

LESSON NOTES. SECOND QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE ACTS OF THE EPISTLES.

A.D. 62-64.] LESSON XI. [June 14.

THE PRIESTHOOD OF CHRIST.

Heb. 9. 1-12. Commit to mem. vs. 11, 12.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.—Heb. 7. 25.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

Jesus Christ the way to holiness and heaven.

DAILY READINGS.

M. Heb. 8. 1-13. Th. Heb. 10. 23-30.
T. Heb. 9. 1-28. F. Heb. 11. 1-40.
W. Heb. 10. 1-22. Sa. Heb. 12. 1-29.
Su. Heb. 13. 1-25.

THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS.—See last lesson.

INTRODUCTION.—The Jews lived for almost fifteen hundred years under a system of religion which is called the old covenant or dispensation, in which the tabernacle and sacrifices and priests, and all the rules and forms of worship, were to teach them about God, and to prepare them to understand the true religion of Jesus Christ, of which theirs was a symbol or emblem. And Paul tries here to show the Jews how the spiritual worship of God, and faith in Christ and his sacrifice, by which we can go to heaven, are the fulfilling and not the destroying of their old worship.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—1. *The first covenant*—The Old Testament revelation to the Jews, as set forth first by Moses. *A worldly sanctuary*—One visible and material. 2. *Tabernacle*—Exod. 25. It was a tent 54 feet long by 18 broad, divided into two rooms by a curtain. The first or outer tabernacle was 36 feet by 18; the second was 18 feet square, and called "holy of holies." *The first*—Room of the tabernacle. *The candlestick*—Of gold, with seven branches, symbolizing Christ, the light of the world. *Shewbread*—12 loaves, changed every week, a type of Christ, the bread of life. *Sanctuary*—The holy place. 3. *Second veil*—The one between the two rooms—The first veil was the door of the first compartment. *Holiest of all*—Holy of holies. 4. *Which had*—To which belonged, though it was just outside. *The golden censer*—Or altar of incense, typifying prayer. *The ark of the covenant*—A chest covered with gold, in which were the tables of stone containing the ten commandments called God's covenant with Israel. *Manna*—A specimen of the manna given to the Israelites in the wilderness. *Aaron's rod*—Numb. 17. 1-11. 5. *Cherubim*—Ex. 25. 18, 22; Ezek., chs. 1 and 10. *Mercy seat*—The golden cover of the ark of the covenant. 8. *Holiest of all*—Holy of holies, the type of perfect goodness and heaven. *The way not made manifest*—Only the high priest could enter, and he only one day in the year, showing that Christ, the way to heaven, had not come, showing plainly the way to goodness and heaven. 9. *Figure*—Parable, symbol. *Perfect*, as . . . to the conscience—Free from sin and the feeling of guilt. 10. *Time of reformation*—The time for improvement, a new and better way. 11. *Christ . . . a high priest of good things to come*—The Gospel dispensation with its blessings for earth and in heaven. As the high priest Christ was (1) sent from God; (2) communicated God's will; (3) was their intercessor; (4) offered atoning sacrifices; (5) was mediator between God and man. *More perfect tabernacle*—The spiritual realities which the worldly tabernacle and its furniture typified. 12. *The holy place*—The state of holiness and heaven.

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—The first covenant.—The tabernacle.—The teaching of the holy place and its furniture.—The teaching of the holy of holies.—The high priest and his duties.—How Christ was high priest.—Of what "good things to come."—The tabernacle not made with hands.—Eternal redemption.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—What was the form of religion under which the Jews lived called? (See *Introduction*.) Name some of its methods of worship. What were these forms for? How was the Gospel or new dispensation related to these? Can you now see how we understand the New Testament better by studying the Old?

SUBJECT: JESUS CHRIST FULFILLING THE OLD TESTAMENT.

