Obey, I beseech thee, the voice of the LORD, which I speak unto thee; so it shall be well with thee, and thy soul shall live." *Jer.* xxxviii. 20.

Q. What did Zedekiah do when Jerusalem was taken?

A. He filed, and was overtaken on the plains of Jericho. *Jer.* xxxix. 4, 5.

Q. To whom did they conduct him?

A. To Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon.

Q. What did the king of Babylon do to him?

A. He put out his eyes, and bound him with chains. *Jer.* xxxix. 7.

Q. [p. 160] **What became of him?**

A. He died in prison at Babylon. *Jer.* lii. 11.

Q. Why did these misfortunes come upon him?

A. Because he was wicked, and had greatly departed from the word of the LORD.

Q. When Jerusalem had been taken, and the people carried captive, what did Jeremiah do?

A. He lamented the downfall which he had been sent to foretell.

Q. Why did he say the ways of Zion mourned?

A. "Because none came to the solemn feast, and the gates of Jerusalem were desolate." *Lam.* i. 4.

Q. Why, did he say, the LORD had afflicted Zion?

A. Because of the multitude of her transgressions. *Lam.* i. 5.

Q. When are these sublime lamentations of Jeremiah read in the Synagogues?

A. On the fast of *Tishnga-Beäb*, or ninth day of Ab.

Q. Why do we hold this fast?

A. In sorrow for the destruction of Jerusalem.

Q. What did Jeremiah say of himself?

A. "I am the man who hath seen affliction by the rod of His wrath." "The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in Him. The LORD is good unto them who wait for Him, to the soul that seeketh him." *Lam.* iii. 1, 24, 25.

Q. Who was at this calamitous time inspired by the LORD to exhort the Israelites, who were captives at Babylon?

A. Ezekiel. *Ezek.* i. 1.

Q. Where was Ezekiel when the spirit of prophecy came upon him?

A. By the river Chebar, in Chaldea. *Ezek.* i. 3.

Q. Of what family was Ezekiel?

A. Of the priestly family of Aaron.

Q. [p. 161] **What did the LORD say He had made Ezekiel?**
A. A watchman unto the house of Israel.

Q. What was he told to give the people?
A. Warning from the LORD. *Ezek.* iii. 17.

Q. What was the warning?
A. Denunciation of punishment against transgressions. *Ezek.* iii. 18.

Q. In whose place do the teachers of religion now stand?
A. In the place of Ezekiel and the prophets.

Q. Why?
A. Because like them they teach us the word of the LORD, and point out to us how we are to act to obtain everlasting joy as the fruit of obedience to the Divine will.

Q. Who carried the Jews captives into Babylon?
A. Nebuchadnezzar. *Daniel* i. 1.

Q. What distinguished young men did he take with him?
A. Daniel, Hananiah, Mishaël, and Azariah. *Daniel* i. 6.

Q. What name did Ashpenaz give Daniel?
A. Belteshazzar.

Q. What to Hananiah?
A. Shadrach.

Q. To Mishaël.
A. Meshach.

Q. What to Azariah?
A. Abed-nego. *Daniel* i. 7.

Q. How did the king treat these men?
A. Very kindly; he had them taught the language of the Chaldeans, and appointed them to high stations in the royal household. He also allowed them a portion of his wine and meat. *Daniel* i. 5.

Q. Did they partake of his meat and wine?
A. No; they were inspired by a true and deep sense [p. 162] of religious obligation, and refused, therefore, to defile themselves by the king's meats. *Daniel* i. 8.

Q. Did they find favour in the sight of Melzar, the deputy of Ashpenaz?
A. They did; and though at the risk of his life, he granted their request?

Q. What was their request?
A. That they might be allowel to live on pulse and water. *Daniel* i. 12.[15]

[15] So printed (for "allowed").

Q. What effect had this simple diet on them?

A. It had an exceedingly good effect; for they were at the end of ten days fairer and fatter than all who had eaten of the king's viands. *Daniel* i. 15.

Q. Do you think it was alone the nature of their food which caused this increase of flesh and greater beauty of countenance?

