

1. *God in relation to nature.* Lesson I. summarizes this. There are two main points : (a) God the source of intelligent purpose in nature ; (b) God the source of the power which controls the material universe. God is seen moving independently of any external influence, and gradually moulding and fashioning His world. God is in everything, as ultimate purpose and power, and as the direct agent in all that came to pass. Discuss some of the scientific causes, for example, the force of gravitation, about which we know so much more than the ancients, with a view of showing that behind all such causes there must be the power of God.

2. *God in relation to the creation of man.* Lesson II. deals with this. Bring out the following truths : (a) God is the Creator of man's physical life. (b) God is the Creator of man's distinctive intellectual and spiritual life. Discuss the question in what the image of God consists. (c) God has given divine sanction to the marriage tie (also Lesson II.) (d) God is the source of the loving purpose which culminated in the redemption of the world from sin (Lesson III.).

3. *God and moral responsibility.* God is not the author of, or in any way responsible for, the appearance of human sin, Lesson III. He condemns sin wherever found and holds the sinner guilty, Lesson IV. Bring out the fact that this applies to nations as well as to individuals (Lesson V.) and that when sin becomes dominant in society, destruction inevitably follows, Lesson X. Impress the clear manner in which the Bible declares the responsibility of the sinner, and God's attitude of hostility towards sin.

4. *God and the training of His children.* This appears : (a) In His covenant relationship, in which man is given a place of privilege and opportunity, Lesson VI. (b) In His desire to develop the element of responsibility. This is seen in the covenant with Noah, where definite responsibility is fixed for government and the punishment of crime, and later in the call of Abram (Lesson VII.), who is treated in the light of moral ideals which become the law of life. (c) In requiring men to make sacrifices for higher moral ends and meeting the sacrificing spirit with increased blessing and larger promise of efficiency in the world. This appears in Lessons VIII. and IX. Every sacrifice of self is a vision of God's wider purpose in character and service. (d) In developing the power of faith and honoring its exercise. This is seen in Lesson XI., where Abraham is asked to surrender his son, rather than act contrary to the will of God. This results in a victory for the spiritual in life.

In gathering up the main features of the Quarter's Lessons, dwell upon : (1) The gradualness of God's unfolding purpose, extending from chaos to the beauty of the world. (2) The revelation of the secret of man's true life, obedience to the will of God. (3) The declaration of the principle, that obedience means the favor of God, while disobedience meets with God's displeasure and punishment. (4) The unfolding of the principle, that all suffering and sorrow have an educational value, and work together for good to the man of faith. (5) The duty of recognizing God in daily life, in home, pleasures, marriage and business.

## THE QUARTERLY REVIEW

### FOR SENIOR SCHOLARS AND THE BOYS AND GIRLS : Lesson Characters

Make this a Review of Lesson characters. Introduce the subject, by reminding the scholars, that in the first half of the Book of Genesis, which we have studied during the Quarter, we have the history of the world for about two thousand years. What men and women of note lived during that primitive period ?

1. *Adam and Eve* (Lessons I., II. and III.). Question the class about the order of creation,—first material things, then plants, then animals, then man, the crown of creation. What is there to indicate that man was the crown of creation ? (See Gen. 1 : 26-28.) •Why