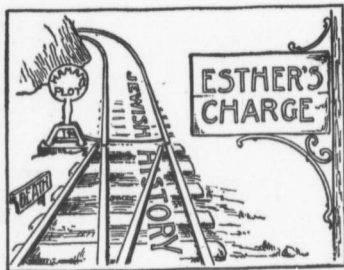


3. Plans of Faith. In Esther's resolution of verse 16 there is much of the spirit shown by Cromwell's famous order, "Trust in God, and keep your powder dry." He who leans most heavily on God is best fitted to act wisely and energetically himself; for God gives wisdom as well as power to all who ask him.



4. The Triumph of Faith. The climax of the story contains also the climax of its teachings. Let the pupils write on their pads our GOLDEN TEXT:

THE LORD	}	{	ALL THEM THAT
PRESERVETH			LOVE HIM.

The Blackboard Exercise printed herewith explains itself.

The Senior Grade

[For pupils above the age of seventeen. Each pupil, if possible, should be supplied with a copy of the Senior Quarterly.]

For the study of the printed lesson verses our LESSON ANALYSIS, supplemented by the WORD STUDIES, may profitably be followed, but only very unusual biblical information would justify the restriction of the attention of a Senior class to the printed verses. The entire story of

the book of Esther should be at the command of both teacher and pupils. A brief study of Xerxes' (Ahasuerus) character as shown in profane history will give an interesting sidelight on the lesson. Its moral and spiritual lessons are unfolded in our LESSON EXPOSITION, especially in the paragraphs on Providence and on the presence of the Supernatural in the Secular.

The duty of enduring as seeing Him who is invisible is the great message of the book to us. In the background of the story are unpleasant glimpses of the intrigue, sensuality, and cruelty of a typical Oriental court. Its best characters are conspicuously faulty, and the LESSON EXPOSITION on over-idealizing characters merits careful reading. But through all the moral disorder and confusion we hear ringing the clear song of the Golden Text, "The Lord preserveth all them that love him."

Emphasize this truth: Whatever may have been the previous character of a soul, the supreme act of dependence necessary to command divine preservation in the extremity of danger begets love. God may be trusted to preserve from temporal danger and from physical harm except where these are the means of greater joy in the life eternal; but the deeper import of this promise is spiritual. "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty," and there his soul shall be kept in perfect peace. The example of Esther, therefore, bears equally upon our temporal, secular life and upon our spiritual, eternal life.

The LESSON HEART TALK, by Mrs. Knowles, will be found helpful by teachers of girls and young women. Abraham Lincoln's words, quoted on page 831, are explanatory of much in the book of Esther. Mordecai and Esther were both faulty characters, but they were on God's side. The writer in the SIDE LIGHTS takes his cue from Mordecai's words, "Thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this," and his illustrations of the value of opportunities are impressive.

The Responsive Review

1. Who was Esther? *A beautiful Jewess, Queen of Persia.* **2.** What had the Persian king ordered? *That "If I perish, I perish."* **3.** What did Mordecai urge Esther to do? *To try to save the Jewish people.* **4.** By what words did Esther show that she understood the risk she ran by going unbidden into the king's presence? *"If I perish, I perish."* **5.** What is the GOLDEN TEXT? *"The Lord preserveth,"* etc. **6.** What did the king do? *He saved the people for Esther's sake.*

The Church Catechism

61. What is a sacrament? A sacrament is a holy ordinance instituted by Christ, wherein by outward and visible signs Christ and the benefits of the new covenant are represented and sealed to the Church, and received by those who worthily partake thereof.

Matthew xxviii. 19. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

GOLDEN

[Study als

Ezra 8. 21-

21 Then river of A- before our us, and for stance.

22 For I a band of against the had spoken our God is him; but I all them the

23 So we this; and h

24 Then the priests, of their bre

25 And v the gold, at the house of counselors, I present, had

26 I even dred and fif sels an hun dred talents

27 Also ty drams; and as gold.

28 And I the LORD: t silver and th the LORD Go

29 Watch them before Le'vites, and Je-ru'sa-lem, the LORD.

30 So took weight of th vessels, to br house of our

31 Then wa on the tw go unto Je-ru was upon us, of the enemy the way.

32 And we there three de

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M. The king'

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W. Ezra's J

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