

SCHOLARS' NOTES.

(From the "Little Pilgrim Question Book," by Mrs. W. Barrows, Congregational Publishing Society, Boston.)

LESSON VIII.—MAY 26.

THE FIERY FURNACE.—Dan. iii. 21-27.

21. Then these men were bound in their coats, their hose, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

22. Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

23. And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

24. Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True O king.

25. He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

26. Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came forth out of the midst of the fire.

27. And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was a hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace."—Ver. 17.

1. By whose power and help did Daniel tell Nebuchadnezzar's dream?

Ans. By the help and power of God.

2. Did the king see that the God of Daniel was more powerful than his gods?

Ans. He said he did, but his actions afterward showed that he did not.

3. What did he do afterward?

Ans. He set up a great image of gold, and commanded everybody to fall down and worship it.

4. At what times were they to worship it?

Ans. Whenever they should hear the sound of all kinds of musical instruments.

5. If King Nebuchadnezzar had believed in the true God, would he have ever set up such an image?

Ans. Certainly not.

6. Why he did do it?

Ans. To show his power and his riches.

7. If any refused to worship the image of gold, what was to be done with them?

Ans. They were to be cast into a burning fiery furnace.

8. Who were found that did not obey the king's command?

Ans. Daniel's three friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

9. Why would they not worship the image?

Ans. Because they knew it to be a great sin to worship any but God.

10. Were they not afraid of being burned to death?

Ans. They were more afraid of disobeying God.

11. What did they tell the king? Golden Text.

12. Were they sure God would deliver them?

Ans. They were sure he was able: they were not sure he would think it best.

13. What had they decided to do?

Ans. To do right, and trust God.

14. Are you ever tempted to do wrong?

15. Could you be as brave in doing right as these three friends of Daniel?

16. How was the king affected by what they said?

Ans. He was very angry, and commanded the furnace to be heated seven times more than usual, and said they must be thrown in.

17. How were they put in? Ver. 21.

18. What showed how very hot the furnace was? Ver. 22.

19. What would you suppose would be the fate of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?

Ans. That they would be instantly burnt up by the fierce flames.

20. Instead of that, how was the king astonished? Vers. 24, 25.

21. Do you think the Lord was with them in the fire, to take care of them?

22. What did the king say to them? Ver. 26.

23. What do you specially notice in his words?

Ans. That he calls them "servants of the most high God."

24. When they came out of the midst of the fire, what did everybody see? Ver. 27.

25. Why did God save his servants in this wonderful manner?

Ans. To show a heathen king and people his power and his goodness.

26. What did Nebuchadnezzar say?

Ans. "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego."

27. What law did he make?

Ans. That, if any one should speak against this great God, he should be cut in pieces.

28. Is there any way in which we may imitate these three holy men?

29. What is it always safe to do? Ans. To do right.

Command and promise for me:

TRUST YE IN THE LORD FOREVER; FOR IN THE LORD JEHOVAH IS EVERLASTING STRENGTH.

LESSON IX.—JUNE 2.

THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL.—Dan. v. 22-31.

22. And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this:

23. But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and thou, and thy lords, thy wives and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified:

24. Then was the part of the hand sent from him; and this writing was written.

25. And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN

26. This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it.

27. TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.

28. PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.

29. Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and put a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.

30. In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain.

31. And Darius the Median took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"Thou art weighed in the balances and art found wanting."—Ver. 27.

1. Where was Daniel at the time the golden image was set up?

Ans. The Bible does not tell us, but probably he was somewhere in Babylon.

2. Did he worship the image?

Ans. Never.

3. Why do you think so?

Ans. Because he was the servant of the true God.

4. Why was he not put in the furnace with the others?

Ans. Probably because he was such a great man, and in such favor with the king.

5. When do we next hear of him?

Ans. A long time afterward, when Nebuchadnezzar was dead and his grandson Belshazzar was king.