I. THE TYPES AND SYMBOLS OF THE JEWISH RELIGION (vs. 1-10). Meaning of the "first covenant?" Of a "worldly sanctuary?" Give a brief description of the tabernacle. What did the first room in it contain? What was typified by the candlestick? (John 8. 12.) The shewbread. (John 6. 48-51.) Where was the holy of holies? What did it contain? What was intended to be taught by the golden altar of incense? (Rev. 5. 8; 8. 4.) By the ark? By the cherubim? By the mercy seat? By the tables of the law? By the pot of manna? (Ex. 16. 33-36.) What of Aaron's rod? (Numb. 17. 1-11.) How often did the high priest go into the holy of holies? (Lev. 16. 1-34.) What did the Holy Spirit teach by this? Why were not types and ceremonies enough? How long were these types to last? When did the times of reformation come? How did these types and symbols prepare for that time?

II. CHRIST FULFILLING THESE TYPES AND SYMBOLS (vs. 11, 12).—Meaning of "the Christ?" In what respects was he like a high priest? What were the good things to come? (See *Helps*.) What atonement did he make? Into what "holy place" does he bring us? Why is salvation called redemption? Why is it called eternal? How may we have this eternal redemption?

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

1. We need some forms of worship.
2. But forms are not enough; we must fill them with the spirit.
3. All that God does for us, the types of truth in the Old Testament and in nature, are to help us to understand God and a spiritual religion.
4. Heaven is a place of holiness.
5. Christ has come to prepare us for it.
6. We need his sacrifice, his sympathy as high priest, training by prayer, doctrine, the law, communion with God, to fit us for heaven.

REVIEW EXERCISE. (For the whole School in concert.)

5. How were the Jews trained in the religious life? **ANS.** By types and emblems, as well as direct teaching. 6. What were some of these? **ANS.** The tabernacle and its services. 7. What were they to teach? **ANS.** The fact of sin, atonement, duty, worship, holiness, heaven. 8. What did Christ do? **ANS.** He fulfilled the types, and gave the realities to which the types only pointed.

A.D. 70.] LESSON XII. [June 21.

CHRISTIAN PROGRESS.

2 Pet. 1. 1-11. Commit to mem. vs. 5-7.

GOLDEN TEXT.

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.—2 Pet. 3. 18.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

We make progress in the Christian life by the knowledge of Jesus, by the promises of God, by training in the Christian virtues.

DAILY READINGS.

M. 1 Pet. 1. 1-25. Th. 1 Pet. chs. 4. and 7.
T. 1 Pet. 2. 1-25. F. 2 Pet. 1. 1-21.
W. 1 Pet. 3. 1-22. Sa. 2 Pet. 2. 1-22.
Su. 2 Pet. 3. 1-18.

TIME.—The second Epistle of Peter was probably written between the years A.D. 63 and 70.

PLACE.—Written probably at Rome.

AUTHOR.—The apostle Peter.

LANGUAGE.—Originally written in Greek. For whom.—Christians in general.

INTRODUCTION.—The object of this Epistle was to strengthen Christians against dangers within the Church, and to encourage them in growth in every good word and work through the knowledge of Jesus. (See 2 Pet. 3. 17, 18.)

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—1. *Like precious faith*—A faith as precious to the Gentiles as to the Jews. It is faith in the same Saviour; producing the same graces, giving the same hopes. *Through the righteousness*—Impartiality, justice to all classes alike. 2. *Be multiplied*—Increase rapidly, not by addition, but by multiplication. 3. *All things that pertain*—All things necessary to produce life and godliness. 4. *Whereby . . . i.e., by the things that pertain to life.* *Divine nature*—God's eternal life, and holiness, and happiness. *Corruption . . . through (in) lust*—The corruption has its source in a wrong heart. 5. *And besides this*—Rather, for this cause. *Add to your faith, etc.*—The meaning, "by means of your

