

18, 19. At the end of the days. After the period of probation or training in the knowledge of the Chaldeans. **Brought them in.** They were introduced to the king. **Communed with them.** He conversed with them, to ascertain their knowledge and their character. **There was found none.** The highest wisdom that is learned at the feet of God; and the king showed penetration in his appreciation of it.

20, 21. He found them ten times better. The priestly caste among the Chaldeans mingled much

superstition with their learning. But in these young men were found a clearness of vision which made their counsel much more valuable than that of the magicians. **Daniel continued.** In a position of honor and influence. **King Cyrus.** Cyrus was the conqueror of the Chaldeans and the emancipator of the Jews. He began to reign over Babylon about B. C. 538, though at first having Darius as the nominal head of the kingdom. Daniel must have been between eighty and ninety years of age at his accession. (11) *Temperance leads to long life as well as honor.*

HOME READINGS.

- M.* Daniel in Babylon. Dan. 1. 8-21.
Th. Daniel taken to Babylon. Dan. 1. 1-8.
W. The body to be pure. 1 Cor. 6. 12-20.
Th. How the body should be used. Rom. 12. 1-8.
F. Understanding in dreams. Dan. 2. 32-45.
S. Knowledge from God. James 1. 1-12.
S. A source of cleansing. Ps. 119. 9-16.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. Ps. 119. 9.

LESSON HYMNS.

No. 3, Dominion Hymnal.

Come, let us join our cheerful songs
 With angels round the throne.

No. 107, Dominion Hymnal.

Stand up! stand up for Jesus!
 Ye soldiers of the cross!

No. 102, Dominion Hymnal.

Only an armour-bearer, firmly I stand,
 Waiting to follow at the King's command.

TIME.—605 B. C. Time when the first company of Jews were carried captive to Babylon, or soon after. In Greece, the 43d Olympiad. Year of Rome, 148.

PLACE.—Babylon. (See Descriptive Index.)

RULERS.—Same as in Lesson II.

CONNECTING LINK.—An incident in the life of four captive Jews, showing God's care for his people, and the manner in which he prepared, before the final captivity, a friend in high position at the court of the great king.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—God's watchful care.

QUESTIONS FOR SENIOR STUDENTS.

1. True to God, v. 8-16.

Who was Daniel?
 What was his character as shown in our lesson?
 What is it to be true to God?
 What temptations would naturally surround one at such a court?
 What rule does our Golden Text give for such temptations as attack the young?

2. Honored of Men, v. 17-21.

How were these young Jews honored?
 Why were they thus honored?
 How long a time had they been students in the lore of the Chaldeans?
 What elements of character in these young men were the foundations of the honor they received?
 Can you find another instance of a young man who was true to his God, and honored of men in a strange land?

Practical Teachings.

Where in this lesson is fidelity to conscience taught?
 Where is the benefit of obedience to God's law taught?

Where is the duty of doing with our might what our hands find to do shown?

Daniel added to his faith, virtue; to virtue, knowledge; to knowledge, temperance. Do you?

QUESTIONS FOR INTERMEDIATE SCHOLARS.

1. True to God, v. 8-16.

What purpose had Daniel formed?
 Of whom did he ask permission?
 How was Daniel regarded by his master?
 What caused this regard? Prov. 16. 7.
 Why did the prince hesitate to grant Daniel's petition?
 To whom did Daniel then apply?
 What trial did he propose?
 For how long a time?
 What was the result of the trial?
 What diet was granted to Daniel and his friends?

2. Honored of Men, v. 17-21.

How did the four Hebrew captives prosper?
 What special gift had Daniel?
 How long was the training of the young men continued? Dan. 1. 5.
 What occurred at the end of that time?
 Who examined the young men?
 Who excelled among them?
 How were they honored?
 What was the king's judgment as to their knowledge?
 How long did Daniel remain in favor?

Teachings of the Lesson.

Where are we taught in this lesson—

1. That the path of duty is the road to honor?
2. That the right way is the best way?
3. That obedience to God brings divine favor?

QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER SCHOLARS.

Who were among the captives carried to Babylon?
Daniel, Hananiah, Michael, and Azariah.

What did the king command them to do? **To live in his palace, and eat and drink of the meat and wine from his table.**

Why did he give this command? **He wanted them trained for high places in his court.**

What did Daniel resolve in his heart? **To keep the laws of God. (Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.)**

What was one of these laws? **All Israelites were forbidden to eat of meat killed by heathens.**

What was Daniel's request? **That he and his companions be given pulse and water to eat and drink.**

What did he mean by "pulse"? **A diet of fruit and vegetables.**

Of what was the ruler afraid? **That they would not thrive on such food.**

What did Daniel ask them to do? **To try it ten days.**

What was the result? **Daniel and his friends were healthier and fairer than those who ate of the king's meat.**

What did Melzar do? **He gave them pulse.**

With what did God bless his faithful children? **With learning and wisdom.**

Of all the captive children, who were chosen by the king to stand before him? **Daniel and his friends.**

How did he find them? **Ten times wiser than all the wise men in his country.**

What always brings us blessings? **Obedience to God's law.**

Words with Little People.

Daniel was tempted, but he was firm in his purpose *to do right, and God blessed and prospered him. "I CAN'T; it would make Jesus sorry,"* said a little girl, when tempted to do wrong. What do you say?

"If we from temptation flee,
 Jesus all our strength will be."