

truth and right and goodness, or for falsehood and wrong.

Every good deed and every true word is

another trench won for Ahuramazda; every unjust deed, every false word helps Ahriman forward.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON

[SEE SKETCH MAP, LESSON XI.]

The city of Babel - Babylon was, from very early times, the capital of the Babylonian empire. It was especially famous for its temple *Sag-illa*, "of the exalted (literally, "reaching to the clouds") head," situated on the east side of the Euphrates. At Barsippa, the neighboring town to Babylon, there may be seen at the present day a ruined temple of Nebo, which was called by the Babylonians E-Zidda, "house of eternity." It was the fashion for all the larger temples of Babylon to have seven stories. The ruins of Babylon extend from north to south about

5 miles, and consist of vast mounds of earth and brick situated in an extensive plain on both sides of the Euphrates, about 200 miles above its junction with the Tigris and 300 miles above the Persian Gulf. One of these ruins covers 120,000 square feet, and is still 90 feet high. Those ruinous heaps represent the great banking house of ancient Babylon; the *Sag-illa*; one of the palaces of Nebuchadnezzar; and the famous terraced gardens. From the very earliest times the kings of Babylon worked at the building of its temples, palaces, walls, bridges, quays, etc.

THE LESSON APPLIED

Through most of a long life Daniel has held positions of power and trust in a foreign court. He has made good. And the secret of his steady promotion was "the excellent spirit that was in him." Character counts. Bucher says: "Character will draw conditions after it." The men of the world delight to trust those who show themselves worthy of trust, and pass by those who are untrustworthy. Integrity pays. "Will you be honest if I buy you?" said a man to a boy being sold as a slave in a market. "I will be honest," came back the reply, "whether you buy me or not." Such a spirit wins the confidence of others.

Daniel kept the windows of his life open to the best things. To him Jerusalem was the place where the temple stood and where God had spoken to his people most intimately. In facing to the city of his native land, he was facing towards all that was truest and highest in his early training. We have in our power the opening or closing of the windows through which we look out upon the world. We can open them upon scenes of impurity, to books that taint even while they amuse, to practices that are questionable, and to companionship that is harmful. We can let our eyes fasten upon viewpoints that corrupt our imaginations and lower our ideals. Or we can shut out every ugly

and hurtful vista, and open our windows only upon what is beautiful and inspiring. There are books that help, companions that make goodness easier to us, scenes that refresh heart and mind. To deliberately cherish these things is to ennoble our lives, multiply our joys, and enrich our experience.

Daniel prayed daily and at regular hours. He did it amid those who denied his God. He did it when he knew the decree had been signed and his fidelity would probably cost him his life. He did it because he really believed in God and was sure that God delighted to have him pray and answered his prayers. Such faithfulness rebukes our irregular habits of prayer and our lack of trust in God. Because Daniel expected so much from God, he received so much from God. The habit of daily prayer should be established early in life. Even when we are not in the mood, when the affections of the heart seem chilled, we should pray at the appointed hour. It is only thus that the habit can be established, and it is through habit that character is formed. No life can come to the fullness of its development in which prayer has not a place.

Fidelity to conscience and duty costs. Christian had not entered the Wicket Gate long before he came face to face with lions