

ANALYTICAL AND BIBLICAL OUTLINE.

The Spirit of Christ's Foes.

I. THE SPIRIT OF HATE.

Sought . . . to put him to death. v. 55.

"Take counsel . . . against the Lord." Psa. 2. 2.

"Hate me without a cause." Psa. 69. 4.

II. THE SPIRIT OF FALSEHOOD.

Many bare false witness aginst him. v. 56.

"False witnesses are risen up." Psa. 27. 12.

"Laid to my charge . . . knew not." Psa. 35. 11.

III. THE SPIRIT OF PERVERSION.

We heard him say, I will destroy. v. 58.

"Destroy this temple . . . I will raise." John 2. 19.

"Thou that destroyest the temple." Mark 15. 29.

IV. THE SPIRIT OF CRUELTY.

Began to spit . . . to buffet. v. 65.

"Gave my back to the smiters." Isa. 50. 6.

"Despised and rejected of men." Isa. 53. 3.

V. THE SPIRIT OF MURDER.

Condemned him . . . guilty of death. v. 64.

"Killed the Prince of life." Acts 3. 15.

"By wicked hands have crucified." Acts 2. 23.

THOUGHTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

The Foes of Christ.

1. *Christ's foes in vain endeavor to impugn the purity of his character.* v. 55. Indeed, all open effort to do so was long ago given up. But whoever does not recognize Jesus as the Lord of all his thoughts and actions really "crucifies Christ afresh." In the heart of many a youth and maiden whose bright face is bent in study over this Sunday's lesson there sits a Sanhedrin as cruel and short-sighted as that of Jerusalem; and the "priests" of formalism and the "councillors" of worldly desires are even now "seeking witness against Jesus to put him to death"—and finding none.

2. *Christ's foes can succeed against him only by perverting and misrepresenting his words.* vs. 57, 58. And that has been the tactics of the enemies of Jesus in all ages, countries, and schools of thought.

3. *Christ's foes, though united in their purpose, are really at discord in their testimonies.* v. 59. The conflicting philosophies and idolatries of heathendom eagerly united to crush the infant Church; when, centuries later, the Church had become corrupted, its wrangling fraternities harmonized in endeavors to destroy the pure doctrines of Protestantism. On hardly any point are modern free-thinkers agreed, except animosity to Christ as proclaimed by spiritual Christians; and in human hearts a similar experience is often felt.

4. *Christ's foes show their spirit by their acts.* v. 65. We see that spirit readily in the open brutality and satanic cruelty of the classes already mentioned; these mocking "servants," heathen persecutors, and Romish inquisitors. But it is as really, though not as superficially, exhibited by the most polished and eloquent of the modern enemies of Jesus.

5. *Christ's foes shall yet see him in his power and glory.* v. 62. Artists have made their fame by painting "Christ before Pilate" and "Christ before the Sanhedrin." But there is one scene coming that no artist dare paint. Jewish Sanhedrin, high-priest, and Roman governor shall stand before Christ, and with quivering hearts give an account of "the deeds done in the body." And as with them so with all Christ's foes.

HOME READINGS.

M. Jesus before the council. Mark 14. 55-65.

Tu. Jesus before the council. Mark 14. 66-72.

W. Additional facts. John 18. 12-18.

Th. Jesus smitten. John 18. 19-24.

F. Warning to Peter. Matt. 26. 31-35.

S. Isaiah's prophecy. Isa. 53. 1-7.

Ss. An example of patience. Heb. 12. 1-6.

GOLDEN TEXT.

They hated me without a cause. John 15. 25.

TIME.—30 A. D.

PLACE.—Jerusalem: before the Sanhedrin.

RULERS.—Same as before.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The second coming of Christ.

LESSON HYMNS.

No. 84, Dominion Hymnal.

Come, let us, who in Christ believe,

Our common Saviour praise.

No. 83, Dominion Hymnal.

I have a Saviour, he's pleading in glory,

A dear, loving Saviour, though earth-friends be few.

No. 85, Dominion Hymnal.

I am coming to the cross;

I am poor, and weak, and blind.

Jesus, the very thought of thee.

Come, said Jesus' sacred voice.

Who'll be the next to follow Jesus?

Jesus, my Saviour, thou Lamb of God.

Forever here my rest shall be.

I lay my sins on Jesus.

More love to thee, O Christ.

My Jesus, as thou wilt.

What a Friend we have in Jesus!

Dare to do right.

Am I a sinner?

Must Jesus bear the cross alone?

If my disciple thou wouldst be.

QUESTIONS FOR SENIOR STUDENTS.

1. The False Witnesses.

Why did the council seek witnesses against Jesus?

On what kind of charge only could this court try one?

How many witnesses were required by their law?

Deut. 17. 6.

How many witnesses did they have against him?

What was the reason they could not condemn?

How did they finally surmount this difficulty? Matt.

26. 60, 61.

In what did the falsity of their witness consist? ver. 58.

2. The True Witness.

Why did the high-priest at this juncture rise?

Why did Jesus refuse answer to his first question?

Why did he answer so quickly to the second question?

Had Jesus ever made similar declarations in his teaching?

Matt. 16. 27, and 24. 30.

What made this blasphemy in the eyes of the high-priest?

What makes it a true witness in the eyes of the Church?

3. The Cruel Sentence.

Why was there no need of further witnesses?

What was the Mosaic sentence on blasphemy? Lev.

24. 16.

Was the sentence here given just?

Of what was the allowance by the council of the scene

in ver. 65 a proof?

Could the council have now punished Jesus by stoning?

What do they seem still to have feared?

What would be a sure prevention of mob violence by the friends of Jesus?

Practical Teachings.

The world still bears false witness against Jesus. It denies him to be the Son of God, and so charges him once more with blasphemy.