6. What can you tell about Belshazzar's feast?

Ans. He made a great feast for a thousand of his lords, and drank wine with them.

7. From what vessels did he and his wives and his friends drink wine?

Ans. From the golden vessels which had been brought from the house of the Lord at Jerusalem.

8. Why was this a very wicked act?

Ans. Because Belshazzar knew these were sacred vessels, to be used only in the service of the Lord.

9. What other very wicked thing was done while they were drinking?

Ans. They praised the gods of gold and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone.

10. In the midst of their feast, what happened that frightened them?

Ans. There appeared a man's hand writing something on the wall of the palace.

11. Did the writing remain so that they could all see it?

Ans. Yes, but no one understood it.

12. Who were called to explain it?

Ans. All the wise men of Babylon; but they could not tell what it meant.

13. Why did they not send for Daniel?

Ans. Belshazzar had never heard of him, or else had forgotten him.

14. Who remembered him at last, and wished to have him called?

Ans. The king's mother.

15. When Daniel came, what did the king tell him?

Ans. That if he would explain the writing he should have great rewards.

16. How did Daniel reprove Belshazzar? Vers. 22, 23.

17. What was the writing? Ver. 25.

18. If it had been written in our language, how should we have read it?

Ans. Numbered, numbered, weighed and divided.

19. How did Daniel know what it meant?

Ans. The Lord told him.

20. How did he explain the first word? Ver. 26.

21. Why does he say nothing about the second?

Ans. Because it is the same as the first, and only repeated to make it emphatic.

22. How does he explain the word Tekel?

Ver. 27.

23. In what was Belshazzar found wanting, or lacking?

Ans. In every thing that was good.

24. How did Daniel explain the next word, Peres? Vers. 28.

25. Do you find the word Peres in ver. 25.

Ans. No, but Peres means the same as Upharsin.

26. When Daniel had finished the explanation, did Belshazzar give him the reward? Ver. 29.

27. How did Belshazzar like the explanation?

Ans. He had not much time to think whether he liked it or not.

28. Why? Vers. 30, 31.

29. When God weighs us in balances, what will he find?

Let us remember this week,

"THE LORD SEETH NOT AS MAN SEETH."

LESSON X.—JUNE 9.

DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN.—Dan. vi. 14-23.

14. Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he labor'd till the going down of the sun to deliver him.

15. Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.

16. Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.

17. And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.

18. Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting; neither were instruments of music brought before him: and his sleep went from him.

19. Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.

20. And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?

21. Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live forever.

22. My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me: and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

23. Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me."—Ver. 22.

1. After Belshazzar was slain who was king of Babylon?

Ans. Darius the Mede.

2. Whom did he take to be first president of the kingdom?

Ans. Daniel.

3. How did he know that Daniel would make a good president?

Ans. He probably heard a great deal about Daniel's wisdom, and the more he saw of him the better he liked him.

4. How did the captains and governors and princes feel towards Daniel.

Ans. They were very envious and jealous of him.

5. Why did they watch him closely?

Ans. To find something wrong in him of which to tell the king.

6. Could they find anything to complain of?

Ans. Nothing; he was so faithful that there was no error or fault found in him.

7. What did they then plan to do?

Ans. To get him into trouble on account of his religion.

8. What decree or law did they get the king to make?

Ans. That no one should offer a prayer to any god or man except the king for thirty days.

9. If any one should break this law, what would be the punishment?

Ans. He was to be thrown into a den of lions.

10. What did these people know?

Ans. That Daniel prayed to God three times a day; and they felt sure he would continue to do it.

11. Did the king know why they wanted such a law?

Ans. No; he did not think of that, but only of the honor he would receive.

12. Did Daniel understand why such a law was made?

Ans. He did; and he knew the terrible punishment that would come if he did not stop praying.

13. What would you have done if you had been in Daniel's place?

Ans. He knelt down in his chamber, with his windows open, and prayed three times a day, just as he always had done.

