

SABBATH, March 8.—**LESSON X.—Bitter Waters Sweetened.**—Exod. xv. 22-27

**Leader.** 22. So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water.

**School.** 23. And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah.

**L.** 24. And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?

**S.** 25. And he cried unto the Lord: and the Lord showed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet:

**L.** There he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them.

**L.** 26. And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes,

**L.** I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee.

**S.** 27. And they came to Elim, where were twelve wells of water, and threescore and ten palm trees: and they encamped there by the waters.

**TOPIC**—Water for the Thirsty.

**Golden Text**—And the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. Rev. xxii. 2.

**OUTLINE.**

I. NO WATER, v. 22; Gen. xvi. 7; Deut. viii. 15; Judges xv. 18, 19; 1 Sam. xv. 7; xxvii. 8; 2 Sam. xxiii. 15; Isa. iv. 1.

II. BITTER WATER, v. 23; Jer. xxiii. 15; 1 Cor. x. 10; James iii. 11.

III. SWEET WATER, v. 25; Exod. xx. 20; 2 Kings iii. 17, 18; Psa. cvii. 18; Isa. v. 20; Matt. viii. 8.

IV. WELLS OF WATER, v. 27; Isa. xli. 3; Num. xx. 8, 10, 11; Neh. ix. 15; Ps. i. 3; Isa. xxxiii. 16.

**QUESTIONS, &c.**—What was the title of the last lesson? After crossing the Red Sea to what place did the Israelites come? How far was it? [ANS. *About thirty miles.*] Recite **TOPIC**. How was the water made fit to drink? Recite **GOLDEN TEXT**.

1. *No Water*.—What wilderness is named in v. 22? What is it called in Num. xxxiii. 8? What four prominent Bible characters are mentioned in connection with Shur? Gen. xvi. 7; xx. 1; 1 Sam. xv. 7; xxvii. 8. What was wanting in the desert?

2. *Bitter Water*.—To what place did they come? Why was this name given to it? What was the disappointment of the Israelites? What did they do? What events in their recent experience should have prevented their murmurings?

3. *Sweet Water*.—What did Moses do? What did the Lord tell Moses to do? What effect did this have upon the water? Was this healing of the waters the natural effect of the use of the tree, or of the miraculous power of God? Who can sweeten all the bitterness of life? What condition does the Lord make with his people in v. 26. What title does he take to himself? What was the design of this miracle?

[ANS. *To show the Lord as the Healer of the sick, sinful, and sorrowing.*]

What is said of the leaves of the tree of life? Rev. xxii. 2. What is Jesus called in Jer. xxiii. 5? See Zech. iii. 8. What does Luke iv. 18 say of him?

4. *Wells of Water*.—To what place did the Israelites next come? What was there attractive about Elim? What made it acceptable to the Hebrews? What is said in Isa. xli. 3? In John iv. 12, 14? Have you come to the "living waters?" Are you thirsting for the "wells of salvation?"

**Home Readings.**

M. Ex. xv. 22-27.  
Th Ruth i. 16-22.  
W. Psa. cvii. 20-25.  
Th 2 Kings iii. 12-22.  
F. John ii. 1-11.  
S. Num. xxxiii. 1-8.  
S. John ix. 1-7.

Where in this lesson are we taught—

1. That songs of praise may be forgotten in trouble? Compare Exod. xiv. 31 and xv. 2 with xv. 24.
2. That sin is like a bitter disease? Isa. i. 5, 6.
3. That the Lord is "Our Healer"—the Great Physician?

**HYMN.**—Tune "Bethany."

Often to Marah's brink  
Have I been brought;  
Shrinking the cup to drink,  
Help I have sought;  
And with the prayer's ascent,  
Jesus the branch hath rent,  
Quickly relief hath sent,  
Sweetening the draught.  
Riven the rock for me,  
Thirst to relieve;  
Manna from heaven falls  
Fresh every eve;  
Never a want severe  
Causeth my eye a tear,  
But thou dost whisper near,  
"Only believe!"

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.**

12. *Wherein consisteth Christ's exaltation?*  
Christ's exaltation consisteth in his rising again from the dead on the third day, in his ascending into heaven, and his sitting at the right hand of God the Father, and in his appointment to judge the world at the last day.

1 COR. xv. 4.—And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.

MARK xvi. 19.—So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

ACTS xvii. 31.—He hath appointed a day in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained.

13. *What offices doeth Christ execute as our Redeemer?*

Christ as our Redeemer executeth the offices of a Prophet, of a Priest, and a King, both in his estate of humiliation and exaltation.

ACTS iii. 22.—Moses truly said unto the fathers, A Prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

HEB. v. 6.—Thou art a Priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

PSALM ii. 6.—Yet have I set my King upon my holy hill of Zion.