A. No; the consciousness of having adhered to the law of God under the trying difficulty of being servants in an idolator's household, and the influence of religious hope in the protection of an overruling Providence, caused them a joy and happiness, which no viands or wines from the king's table could have imparted.

Q. What did the king acknowledge to Daniel?

A. The power of God

Q. What did he tell Daniel?

A. "True it is that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings." *Daniel* ii. 47.

Q. Who was Daniel's God?

A. The Holy One of Israel.

Q. To what office did Nebuchadnezzar raise Daniel?

A. To be ruler over the province of Babylon. *Daniel* ii. 48.

Q. When the king's spirit was troubled, who interpreted to him his dream?

A. Daniel. *Daniel* ii. 16.

Q. After this, what did Nebuchadnezzar do?

A. [p. 163] He erected a golden image in the plain of Dura, and assembled all the rulers of the provinces to witness its dedication. *Daniel* iii. 2.

Q. Where was Daniel at the time?

A. Absent.

Q. Why did he absent himself at this time?

A. It is supposed that he did so, because he did not wish to witness a deed which he could not prevent.

Q. What did the king command the people to do at the sound of the trumpet?

A. To bow down and worship his idol. *Daniel* iii. 5.

Q. What was to be done to the one who refused to do this?

A. He was to be cast into a burning furnace.

Q. Who disobeyed this command?

A. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego.

Q. What did the king do?

A. He commanded them to be brought to him, and desired them to bow to the image.

Q. Did they obey at last?

A. They did not; but spoke to the king, saying, "Our God, whom we serve, is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us out of thy hand, O king." *Daniel* iii. 17.

Q. What did the king then do in his anger?

A. He caused the three men to be bound and thrown into the furnace, which he ordered to be heated sevenfold. *Daniel.* iii. 19, 20.

Q. What became of the men who performed this dreadful order?

A. The furnace being very hot, they were consumed as they approached. *Daniel* iii. 22.

Q. Were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego destroyed by the flames?

A. No; for God protected these faithful servants; they passed through the fire uninjured, nor was a hair of their head singed. *Daniel* iii. 27.

Q. [p. 164] **Who appeared in the furnace with them?**

A. An angel of the LORD.

Q. What did Nebuchadnezzar say?

A. "Blessed be the LORD God who hath sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in Him." *Daniel* iii. 28.

Q. To what did he raise these good men?

A. To a very great honour, and issued a decree forbidding blasphemy against the Lord, under the severest penalties; because "there is no God who can deliver in this manner." *Daniel* iii. 29.

Q. What befell Nebuchadnezzar for his impiety?

A. He was driven from men, had all the feelings of the beast of the field, and ate herbs as oxen. *Daniel* iv. 33.

Q. Did Nebuchadnezzar always remain bereft of reason?

A. No; when the end of his probation had expired, and the pride of his heart had been humbled, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and his understanding returned to him.

Q. What was his first act?

A. He blessed the Most High, and honoured Him that liveth for ever, "whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and whose kingdom is from generation to generation."

Q. Did he offer thanks merely in private?

A. No; but the man, who had destroyed the temple of the LORD, publicly proclaimed that he would praise, and extol, and honour the King of heaven, "all whose works are truth, and whose ways are just, and who is able to abase those who walk in pride."

Q. Who was the last successor of Nebuchadnezzar in the kingdom of Babylon?

A. Belshazzar.

Q. Was he a wise king?

A. [p. 165] He was not; and forgot the power manifested by the LORD in his father's reign.

Q. Did he keep Daniel in his office?

A. He did.

Q. What feast did he make?

A. A most impious one, commonly known as Belshazzar's feast, to which he ordered all the sacred vessels taken from the temple at Jerusalem to be brought as ornaments for his unhallowed table. *Daniel* v. 3.

Q. What did Daniel tell him?

A. That his kingdom should be taken from him. *Daniel* v. 28.

Q. When was this prophecy accomplished?

A. That same night did Darius with the besigers, the army of Persians and Medes, enter the city, while the Babylonians were intoxicated, and surprised them, and the king fell among the slain; thus perished this sinner.[16]

Q. Who then took the kingdom of Babylon?

A. Darius the Median. This king was well aware of the wisdom and integrity of Daniel; he therefore appointed him to the chief presidency in the state, and esteemed him highly. *Daniel* vi. 2.

