

Christ uses only one weapon, THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD. Eph. vi. 17. (3) *The power of this sword.* IT IS WRITTEN—thrice uttered from the lips of Jesus—brings strength from the armory of heaven, and makes the Prince of Peace more than a match for the “powers of darkness.” Col. i. 13; Eph. vi. 10-17. (See *Illustrations* 7, 8.)

4. THE DEFEATED DEVIL, ver. 11. Satan's long stay in the wilderness is useless. His special fight to the pinnacle and the mountain avail nothing. GET THEE HENCE, SATAN. The power of conquest is in every letter of the Saviour's utterance. The Prince of Light and the Prince of Darkness have contended for the mastery, and JESUS IS VICTOR THE DEVIL LEAVETH HIM. In Eden's glory Satan vanquished Adam. In Judea's fearful wilderness the devil is put to flight. Christ is “without sin,” though “in all points tempted like as we are.” Heb. iv. 15. Now he knows how “to succor them that are tempted.” Heb. ii. 18. Blessed Jesus, thou wilt help us! In our fleshly appetites, in our conflicts with pride, temper, ambition, vainglory, in our struggles with every raging devil, thou wilt save us!

5. THE MINISTERING ANGELS, ver. 11. Jesus is not left alone. Angels now reveal themselves. They MINISTER to his wants. Bring him food. Their glorious presence cheers him. The wilderness is now at heaven's gate. At last when every wrestler for God and truth is victor, when all over the earth the ministering angels come down to cheer the conquerors, there shall be no waste places of desolate strife; for “the wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.” Isa. xxxv. 1.

ILLUSTRATIONS FOR LESSON IV.

1. Of the “Wilderness of Judea” Maundrell says: “It is a most miserable, dry, barren place, consisting of high rocky mountains, so torn and disordered as if the earth had suffered some great convulsion in which its very bowels had been turned outward.”

2. The longest well-attested case of abstinence we have seen recorded is that of the fourteen men and one woman of the ship *Juno*, wrecked many years ago on the coast of Arracan, and who lived twenty-three days without a morsel of food.—*Killo*.

3. Satan's promises are like the meat that fowlers set before birds, which is not meant to feed them but to take them.—*Spurstone*.

4. “The spark is Satan's, but the tinder is ours.”

5. The chameleon, when he lies on the grass to catch flies and grasshoppers, taketh upon him the color of the grass, as the polypus doth the color of the rock under which he lurketh, that the fish may boldly come near him, without any suspicion of danger. Thus Satan turneth himself into that shape which we least fear, and sets before us such objects of temptation as are most agreeable to our natures, so that he may the sooner draw us into his net. He sails with every wind, and bows that way which we incline of ourselves, through the weakness of nature.—*Spencer*.

6. There is a story of an excellent painter, that to show the rarity of his art drew a white line so small that it could hardly be discerned; whereupon another that was looked upon as a very able artist, to show that he could excel him, drew a black line through the middle of it so exactly that it required an exquisite sight to discern either. Thus it is that the devil slyly insinuateth into, and craftily worketh upon, the hearts of the sons of men, the thread of his policy being so finely spun, the train of his subtlety so privily laid, and the black line of his temptations made so small that it is almost impossible to discover the secret destruction that runs through the plausibility thereof.—*Spencer*.

7. “Deuteronomy” can defeat the devil as truly as “Luke” or “John.” The New Testament is an exposition of the Old. “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God.” 2 Tim. iii. 16.

8. Scanderbeg, an Albanian prince, wrought mighty exploits with his sword. A certain person looking upon this weapon, remarked that it seemed no more than any common sword. “True,” said another, “but you do not see the arm that wielded it.” Thus a printed Bible, or an uttered sentence of God's revelation, may seem like any other book or word; but when we remember the mighty arm of God's power that wields his Word; when we reflect that it is THE SWORD, not of a man, but of THE SPIRIT; then we are not astonished that devils and darkness flee before it.

9. “The Word of God is the water of life, the more ye lave it forth, the fresher it runneth; it is the fire of God's glory, the more ye blow it,