

About B.C. 1536(?).]

LESSON II. AFFLICTIONS SANCTIFIED.

[April 9.

Job 5. 17-27.

[Commit to memory verses 17-19.]

17 Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty:

18 For he maketh sore, and bindeth up: he woundeth, and his hands make whole.

19 He shall deliver thee in six troubles: yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee.

20 In famine he shall redeem thee from death: and in war from the power of the sword.

21 Thou shalt be hid from the scourge of the tongue: neither shalt thou be afraid of destruction when it cometh.

22 At destruction and famine thou shalt laugh: neither shalt thou be afraid of the beasts of the earth.

23 For thou shalt be in league with the stones of the field; and the beasts of the field shall be at peace with thee.

24 And thou shalt know that thy tabernacle shall be in peace; and thou shalt visit thy habitation, and shalt not sin.

25 Thou shalt know also that thy seed shall be great, and thine offspring as the grass of the earth.

26 Thou shalt come to thy grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in in his season.

27 Lo this, we have searched it, so it is; hear it, and know thou it, for thy good.

HOME READINGS.

M. Job 5 17-27. Tu. Lam. 3. 22-33. W. Heb. 12. 1-11. Th. Psalm 91. 1-8. F. Psalm 107. 1-8. S. Psalm 94. 1-14. S. Psalm 34. 15-22.

GOLDEN TEXT.

For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth. (Heb. 12. 6.)

LESSON HYMNS.

New Canadian Hymnal, Nos. 82, 351, 359.
Dominion Hymnal, Nos. 139, 256, 261.

INTRODUCTORY.—Who wrote the book of Job no one knows. It is probably one of the oldest of books. It tells the story of Job, a man of great piety and wealth, who suffered extraordinary sorrows. These sorrows were with God's permission applied as tests to Job's character by Satan. His three friends, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite, came to condole with him, but really criticised him. Our present lesson is taken from part of one of the speeches of Eliphaz.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

- 1. The Chastening of the Almighty, v. 17-22.**
 - What is said of one whom God corrects?
 - Of what is his correction an evidence? (Prov. 3. 12.)
 - What should not be despised?
 - What does the Lord do for his own?
 - What safety have they in trouble?
 - What promise shields them in famine?
 - What security have they in war?
 - From what scourge will God hide them?
 - At what foes will they laugh?
 - Of what will they not be afraid?
 - Whom does God always chasten? (GOLDEN TEXT.)
- 2. The Favor of the Almighty, v. 23-27.**
 - What league will the children of God make?
 - What promise of peace have they?
 - What knowledge is assured?
 - What visit can be made in safety?
 - What will they know about their posterity?
 - What is promised as to death?
 - What is God's promise to such as fear him? (Psalm 91. 1, 16.)

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What man is described as happy? **The man whom God correcteth.**
2. Why are troubles sent to men? **To make men better.**
3. Who is the great defence against poverty, sickness, misrepresentation, war, and other troubles? **In God is our refuge.**
4. What is promised the good man? **A blessing on his home and his children.**
5. How will he approach death? **In a full age, like a shock of corn in its season.**
6. What is the GOLDEN TEXT? **"For whom the Lord loveth," etc.**

EXPLANATION.

Bindeth up—Most ancient medicines were externally applied, and a large share of the pains and aches of our ancestors were "bound up" for cure. **He woundeth, and his hands make whole**—He dislocates, then sets the dislocated limb. **Six and seven mean many**, just as in modern phraseology "half a dozen" means a few. In verses 20, 21 and 22, the great sources of ancient sorrow are mentioned: **famine**, which is almost sure to prevail wherever there are massed unproductive populations, as was the case throughout the Orient in Job's day, and is now the case in large portions of India and China; **war**, which was the normal condition of the ancient world, six months of peace being often unknown for a century; **the tongue**, which stands for malicious detraction, false testimony, such as must ever be prevalent in despotisms; **destruction**, which may stand for all natural calamities, like earthquakes; **the beasts of the earth**—Only in our century has this terror been removed from mankind, and even now the wolves of Russia and the beasts of Indian jungles ravish large districts and destroy many lives.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

18. How does the New Testament teach his religion?
- It contains the history of his life and death, the record of his teaching while he was among men, and the doctrine which he taught the apostles by his Spirit after he ascended into heaven.

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LESSON III. JOB'S APPEAL TO GOD.

[April 16.

Job 23. 1-16.

[Commit to memory verses 3-10.]

- 1 Then Job answered and said,
- 2 Even to-day is my complaint bitter: my stroke is heavier than my groaning.
- 3 O that I knew where I might find him! that I might come even to his seat!
- 4 I would order my cause before him, and fill my mouth with arguments.
- 5 I would know the words which he would answer me, and understand what he would say unto me.

6 Will he plead against me with his great power? No; but he would put strength in me.

7 There the righteous might dispute with him; so should I be delivered forever from my judge.

8 Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him:

9 On the left hand, where he doeth work, but I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him.

10 But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.