

* FOR THE SABBATH SCHOOL.

International S. S. Lesson.

LESSON VII.—THE NEW HOME IN CANAAN—Aug. 18.

(Deut. 11, 3-15)

GOLDEN TEXT. "Thou shalt bless the Lord thy God for the good land which He hath given thee," Deut. viii. 10.

CENTRAL TRUTH. Our Promised Land.

ANALYSIS.—LIFE in the LAND, v. 3-9. LOYALTY to the LORD, v. 10-15.

TIME AND PLACE.—Shortly before the death of Moses in 1451, B. C. (Usher). The children of Israel were encamped about opposite Jericho on the eastern bank of Jordan.

LIFE IN THE LAND, v. 3-9.—The Israelites were now on the border of their inheritance. Across Jordan lay the land of milk and honey, which God had promised first to their father Abraham, and which after forty years of wilderness wandering they at last saw within reach. Moses, the aged leader, having passed by a score of years the century land mark, with the voice and vigor of an inspired servant of God, declared to the people those conditions which would make the life in the new home most fruitful with blessing and happiness. Three simple but comprehensive rules are laid down in the first verse. *Hear*, become conscious of God's voice; *observe*, pay intelligent attention; *do*, put into execution the teaching and commandments of God. These obeyed would be productive of a prosperous life and a growing population. But beyond these, and fundamental to these, the ancient sage laid down a principle that should underlie and permeate the whole national life. Love to God, with heart and soul and might was to be the motive power, the great controlling influence of each individual member of that theocratic community, as an aid to this happy condition of life, these truths and lessons were to form their chief topics of conversation at all times and in all places, and to be taught diligently to the children. The command to bind them upon the hands and between the eyes, while obeyed literally in the use of phylacteries, was really intended to impress the idea that every thought and deed should be actuated and controlled by the one great motive of love to God. Thus also were they to be written on the posts and gates of the house, significant of its being dedicated to the service and love of God.

LOYALTY TO THE LORD, v. 10-15.—There was one great danger to be feared on taking up their abode in the new home, against which Moses is careful to warn them in clear and forcible language. In the midst of prosperity, "when thou shalt have eaten and be full," there is apt to come a failure of memory, a forgetfulness of the past. So Israel was cautioned, lest, as actually came to pass, in the flight of prosperous years they should forget God, and go after the false gods of the surrounding peoples. Against them then would the anger of the Lord be kindled, and their continued existence upon the earth be endangered. Three safe guards against such apostasy are mentioned however. 1. *Fear of God*; the reverence and worship of Him, the devout study and contemplation of His work and character. 2. *Service of God*; His authority constantly brought to mind and recognized by active work in His service. 3. *Sacred by Him*; acknowledge and confess Him at every opportunity.

Application and Illustration.

WHAT CAN I DO?

HEAR, OBSERVE, DO, v. 3.—Be quick to recognize the voice of the Spirit, and instantly follow it. To question, doubt, and hesitate, is to lose. A wealthy young girl was walking down Broadway one day, when just before her stood three young men. As the crowd hindered her she saw two were urging their companion to go with them. She heard them say: "Oh, come on, take a drink first, then I am sure you will go with us." The young man hesitated. Without delay the girl followed the impulse of the Holy Spirit, and, laying her hand on his arm, said: "Excuse me but please don't go with them." He

turned and looked into her face. "Thank you, I won't," he said, and walked away from his companions. The crowd moved on and she with them. But she had followed instantly the Spirit and saved a young man from evil.

LOVE GOD SUPREMACY, v. 5.—"With *all* thine heart, and with *all* thy soul, and with *all* thy might," v. 5. Love God above every creature with undivided affection, with entire self-surrender, with jealous energy. During the time of the Inquisition, a man cruelly tortured, was asked, "Won't you, for the sake of your wife and children, give up this religion?" The man said, "If the earth were all gold and the stars were all pearls, and that golden globe and those pearly stars were all mine, I would give them all to have my wife and children with me. But I *will not* for the sake of gold, or pearls, or wife, or children, give up my religion, for I love my God better than I love gold, or pearls, or wife, or children."

TEACH THE CHILDREN, v. 7.—The home is the great primary school of the world. Parents are appointed by God to be teachers of their own children. To neglect it or transfer it to others is to question God's wisdom and set aside His authority. As early impressions are durable they should be hallowed. Mothers, do not employ unsaved servants to take your place even for an hour in the care of your children, send them to no day school teacher who is not a Christian, to no Sunday school whose atmosphere is not holy. Have no paper, no periodical, no book, within reach which is not *pure and elevating and Christian*. The price of your children's souls is your obedience to God. You are responsible for their salvation and your disobedience may be their damnation. A teacher giving the lesson, "Jesus blessing the little children," said, "I wonder if there is one here who wishes Jesus would come to-day and put His arms around them." A little boy went home and said, "When teacher said that I shut my eyes and prayed in my heart, 'Oh Jesus, won't you put your arms around me?' and He has done it, mother." On Monday, returning from school, he said, "Mother, when the teacher asked me the question in geography, I came near saying right out, 'Oh, yes, Jesus, I love you dearly,' I was so full of love."—S. S. *Illustrator*.

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR.

Christ's Work.

First Day—Revealing God—John xiv. 7-13.

Second Day—Saving sinners—Matt. ix. 1-13.

Third Day—Serving men—John xiii. 3-17.

Fourth Day—Inspiring work—Luke xix. 11-27.

Fifth Day—Bringing peace—John xvi. 28-33.

Sixth Day—Judging guilty—Luke iii. 7-17.

PRAYER MEETING TOPIC, Aug. 18—CHRIST'S WORK FOR THE world. John i. 1-14.—(A topical song service, led by the music committee, suggested.)

Such a tremendous subject is far beyond the limits of adequate treatment in the space at our disposal here, as perhaps we cannot do better than merely outline a programme for a meeting based upon the United Society's suggestion. The hymns mentioned are all to be found in "Sacred Songs and Solos." The meeting might gather to the singing of "Jesus Saves," then a word of prayer by the Convener of the Music committee, and the reading of the Scripture passage by one of its members would set things fairly going. "The Light of the World is Jesus," sung as a solo, the society joining in the chorus, would follow appropriately. The meeting might then be thrown open, and each member called upon to suggest some stanza or chorus expressive of his or her own conception of Christ's work. Some of these might be sung as prayers, with bowed heads, or, better still, kneeling, such as "Lord Jesus I long to be perfectly whole." All having taken part the meeting could be fittingly closed by a song of invitation, like "O word of words the sweetest," or "Come to the Saviour" sung by a quartette. A programme following somewhat these lines should be very helpful and enjoyable.

JUNIOR TOPIC, Aug. 18—"WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT NAMES OF JESUS?" John i. 1-14. (Suggestion: A topical song service.)