

THE Teachers' Preparation Leaflet

LESSON 13.

SEPTEMBER 23rd, 1894.

3rd QUARTER.

Daniel's Abstinence. Dan. 1: 8-20.

GOLDEN TEXT: "Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself." Dan. 1: 8.

COMMIT TO MEMORY verses 8, 9. CHILDREN'S HYMNAL 121, 117, 114, 122.

PROVE THAT—Intemperance excludes from Heaven. 1 Cor. 6: 10.

SHORTER CATECHISM—Quest. 95. To whom is baptism to be administered?

DAILY PORTIONS.

(The Selections of the International Bible Reading Association)

MONDAY.	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY.	THURSDAY.	FRIDAY.	SATURDAY.	SABBATH.
Dan. 1: 8-20	Dan. 1: 1-7	Jer. 35: 1-10	Jer. 35: 12-19	1 Thess. 5: 14-28	Rom. 14: 13-21	1 Cor. 10: 15-23

NOTES AND EXPLANATIONS.

INTRODUCTORY. Daniel was a Hebrew youth of noble lineage, who had been selected with others to be trained for service about the person of the king of Babylon. In thus entering the royal service his foot was placed on the first rung of the ladder of political advancement. All the rewards of ambition were placed within his grasp. He had every inducement to conform to the customs of the court and king. By flattery and cleverness he could have risen as others were doing. But he believed that it was better to be right than to be prime minister. He started out with the determination to refuse to do what conscience forbade. No life can fail that begins in this way.

Daniel. He would be about 14 years of age at this time (B. C. 605-3), and died after B. C. 536. So that he lived to be at least 85 years old. He was carried away captive by Nebuchadnezzar, and saw the exiles under Zerubbabel set out on their return. Give some of the incidents of his eventful life.

Babylon. On the Euphrates, 500 miles from Jerusalem. It was at this time twice as large as London, and surrounded with walls 14 miles long on each of its four sides. These were 300 feet high and 80 broad, and surmounted by 250 towers. Twenty-five streets ran across the city each way, terminated by 100 gates, and in the centre of each square was a garden. The "hanging gardens," planted on immense terraced artificial hills, were one of the wonders of the ancient world. The luxury and profligacy of this immense city have made its name infamous forever. In the midst of all this temptation Daniel kept himself pure.

LESSON PLAN. I. Temperance Purposed. vs. 8-9. II. Temperance Tested. vs. 11-16. III. Temperance Rewarded. vs. 17-20.

I. TEMPERANCE PURPOSED. 8. Daniel purposed in his heart—This does not mean that he made a secret resolve, but that it was a heart-purpose, a firm and fixed resolution. **Defile himself**—since it was customary among the heathen to offer to the gods a portion of the food to be eaten, scrupulous Jews felt that they could not partake of any of it without conforming in a measure to idolatry (Deut. 32: 38). This sentiment also existed in the early Christian Church (1 Cor. 8: 7, 10; 10: 27, 28; Acts 15: 29). Also many articles of food in common use at Babylon were considered unclean by the law of Moses (Lev. 11). To refuse these every time they were offered to him would involve Daniel in constant unpleasantness, and many of them might be so disguised by culinary art that he would not recognize them. (Compare Ex. 4: 13; Hos. 9: 3.) It was better at the first to place himself in an unequivocal position. The Jews, too, were very careful to see that the animal food used was entirely free from blood (Deut. 12: 23-25). Even at the pres-

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