

tion in daily and worldly interests, but they fail to make any preparation, and Christ the Judge will come at an hour they think not.

How righteous men like Noah stand out in the history of the world, while all the flippant and sinful are forgotten! "He only is a living man, the rest are gliding shadows."

Noah must often have thanked God, when he heard the storm beating without, that he was safe. "As time goes on, I feel more and more vividly a secured relief, when those I love are safely through another year. The ice cracks in such unexpected places, that mere safety seems to me a much greater reason for thankfulness than it used to do. To do some great thing is the craving of early ambition; to do quiet duty honestly and without serious falls, satisfies the heart when youth disappears."—Dale.

When our flood comes, our only hope is in God and in Christ our Saviour. Then He who sitteth on the floods as King shall defend us, and in the time of great waters it shall not come nigh unto us.

"The Flood has not been forgotten by almost any people under heaven, but its moral result is *nil*. But he whose memory is haunted by a dying Redeemer, by the thought of One whose love found its most appropriate and practical result in dying for him, is prevented from much sin, and finds

TEACHING HINTS AND HELPS

This section embraces teaching material for the various grades and from different points of view.

For Bible Class Teachers

AN ANALYSIS

The Bible records many manifestations of God's abhorrence and punishment of sin. For example, the destruction of Korah, Dathan and Abiram, Num. 26 : 9, 10, and of Sodom and Gomorrah, Gen. 19 : 24, 25. The deluge far surpassed these in magnitude and awfulness. The wickedness of the race was so great that God said "I will destroy man, whom I have created, from the face of the earth," Gen. 6 : 5-7. The lesson is an account of how God saved Noah, and all that were with him, in the ark. We note

in that love the spring of eternal hope, that which his soul in the deep privacy of his most sacred thoughts can feed upon with joy, that which he builds himself round and broods over as his inalienable possession."—Professor Marcus Dods.

Light From the East

THE DELUGE—Nearly all Eastern nations, except the black races, have traditions of a flood. Babylonian tablets of a very early date declare it was the punishment of human sin by the gods. One favored man (Nuhnapishtim), was warned of it in a dream, built a ship, took into it his family, servants, and seeds of all kinds of life. For six days torrents of rain with storm, tempest, and thick darkness, so terrible as to frighten the gods, made the earth a sea, and man and beast perished. The seventh day a calm set in, and soon after this the ship grounded on Mount Nizir, and the land began to reappear. After another week Nuhnapishtim sent out successively a dove, a swallow, and a raven. The first two returned, but the raven remained out feeding on carrion. When he left the ship he propitiated the gods by sacrifice, and one of them caused the rainbow to appear. After a dispute among the deities had been settled, Nuhnapishtim and his wife were admitted among the immortals, and a special dwelling place was assigned to them.

the following points :

1. *The assuaging of the waters.* (a) This was accomplished by Divine agency. "God remembered Noah," and His providence extended to the humblest creatures. (See Matt. 10 : 29.) He employed means to fulfil His gracious purpose. He "made a wind to pass over the earth." (Compare Ps. 104 : 4, Rev. Ver., *margin*.) This caused the waters to be, in part, absorbed by the atmosphere, while they were chiefly drained off by outlets beneath. (b) The process, for wise reasons, was gradual. The rain "was restrained" (v. 2), and "the waters returned from off the earth continually" (v. 3). At the end of five months, or on the 17th day of the seventh month of the year, the