

## New Year's 1887.

"HE GIVETH THE YEARS."

The years are his gifts for our using,  
They are ours by the grace of his love,  
And are blessings to us by our choosing  
To live for the crowning above.

The years are for us what we make them,  
For each day has a blessing in store,  
And each hour has its gifts if we take them,  
And heaven has eternally more.

The years are our days of probation,  
Let us then in the name of the Lord,  
With full faith and with glad adoration,  
Live always as taught by his Word.

## LESSON NOTES.

## FIRST QUARTER.

## STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

B.C. 3875.] LESSON III. [Jan. 16.

## CAIN AND ABEL.

Gen. 4. 3-16. Commit to mem. vs. 9-12.

## GOLDEN TEXT.

Am I my brother's keeper? Gen. 4. 9.

## OUTLINE.

1. Abel.
2. Cain.

TIME.—3875 B.C. It is entirely uncertain when this incident occurred. The date given is the date, according to our chronology, of Seth's birth—which, we think, occurred soon after Abel's death (Gen. 4. 25), and because Cain alludes to certain ones who would kill him—and the one hundred and thirty years gives the needed time for the spread of population.

PLACE.—Outside of Eden. Gen. 3. 23. Here begin the wanderings of the human race. Where this first home outside of Eden was we do not know.

EXPLANATIONS.—*In process of time*—After many days, as time went by; perhaps at the end of the year of labour. *Fruit of the ground*—Vegetables, grain, and any produce which they had learned to cultivate and raise. *Firtings of his flock*—The first-born, perhaps lambs of the flock, or kids of the goats; at all events, a sacrifice of life. *Had respect*—Was pleased with the sacrifice, and showed it in some way, so that both brothers understood. *Countenance fell*—As every man's countenance falls when he is angry—Eyes downcast, mouth drawn down in a scowl. *Sin lieth at the door*—Commentators differ. Perhaps it means, "If thou doest not well, thou art committing sin against me." *Unto thee . . . desire is interpreted in two ways*: First, The younger brother shall still look up to you, and you shall be his superior. Second, Sin, though it desire you, shall yet be under your control, if you will. *Cursed from the earth*—Perhaps, thou art cursed and banished from the land in which thou hast dwelt. *Every one that findeth me shall slay*—Who would find him? Perhaps Adam and Eve had many sons and daughters at this time, who were scattered over that land, and children born among them. *Lord set a mark*—God gave a sign or mark to Cain as proof that he should not be slain.

## TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where, in this lesson, are we taught—

1. The necessity of atonement?
2. The danger in yielding to anger?
3. The certainty of punishment for sin?

## THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Who was the first murderer? Cain.  
2. Whom did he murder? His brother, Abel.  
3. What led Cain to hate and murder his brother? Because God accepted Abel's sacrifice.  
4. What did Cain say to God after he had slain his brother? "Am I my brother's keeper?"  
5. What was Cain's penalty for murder? He became a wanderer on the earth.  
6. Against what sin does this lesson warn us? Against anger, which may lead to murder.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The ruin of sin.

## CATECHISM QUESTION.

3. When did God create man? After the creation of the earth, God made man to be the chief of his creatures upon it.  
Isaiah xiv. 11, 12. Thus saith the Lord, . . . I have made the earth, and created man upon it.

B.C. 2348.] LESSON IV. [Jan. 23.

## NOAH AND THE ARK.

Gen. 6. 9-22. Commit to mem. vs. 17, 18.

## GOLDEN TEXT.

Noah did according unto all that the Lord commanded him. Gen. 7. 5.

## OUTLINE.

1. Noah.
2. The Ark.

TIME.—Fifteen centuries after time of last lesson. The year 2348 B.C. And as yet there is no kingdom founded among men.

PLACE.—Perhaps the high table lands of Central Asia.

EXPLANATIONS.—*Make thee an ark*—This means a vessel for sailing, and is a different word from that translated "ark" when the ark made by Moses is described. It is the same word as the word naming the little ark in which Moses was saved. We use boat in the same way. *Of gopher wood*—The weight of modern authority seems to favour calling this word cypress, though it is not certainly known. *Pitch it . . . with pitch*—Paint it with bitumen, inside and outside, filling all the crevices. *This is the fashion*—The proportion, or relative appearance, the actual shape is not given. *Three hundred cubits*—8,300 inches, calling the

cubit 21 inches, or, in length, 525 feet. *A window . . . in a cubit . . . above*—What this means it is hard to tell; perhaps a course of windows one cubit down from the edge of the roof.

## TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where, in this lesson, are we taught—

1. The value of good company?
2. The evil effects of bad company?
3. God's care for those who love him?

## THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What was the character of men after the fall? The world became very wicked. 2. Who only was a good man? Noah. 3. What is said of Noah in the GOLDEN TEXT? "Noah did," etc.  
4. What did God warn Noah that he would do? Destroy all mankind by a flood.  
5. What did he command Noah to do? To build an ark. 6. What good example may we find in Noah? Obedience to God.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—God's wrath against sin.

## CATECHISM QUESTION.

4. How was man the chief creature on earth? Because the Creator made man in his own image.  
Genesis i. 27. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him.

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