

LESSON IV. THE LORD MY SHEPHERD.

[April 24.]

GOLDEN TEXT. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. *Psa. 23. 1.*

Authorized Version.

Psa. 23. 1-6. [*Commit to memory verses 1-6.*]

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.
- 3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
- 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
- 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Revised Version.

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters.
- 3 He restoreth my soul: He guideth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me: Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.
- 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou hast anointed my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
- 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The grace of God.

HOME READINGS.

- M.* The Lord my Shepherd. *Psa. 23.*
Tu. Able to deliver. *Ezek. 34. 11-16.*
W. Safety. *Ezek. 34. 20-31.*
Th. All things needful. *Psa. 34. 1-10.*
F. The seeking Shepherd. *Matt. 18. 10-14.*
S. The Good Shepherd. *John 10. 11-18.*
S. Safety of the sheep. *John 10. 22-30.*

LESSON HYMNS.

- No. 141, New Canadian Hymnal.
 My Shepherd will supply my need.
 No. 14, New Canadian Hymnal.
 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
 No. 13, New Canadian Hymnal.
 I will sing of my Redeemer.

DOMINION HYMNAL

Hymns, Nos. 269, 75, 23.

QUESTIONS FOR SENIOR STUDENTS.

1. The Shepherd, v. 1.

What relation did an Oriental shepherd bear to his sheep?

Who is our Shepherd?

If this be true what follows?

2. His Pasture, v. 2, 3.

In what two ways does our heavenly Shepherd kindly guide us?

Where does he lead us?

What should we do to insure guidance? (*Prov. 3. 6.*)

3. His Rod, v. 4.

In the midst of what dreadful experiences will the trusting heart fear no evil? Why?
 What does companionship of God assure us?
 What is the source of our comfort?
 Who is the Good Shepherd? (*John 10. 11.*)
 How long will the Shepherd go with us? (*Matt. 28. 20.*)

4. His Table, v. 5, 6.

Before whom does God prepare a table?
 What harm can our enemies do us if God is our host and friend?
 What dreadful enemy has every one who tries to love and serve God?
 What act of courtesy is our King represented as performing?
 What does this typify?
 How rich is God's provision for our spiritual food?
 What is the psalmist's happy assurance?
 Where does he say he will dwell forever?
 Read *Psa. 64. 2, 10*, then tell how a good man feels concerning God's house.

Practical Teachings.

Where in this lesson do we find—

1. That religion can remove the fear of death?
2. That the best consolation to the troubled is the certainty of God's nearness?
3. That those who thoroughly believe that the Lord will provide should not worry?
4. That we should cultivate the thought of sure deliverance by our heavenly Father?

Hints for Home Study.

Find a prayer to the Shepherd of Israel offered by the prophet Micah.
 Find and read the passage in John's gospel