Q. How did the presidents and princes feel towards Daniel for this great honour?

A. They envied him, and with great malignity resolved to make his piety the means of his destruction. *Daniel* vi. 5.

Q. In what manner did they proceed against Daniel?

A. They flattered Darius, and procured from him an edict to prohibit for thirty days all persons from paying adoration to any one, save to the king himself, *Daniel* vi. 7.

Q. What was the penalty?

A. To be thrown into a den of lions.

Q. [p. 166] **Did Daniel omit his daily devotions?**

A. He did not; but continued to pray three times every day to God, relying with humble confidence on His protection. *Daniel* vi. 10.

Q. When his enemies discovered that Daniel had been praying to the LORD, what did they do?

A. They informed the king of his disobedience. *Daniel* vi. 13.

Q. How did the king feel?

A. Much grieved for the life of his favourite. *Daniel* vi. 14.

Q. Could the king save Daniel?

A. He wished it, but could not; as the laws of the Persians and Medes, when once made, could not be changed; and the king with much reluctance was compelled to give the awful sentence.

[16] So printed (for "besiegers").

Q. What did the king tell Daniel when he gave the command?

A. "Thy God whom thou servest continually, will deliver thee." *Daniel* vi. 16.

Q. What effect had this on the king?

A. He went to his palace greatly afflicted for Daniel. Sleep, that state so refreshing to nature, fled from his eyelids, and he spent the night in fasting. *Daniel* vi. 18.

Q. When the king arose early in the morning where did he go?

A. To the den of lions, expecting to find Danie devoured; but, to his great astonishment and joy, Daniel answered his call.

Q. What did he say to the king?

A. "My God hath sent His angel and shut the lions' mouth, so that they did not hurt me; for He found innocence in me." *Daniel* vi. 20, 22.

Q. What did the king then do?

A. He released this faithful servant of God, and ordered his wicked enemies to be thrown into the den.

Q. [p. 167] **Did the lions devour them?**

A. They did instantaneously. *Daniel* vi. 24.

Q. Can you tell me why Daniel was saved?

A. Because he believed in God and worshipped Him.

Q. What decree did the king then make?

A. That all in his kingdom should fear the God of Daniel, because He is the living God and stedfast for ever, and His kingdom is that which will not be destroyed even unto the end. *Daniel* vi. 26.

Q. What else did he say of God's power?

A. "He delivereth and rescueth, and He worketh signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, the God who delivered Daniel from the power of the lions." *Daniel* vi. 27.

Q. How did Daniel continue to live?

A. Prosperously, under the reigns of Darius and Cyrus the Persian who, as we have already said, greatly assisted our nation in their return to the Holy Land.

LESSON TWENTY-SEVENTH.

Q. Can you name the prophet whose prophecy constitutes the first of the twelve minor prophets?

A. Hosea; he lived in the time of Isaiah.

Q. In whose reigns?

A. Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah. *Hosea* i. 1.

Q. What did he predict?

A. The dispersion of the Israelitish nation; but also made known to them the great mercy and blessings of the LORD. *Hosea* xiv. 1.

Q. Who was Joel?

A. [p. 168] A prophet.

Q. What was the state of things at the time of his prophecies?

A. The people suffered great famine by means of immense swarms of locusts. *Joel* i. 10.

Q. To what did he exhort the priests?

A. To forsake their evil ways.

Q. What did he request the people to observe?

A. A solemn fast. *Joel* ii. 15.

Q. What did he predict after this?

A. The final restoration of our people to the Holy Land. *Joel* iii. 7, 20.

Q. Where was Amos when the spirit of prophecy came upon him?

A. He was among the herdmen of Tekoä, and became a prophet of the LORD in the reign of Uzziah, the king of Judah. *Amos* i. 1.

Q. Of what did he warn the people?

A. Of the punishment that awaited them, if they did not forsake the corruptions of the surrounding nations, into which they were fast sinking. *Amos* v. 12, 13.

