



DAVID THE PSALMIST.—To illustrate lesson of April 3.

## LESSON NOTES.

## SECOND QUARTER.

## STUDIES IN THE PSALMS AND DANIEL.

B.C. 1000.] LESSON I. [April 3.

## THE WAY OF THE RIGHTEOUS.

Psalm I. 1-6.

Memory verses, 1-6.

## GOLDEN TEXT.

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.—Psalm I. 1.

## CENTRAL TRUTH

Only the righteous are truly blessed.

## HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.

*Blessed*—A plural word in the original, because the blessedness of the good are many. *Scornful*—From Latin *ex*, and *cornu*, a horn, to break off the horns. Those who despise and hate what is good and religious. Write out this verse so as to mark the three gradations: "Walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful." *Planted*—Not growing wild, but placed where God would have it. *By the rivers*—Streams, natural or artificial. In many parts of the East it is only in such places that trees flourish. *Ungodly*—From "un" and "God"; unlike God, contrary to God in acts and in character. *Chaff*—An allusion to the method of winnowing by pouring out the grain on a windy hilltop, so that the wind blows the chaff away as the grain falls. *Judgment*—The great day of judgment; but also all those other times when God in his providence rewards and punishes. *Congregation*—Any assembly, especially the assembly at the right hand at the judgment, and in heaven. *The Lord knoweth*—To know, to bless, and to approve.

## Find in the lesson—

Two different persons, and their end.  
Three things the good will not do.  
What they are like.  
What the wicked are like.  
The source of goodness.  
The downward progress of sin.

## REVIEW EXERCISE.

1. What three things does a good man not do? (Repeat ver. 1.) 2. What is the source of his goodness? (Repeat ver. 2.) 3. What is he like? (Repeat ver. 3.) 4. To what is the wicked man likened? (Repeat ver. 4.) 5. From whom is he forever separated? (Repeat ver. 5.)

## CATECHISM QUESTION

2. What are the chief benefits included in salvation?

They are the forgiveness of sins, regeneration, or the new birth, and sanctification.

## In School-Days.

BY WHITTIER.

STILL sits the school-house by the road,  
A ragged beggar sunning;  
Around it still the sunnachs grow,  
And blackberry vines are running.

Within, the master's desk is seen,  
Deep scarred by raps official;  
The warping floor, the battered seats,  
The jack-knife's carved initial;

The charcoal frescoes on its wall;  
Its door's worn sill, betraying  
The feet that, creeping slow to school,  
Went storming out to playing.

Long years ago a winter sun  
Shone over it at setting;  
Lit up its western window panes,  
And low eaves' icy fretting.

It touched the tanned golden curls,  
And brown eyes full of grieving,  
Of one who still her steps delayed  
When all the school were leaving.

For near her stood the little boy  
Her childish favour singled;  
His cap pulled low upon a face  
Where pride and shame were mingled.

Pushing with restless feet the snow  
To right and left, he lingered—  
As restlessly her tiny hands  
The blue-checked apron fingered.

He saw her lift her eyes; he felt  
The soft hand's light caressing,  
And heard the tremble of her voice,  
As if a fault confessing.

"I'm sorry that I spelt the word;  
I hate to go above you,  
Because"—the brown eyes lower fell—  
"Because, you see, I love you!"

Still memory to a grey-haired man  
That sweet child's face is showing.  
Dear girl! The grasses on her grave  
Have forty years been growing!

He lives to learn, in life's hard school,  
How few who pass above him  
Lament their triumph and his loss,  
Like her—because they love him.

## DIED RICH.

THE wife of a hotel-keeper in Marysville, California, gives the following sketch:

"There came down from the mountains, one day, the most comical-looking old couple I ever beheld. They were English, and had lived in California two years, both working in the mines.

"The woman had on a thin, faded calico gown, which had come with her

from England ten years before, a calico jacket over her shoulders, and on her head was an apology for a sun-bonnet. Her husband wore a mackintosh, which reached to his heels, and on his head an old hat and oh, what a hat!

"Altogether they were the most forlorn looking couple one would wish to see. They carried penury in their very countenances.

"I pitied the old woman, so I gave her a gentleman's dressing-gown which had been left at the hotel. It was rather soiled, to be sure, but it was better than anything that she had. They had started home to England by the way of New York.

"When the bar-keeper requested the man to sign his name, he made a cross, and she was as ignorant as he. At night she asked me if I would give her a room with good fastenings to the doors and windows, as they had a good deal of gold dust with them. I inquired to know where it was, as they brought no baggage with them, except a bag which she had

on her arm. She said it was in belts around their waists. I told her if it were much she had better deliver it up to the proprietor of the house for safe-keeping. She said, 'Oh no, I wouldn't lose sight of it for anything! I have five thousand dollars in my belt, and my husband has the same.'

"I advised her to send it by express to New York, as they might be robbed on the way. She said they could not afford to pay the percentage for its transportation, when they could carry it and save that money. So they started to take passage for New York by the way of Nicaragua.

"The next news I heard of them was that they were both drowned at Virgin Bay while going from the shore in a boat to get on board the steamer. The weight of their gold sunk them at once, while the rest of the capsized boat's passengers floated and were picked up by other boats.

"Thus these two old people, having lived in poverty all their days, died rich, weighted down by the treasure they had earned."

## "NO GOD TO-DAY."

ANNA was the child of prayerless parents. The family met in the morning, gathered round the table spread with bounties from a loving Father's hand, with no acknowledgment of the gracious Giver. And so they passed the day, and lay down at night with no thanks for the day's mercies, no committal of all to him who never slumbers or sleeps.

At length there came a pious uncle to spend a few weeks with them. During his stay he was invited to ask a blessing at meals, and to conduct family worship.

The morning after his departure, the family gathered at the table, and were about to commence their meal without a blessing, when little Anna, who sat next her father, looked up, and said, "No God to-day, papa!" The child's touching rebuke went straight to the father's heart, and, like an arrow from the Almighty, rankled there until he found peace in Jesus, and began to acknowledge God at meals and at the family altar.

## CONVERSION OF A PILGRIM IN JAPAN.

BY MISS SPENCER.

THIS afternoon three of the girls went to pray with one of the sewing teachers. Before they left, she too was praising God. Returning home, they met an old woman, a pilgrim, who asked them the way. They gave her the desired information, and then in proving the opportunity, began to talk with her, and found she was from Osaka. They learned something of her history; that having buried a child a few years ago, she and her husband were now walking over the land in hope of becoming pure and holy, so that they might meet this child again. Counting her beads, the poor old creature was loud in the praises of her pagan religion.

The girls begged of her to go back with them to the school, and one of them instructed her in the more excellent way. A number of the girls then gathered in the room to pray. While they were yet speaking the answer came, for this wretched furnishing heart drank in the truth, and seeing her past mistakes, she threw away her beads and a canvas bag received from the priest. Upon this bag was written in Chinese characters the number of holy shrines to be visited before purification could be accomplished, and which she valued above all her possessions. She thus separated herself from her idolatry; removing every obstacle, she opened her heart to the Lord Jesus, and he came, filling her with joy and peace.

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