faith acquire virtue," etc.—make each previous virtue a stepping-stone to another. *Virtue*—Manliness, heroism. 6. *Temperance*—Self control. 7. *Brotherly kindness*—love to the Christian brotherhood. *Charity*—love to everybody. 8. *He that lacketh . . . is blind*—Partially blind, near-sighted: he cannot see God, and heaven, and goodness as they are. We must experience spiritual things in order to see them truly. 10. *These things*—The virtues of vs. 5-7. 11. *Be ministerial*—The same word as "add" in v. 5. If you add the virtues, God will add to you an entrance into his kingdom. *Kingdom of our Lord*—His spiritual kingdom of goodness and joy, and heaven in the world to come.

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—The apostle Peter.—The Second Epistle of Peter.—The things that pertain to life.—Godliness from the knowledge of Jesus.—Partakers of the divine nature.—Add to your faith, virtue. (Give one of these graces to each of the class to study.)—v. 9.—The kingdom of our Lord.—How to obtain an entrance into it.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—Give a brief account of Simon Peter. When and where did he write this second letter? To whom? What was his purpose? (2 Pet. 3. 17, 18.)

SUBJECT: PROGRESS IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

I. PROGRESS BY THE KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS (vs. 1-3).—What does Peter call himself? Is it a privilege to be a servant of Jesus? To what "faith" does he refer? Why is it precious? What did Peter desire for those who had this faith? Meaning of multiplied? What was to be multiplied? How? What has God's power given us all? (v. 3.) What are the things that pertain to life and godliness? How do these come through the knowledge of Jesus? By what does he call us?

II. PROGRESS BY MEANS OF THE PROMISES (v. 4).—To what does "whereby" refer? Name some of these promises. Show how they are great and precious. What will they do for us? What is meant by corruption, and why? Can we be like God unless we escape from the corruption of the world? (Matt. 5. 8.) What other way was once proposed of becoming like God? (Gen. 3. 5.) Did it succeed?

III. PROGRESS BY GROWTH IN THE CHRISTIAN VIRTUES (vs. 5-7).—Give the Revised Version of the fifth verse. What is meant by "virtue?" How can we gain it by means of our faith? Show how in each case we may gain the next virtue by means of the previous one. What is temperance? What is godliness? How many virtues are named here?

IV. FOUR RESULTS (vs. 8-11).

(1) *Fruitfulness* (v. 8).—What will be the result of diligence in cherishing these virtues? What are the fruits of the spirit? (Gal. 5. 22, 23.) How will these virtues help us to do good and aid Christ's kingdom? In what else shall we be fruitful?

(2) *Insight* (v. 9).—What will be the result if we do not cultivate these virtues? Why cannot those see the truth who will not obey it? (See John 7. 17.)

(3) *Assurance of hope* (v. 10).—What is meant by our "calling and election?" What will make it sure? What comfort comes from assurance of hope?

(4) *The Kingdom of God* (v. 11).—What is meant by the "kingdom of our Lord?" How may we enter there? How may it be an abundant entrance?

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

1. If we add the virtues, God will multiply to us grace and peace. (v. 2, 5.)
2. God has given us all we need for eternal life,—his Word, a Saviour, forgiveness, new hearts, motives, hopes, fears, the Holy Spirit. (v. 3.)
3. The best of all knowledge is the knowledge of God through Jesus Christ.
4. The promises are precious because (1) they are many; (2) they meet all needs; (3) they give precious things; (4) they are sure of fulfilment. (v. 4.)

REVIEW EXERCISE. (For the whole School in concert.)

9. What was the Apostle Peter's desire for all Christians? (Repeat v. 2.) 10. What is one way of Christian progress? **ANS.** By the knowledge of Jesus. 11. What is a second way? **ANS.** By means of the precious promises of God. 12. What is a third way? **ANS.** By cultivating the Christian virtues. 13. What will be the result? **ANS.** Fruitfulness, insight, assurance of hope, and the kingdom of God.

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