

THE CHILDREN'S RECORD.

Sabbath School Lessons.

THE CREATOR REMEMBERED.

June 11.

Les., Eccl. 12 : 1-7, 13, 14. Col. Text, Eccl. 12 : 1. Mem. vs. 13, 14. Catechism Q. 63.

TIME. — About B. C. 977, in the later years of Solomon's life

PLACE. — Writ'n by Solomon at Jerusalem

1. *Remember*—keep him in mind; love, honor and obey him. *The days of thy youth*—the best days, not the dregs of them. Prov. 8 : 17 ; 22 : 6. *Evil days*—of old age as compared with youth. 2. *While the sun*.—The memory, the understanding, the will, the affections, all fail in old age. *The clouds return*—in youth, after the short rain of trial, there is a long sunshine of joy; but in old age the clouds quickly return and the rain constantly falls, as in the winter season of Palestine. 3. *Keepers of the house*—the old man is here compared to a decaying house and household—a once rich and beautiful palace now in ruins. *The keepers*—the guards; the hands and arms. *The strong men*—the laborers; the feet and legs. *The grinders*—those who grind corn in the mill for food; the teeth. *Those that look out*—the sight. 4. *The doors*—the lips and ears. 5. *Almond trees shall flourish*—the almond tree flowers on a leafless stock in winter—fit emblem of old age with its silvery hair and its wintry, dry, unfruitful condition. 6. *The silver cord be loosed*—the thread of life broken. 7. The body is material, and returns to the dust; the soul is immaterial and immortal, and returns to God.

1. *The Days of Youth*, v. 1.—What are the young counseled to do? What is to remember our Creator? Why should we remember him in the days of youth?

II. *The Evil Days*, vs. 2, 7.—What is meant by *the evil days*? How is old age compared to winter? To what is it next likened? What is represented by *the keepers of the house*? By *the strong men*? By *the grinders*? By *those that look out of the windows*? How is the description continued? Meaning of verse 6? What becomes of us at death?

III. *The Sum of Duty*, vs. 13, 14.—What is the conclusion of the whole matter? What two parts to the sum of duty? When will all our work be tried? How strict will this judgment be? What reasons does this lesson give for remembering our Creator? For doing it in the days of our youth?

1. We should begin to serve the Lord while we are young.

2. We must expect peculiar trials in old age.

3. Old age is a poor time to seek religion.

4. Fearing and serving God is true wisdom.

5. After death comes the judgment.

June 18. MESSIAH'S KINGDOM.

Lesson, Mal. 3 : 1-12. Col. Text, Mal. 3 : 17. Mem. vs. 8-10. Catechism Q. 64.

TIME.—About B. C. 420. Nehemiah governor of Jerusalem.

PLACE.—Jerusalem after the captivity.

1. *My messenger*—John the Baptist. Matt. 3 : 3. *Me*—Jehovah, who is here the speaker, and who thus appears to be one with Christ. *The Lord*—the Messiah. *The messenger of the covenant*—or the angel of the covenant between God and man. 2. *Refiner's fire*—in which the dross is burned away from gold and silver. 3. *As a refiner*—who keeps his eye on the metal until he knows the dross is completely removed by seeing his own image (Rom. 8 : 29) in the glowing mass. 6. *Therefore*—because of my unchangeable faithfulness to my covenant. 8. *Tithes and offerings*—by appropriating to themselves what belonged to God. 10. *Bring ye all the tithes*—restore what you have withheld. *Open the windows of heaven*—a proverbial expression for great plenty. 11. *The devourer*—all destructive agents.

Introductory.—What is the title of this lesson? Golden Text? Lesson Plan? Time? Place? Memory verses? Catechism?

I. *Preparing the way*, v. 1.—Who is the speaker in verse 1? What does he promise to do? Who is meant by *my messenger*? What will the messenger do? What will then take place? Who is the *messenger of the covenant*?

II. *Coming of the King*, v. 2-6.—What searching questions are asked? What will the Messiah do? How will he refine and purify his people? What effect will this have upon their offerings? How will Messiah come to his enemies? What assurance is given of both judgment and mercy?

III. *Entering the Kingdom*, v. 7-12.—With what sin does the Lord charge the people? What does he exhort them to do? How had they robbed God? What had been the consequence? What did he direct them to do? What did he promise? Whom would the Lord rebuke? What promise of plenty is given? What further said of their prosperity?

1. Messiah the King, is God, equal with the Father.

2. He refines and purifies his people in the furnace of affliction.

3. He will be both a judge and a witness against the wicked.

4. We rob God if we withhold from him our love, our service, our time or anything that we have.

5. If we consecrate all to him, he will abundantly bless us.