14. How did the king feel when they told him of it? Ver. 14.

15. Why could he not save Daniel from the lions? Ver. 15.

16. When he found that the law must be kept, what did he say to Daniel? Ver. 16.

17. How did they make it sure that he could not get out? Ver. 17.

18. Do you suppose Daniel was afraid when shut in with the lions?

20. Could the king sleep that night? Ver. 18.

21. What did he do early in the morning? Vers. 19, 20.

22. Was Daniel alive? Vers. 21, 22.

23. Had he been hurt at all? Ver. 23.

24. What was done with his enemies? Ans. They were thrown into the den of lions, and destroyed instantly.

25. What good was done by this trial of Daniel?

Ans. The king believed in the Lord God, and made a law that all his people should fear him.

26. What do you admire in Daniel?

27. How can you be like him?

28. Are you afraid to have any one know that you pray?

29. Do you love to pray so much that you would keep on praying, even if punished for it?

If I love and fear God, I may claim this promise,

"THE ANGEL OF THE LORD ENCAMPETH ROUND ABOUT THEM THAT FEAR HIM, AND DELIVERETH THEM."



SCULPTURED LION OVER A PROSTRATE MAN, Discovered in the ruins of Babylon by Rich.

SUNDAY SCHOOL READERS AND SCHOLARS will find that in this number the Sunday School Lessons are considerably ahead of time, and that a change has also been made in them. The new lessons are much simpler than the old ones and being shorter, we have been enabled to print the verses of the lesson as had often been desired. We hope that these changes will recommend themselves to our readers and to receive their assistance in making the MESSENGER even better known than at present.

TWELVE DOZEN FOR A DOLLAR.

We have a number of copies of the MESSENGER for January and February of this year on hand. They will be sold at the rate of twelve dozen for a dollar. They will not last long. "First come, first served."

Epps's COCOA—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING. "By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavored beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. Hundreds of subtle maladies are floating around us ready to attack wherever there is a weak point. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a properly nourished frame."—*Civil Service Gazette*.—Sold only in Packets labelled—"JAMES EPPS & Co., Homeopathic Chemists, London, Eng."

ADVERTISEMENTS.

25 CARDINAL, NAVY BLUE, SEAL BROWN AND Bottle Green Cards with name in gold. 25c. 25 Fancy Cards, plain or gold. 10c. 150 styles. Agents' outfit, 10c. Good cards, good work, fair dealing. Try us. Canada money and P.O. stamps taken. HULL & CO., Hudson, N.Y.

FOR SALE.—BEAUTIFUL "BOOK MARKS," WITH the figure of a Man's Hand, which points to any verse or word you choose to keep the place. Very useful to ministers and all readers. Sent by mail (post-paid) on receipt of ten cents. FRED. W. JOHNSTONE, Barrie, P.O., Ont.

25 FINE CARDS—SNOWFLAKE, DAMASK, &c., no two alike, with Name, 10c; 25 lovely Bird Cards, with name 10c; 25 New Year Cards, 15c, with name, post-paid. Address NASSAU CARD CO., Nassau, N.Y.

THE CLUB RATES FOR THE "MESSENGER" ARE, when sent to one address, as follows:—1 copy, 30c; 10 copies, \$2.50; 25 copies, \$6; 50 copies, \$11.50; 100 copies, \$22; 1,000 copies, \$200. J. DOUGALL & Son, Publishers, Montreal.

THIS MAGAZINE (THE NEW DOMINION MONTHLY) is rapidly growing in favor with the public. Its articles are well written, and their tone such as to make the Monthly a welcome visitor in the family circle.—*The News, L'Original*.

The NORTHERN MESSENGER is printed and published on the 1st and 15th of every month, at Nos. 35 and 37 Bonaventure street, Montreal, by JOHN DOUGALL & Son, composed of John Dougall, of New York and John Redpath Dougall and J. D. Donnell, of Montreal.