Q. What did he advise the people?

A. To "seek good, and not evil, and the LORD the God of hosts will be with you." *Amos* v. 14.

Q. What did he predict concerning the land of Israel, which he foretold should be laid waste for the transgressions of the people?

A. That it should be restored, after the punishment due for the sins of the people should have been inflicted.

Q. How is this prediction recorded?

A. "And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God." *Amos* ix. 15.

Q. [p. 169] **What did Obadiah predict?**

A. The destruction of the Edomites. *Obad.* i. 1-4.

Q. Why was a punishment denounced against the Edomites?

A. For their many crimes, but particularly for their great hatred against our nation. *Obad.* i. 13.

Q. What farther did he predict?

A. The restoration of our people.

Q. How is it written?

A. "Upon Mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions."

Q. What are their possessions?

A. The Holy Land.

Q. Who was Jonah?

A. He was one of the prophets.

Q. During whose reign is he said to have prophesied?

A. The reign of Jehu.

Q. What was Jonah commanded by the LORD to do?

A. To go to the great city of Nineveh, the ca pital of the kingdom of Assyria, and proclaim against it in the name of the LORD. *Jonah* i. 2.

Q. Why was he to cry against it?

A. Because of the wickedness of its inhabitants.

Q. Did Jonah obey the Divine command?

A. He attempted to evade it, and went on board a ship and sailed for Tarshish. Jonah'i. 3.

Q. Did he succeed in this undertaking?

A. He did not; for the LORD caused a great tempest Jonah to overtake the vessel which contained him. i. 4.

Q. What did the alarmed mariners do?

A. They perceived that the hand of God was in [p. 170] the storm, and inquired who was the secret sinner on board.

Q. What did Jonah say when asked about his country?

A. He said, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, who hath made the sea and the dry land." *Jonah* i. 9.

Q. What did he do after that?

A. He declared his guilt, and was thrown into the sea by his own advice. *Jonah* i. 15.

Q. Did the tempest then cease?

A. It did: and the vessel pursued her way in safety.

Q. Did Jonah perish in the sea?

A. No; for the LORD sent a great fish which swallowed him. *Jonah* i. 17.

Q. Did he die?

A. He did not; but remained in the body of the fish three days and three nights, and while there, he called and prayed to the Lord against whom he had sinned. *Jonah* ii. 1.

Q. Were his supplications received on high?

A. They were, (as will ever be the prayers of those who are truly penitent,) and he was miraculously carried alive by the fish, which disgorged him in safety on the shore. *Jonah* ii. 10.

Q. What was Jonah again commanded to do?

A. To announce to the people of Nineveh the words of the LORD. *Jonah* iii. 2.

Q. Did Jonah then obey?

A. He did, by speedily departing for the great city.

Q. What did he tell the people?

A. That in forty days the city should be overthrown. *Jonah* iii. 4.

Q. What did the people then do?

A. They proclaimed a fast, and sincerely repented [p. 171] of their transgressions, and God, "whose great mercies are over all His works," attended to their cry and averted the threatened evil. *Jonah* iii. 10.

Q. How did Jonah feel at this?

A. He felt grieved that his predictions had not been accomplished. *Jonah* iv. 1.

Q. What did Jonah then do?

A. He went out of the city and made a booth under which he sat to see what would become of the city. *Jonah* iv. 5.

Q. What did the LORD cause to grow over his booth?

A. A gourd, the shade of which afforded him shelter from the rays of the sun. *Jonah* iv. 6.

Q. Did he enjoy this shelter?

A. He did; but this pleasure was of short duration, as the Lord caused a worm to destroy the plant under cover of which he reposed. *Jonah* iv. 7.

Q. What did the LORD say to Jonah, when he showed grief at the loss of the gourd?

A. "Thou hast had pity for the gourd, for the which thou hast not laboured, neither made it to grow; and should not I spare Nineveh, that great city wherein are more than six-score thousand persons?"

Q. What does this history of Jonah illustrate?

A. The divine mercy.

LESSON TWENTY-EIGHTH.

Q. In whose days did Micah the prophet live?

A. Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah.

