

TIME.—A. D. 52. For rulers, see Lesson I.
PLACE.—This epistle was written, while Paul was at Corinth, to the Church at Thessalonica.

EXPLANATIONS.—*Them which are asleep*—Christians who have died. *Ye sorrow not*—Followers of Christ are not to sorrow for those who have died in Christ, though they may mourn the loss of them. *No hope*—No one has a true hope for the dead except through Christ. *Will God bring*—They will come when Jesus comes in glory. *We which are alive*—Paul did not mean that he would surely be alive when Christ should come, but spoke of the Church as one at all times. *Shall not prevent*—Those living when Christ comes shall not have advantage over those who have died. *Descend from heaven*—At his second coming. *Archangel*—The head of the angelic host. *To meet the Lord*—The risen dead and the changed living shall meet their Lord together. *Times and seasons*—No one knows the time of the Saviour's coming. *Thief in the night*—That is, suddenly and unexpectedly. *They shall say*—Those who believe not in Christ. *Children of light*—That is, having knowledge of the Gospel and its teachings. *Not sleep*—By being careless of eternal things. *Watch*—By being in readiness to meet Christ at all times. *Be sober*—Living careful lives as in God's sight. *Helmet*—The ancient armour for the head.

HOME READINGS.

- M. The coming of the Lord. 1 Thess. 4. 13-18; 5. 1-3.
Tu. Paul at Thessalonica. Acts 17. 1-10.
W. The apostle's greeting. 1 Thess. 1. 1-10.
Th. The apostle's example. 1 Thess. 2. 1-9.
F. The apostle's preaching. 1 Thess. 2. 10-19.
S. The apostle's exhortation. 1 Thess. 3. 1-13.
S. The apostle's farewell. 1 Thess. 5. 9-28.

LESSON HYMNS.

No. 880, Methodist Hymn-Book.

Lift your heads, ye friends of Jesus,
Partners in his sufferings here;
Christ to all believers precious.
Lord of lords, shall soon appear;
Mark the tokens
Of his heavenly kingdom near!

Close behind the tribulation
Of the last tremendous days,
See the flaming revelation,
See the universal blaze!
Earth and heaven
Melt before the Judge's face!

Sun and moon are both confounded,
Darkened into endless night,
When, with angel-hosts surrounded,
In his Father's glory bright,
Beams the Saviour,
Shines the everlasting Light.

No. 877, Methodist Hymn-Book.

He comes, he comes, to call
The nations to his bar,
And raise to glory all
Who fit for glory are;

Made ready for your full reward,
Go forth with joy to meet your Lord.

Go, meet him in the sky,
Your everlasting Friend;
Your Head to glorify,
With all his saints ascend;
Ye pure in heart, obtain the grace
To see, without a veil, his face!

Then let us wait to hear
The trumpet's welcome sound;
To see our Lord appear,
Watching let us be found;
When Jesus doth the heavens bow,
Be found—as, Lord, thou find'st us now!

No. 122, S. S. Hymnal.

Be it my only wisdom here.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. The Light of Prophecy, v. 13-3.
What assurance is given about believers who have died? What reason have we for that hope? By whose authority is this spoken? How shall the Lord come again? Who shall first rise? What shall the living and risen saints then do? What is known of the time of his coming? To what is the coming day likened? Who will not be prepared for his coming? What will his coming bring to such?

2. The Children of Light, v. 4-8.
Who are not in darkness? Who gives "light" to the believer? What is the duty of "children of the light?" Matt. 5. 18. How may we be in the light? John 8. 12. For what do believers watch? What armour fits the Christian soldier for duty?

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where in this lesson are we taught—

1. The resurrection of the body?
2. The everlasting happiness of believers?
3. The duty of living right daily?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.—(For the entire school). 1. What, in substance, does the apostle say in regard to our feeling toward the dead? "Sorrow not, for ye have hope." 2. On what do we base this hope? That Jesus died and rose again. 3. What is said concerning the times and the seasons of Christ's second coming? There is no need that we know. 4. But in anticipation of Christ's second coming what shall we do? "Watch and be sober." 5. What should be our breastplate? Faith and love. And our helmet? The hope of salvation.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The second advent of Christ.

QUESTIONS FOR SENIOR STUDENTS.

1. The Light of Prophecy, v. 13-3.
To whom and under what circumstances was this epistle written? Who are meant by "them which are asleep?" Why should not believers sorrow over the death of friends? What events shall take place at the coming of the Lord? What shall that coming bring to God's people? What is said of the time of the Saviour's com-