Q. Who were they?

A. Kings of Judah, whose reigns we have already mentioned.

Q. [p. 172] **What did Micah say of our present scattered state?**

A. "And the remnants of Jacob shall be in the midst of many people as dew from the LORD." *Micah* v. 7.

Q. To what did he exhort the people?

A. To obedience.

Q. What did he tell them?

A. "The LORD hath shown 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* vi. 8.

Q. Who was Nahum?

A. A prophet.

Q. What did he advise the people?

A. To place entire reliance on the LORD, because "He is good, a strong-hold in the day of trouble, and He knoweth them that trust in Him." *Nahum* i. 7.

Q. Who was Habakkuk?

A. He also was a prophet, who complained of the iniquity of the people, and foretold the Babylonish captivity, as a punishment for their transgressions. *Hab.* i. 6.

Q. What did he do for the people?

A. He prayed humbly before God for their restoration. *Hab.* iii. 2.

Q. Who was Zephaniah?

A. He also was a messenger of the LORD.

Q. Who was king of Judah in his days?

A. Josiah. Zephaniah, i. 1.

Q. Against what did he protest?

A. The idolatry of Judah. *Zeph.* i. 5, 6.

Q. What did he solicit the people to do?

A. To repent speedily, and thereby to avert the threatened calamity. *Zeph.* ii. 2.

Q. What did he predict?

A. [p. 173] The destruction of all the nations who were enemies to Israel. *Zeph.* ii. 9.

Q. What else did he fortell?[17]

A. The punishment and dispersion, and the restoration of the Jewish people. *Zeph.* iii. 18.

Q. What did he say of the remnant of Israel?

A. "The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth." *Zeph.* iii. 13.

Q. What do you understand by the remnant of Israel?

A. All that now remain of the tribes of Israel, namely, we the Jews.

LESSON TWENTY-NINTH.

Q. AFTER the return of the Jews from Babylon, who was charged to make known God's will to them?

A. Haggai.

Q. In whose reign?

A. Darius.

Q. Who was then governor of Judah?

A. Zeruabbabel. *Haggai* i. 1.[18]

[17] So printed (for "foretell").

[18] So printed (for "Zerubbabel").

Q. What did Haggai do to the people?

A. He reproved them for their want of zeal in building the temple. *Haggai* i. 4-6.

Q. When the governor and high priest obeyed his voice, what did Haggai do?

A. He comforted the people with the divine promise of happier times. *Haggai* ii. 7. 23.

Q. Who was contemporary with Haggai?

A. Zechariah.

Q. What did Zechariah predict?

A. The final restoration of the entire people of Israel. *Zech.* x. 6-10.

Q. [p. 174] **What advice did he give the people?**

A. He spoke to them saying, "These are the things that ye shall do, Speak ye every one the truth to his neighbour; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates; and let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against your neighbour; love no false oaths; for all these are things that I hate, saith the LORD." *Zech.* viii. 16, 17.

Q. With what did Zechariah say all nations should be blessed?

A. With the knowledge of God.

Q. Can you give me the words of the prophet?

A. "And the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, Let us go speedily to pray before the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts." *Zech.* viii. 21.

Q. What does the prophet say in the twenty-third verse of this chapter?

A. "And it shall come to pass that ten men shall take hold, out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you; for we have heard that God is with you."

Q. Who was the last prophet?

A. Malachi.

Q. When did he prophesy?

A. After the return of Nehemiah to Jerusalem.

Q. What did he endeavour to do?

A. To reform the people.

Q. What did he tell them?

A. Of God's judgment on the wicked. *Mal.* iv. 1.

Q. What did he tell the people they should discern on the great day?

A. That they should discern between the righteous and the wicked; between him who hath served God, and him who hath served Him not. *Mal.* iii. 18.

Q. [p. 175] **Whom did the Lord promise to send before the coming of the great day?**

A. Elijah the prophet. *Mal.* iii. 23.

Q. What is the great day promised to us?

A. The coming of the Messiah, the time that the Jews will be restored to their former glory, as foretold by the prophets.

Q. Can you recite the concluding passage of the last of the prophets, wherein we are enjoined to bear in mind all the precepts of the LORD?

A. "Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, to whom I commanded in Horeb for all Israel statutes and judgments." *Mal.* iii. 22.

THE END.