

Specimen Answers to some of the Questions in the Examination.

It is impossible to give answers to all the questions; a selection therefore has been given. The number after the answer is that of the paper from which it is taken, though in some cases a slight alteration has been introduced.

OLD TESTAMENT.

1. *What is the origin of the names of the various books of the Old Testament?*

The names of many of the books of the Old Testament were first given to them in the Greek translation (commonly called the Septuagint), made about B. C. 280. This accounts for the Greek form Genesis, Exodus, etc. The Hebrews called each book of the Pentateuch by the name of the word with which it commenced, as we say the *Te Deum*, or the *Nunc Dimittis*. A little change was made in some instances in the English Version; for example, the Authorized Version (following the Hebrew division) has two books of Samuel and two books of Kings, where the Septuagint has the name of the First, Second, Third and Fourth Books of the Kingdoms.

2. *What was the sin of Nadab and Abihu? How did it differ from the sin of Korah, and that of Dathan and Abiram? How was each punished?*

The sin of Nadab and Abihu was that they offered strange fire before the Lord at an unauthorized time, and in an unauthorized manner. It was a sin of *disobedience* in very sacred matters, and therefore sacrilegious. It differed from the sin of Korah, Dathan and Abiram, which was *rebellion* against the express order of God's government. Nadab and Abihu were punished by the Lord sending out fire and consuming them. Dathan and Abiram were punished by the Lord making the earth open and swallow them up. [34]

4. *"To fulfil the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths; for as long as she lay desolate she kept Sabbath to fulfil threescore and ten years."—II. Chron. xxxvi. 21. Explain the reference in this passage.*

After the children of Israel reached the land of Canaan they were to keep every seventh year as a

year of rest. The land was to have rest from being tilled or sown. God promised them a large crop on the sixth year, and the people were to subsist on that and what grew from the roots, or was accidentally sown; and what thus grew was to be shared by all the people in common, and no one was to lay up a separate store for himself. The peculiar observances of this year were the cessation from labor, the remission of all debts, and the public reading of the law at the feast of the Tabernacles. The reasons for keeping it were partly political and civil, to prevent the land from being worn out with continued tilling; partly religious, that the poor and laboring people might have more leisure, and one year in seven for devotional exercises; partly mystical, typifying the spiritual rest which Christ will give to all who come unto Him. When the people reached the land they did not observe these Sabbatical years, so God allowed them to be carried away captive till the land could keep her Sabbaths. [39]

5. *Why is the word Lord printed in capitals in the foregoing text?*

Because it means the LORD, JEHOVAH, the Three in One, the name which God declared to Moses in the burning bush. It is the name of four Jews letters, J(E)H(C,V(A))H. This name the would never speak, but substituted some other word for it. The mystery of this name was more fully declared to us in the Incarnation of our Blessed Saviour. [39]

6. *Which of the tribes increased most, and which decreased, in the forty years wandering? Can you give a reason for either?*

Ephraim increased twelve thousand, and Simeon decreased thirty-seven thousand. Thus the blessing and curse of Jacob were in course of fulfilment. The Simeonites seem to have been foremost in the sin in the matter of Baal Peor, when twenty and four thousand died in the plague.

9. *What do you know about the daughters of Zelophehad?*

The daughters of Zelophehad were five in number; their father was dead; "he perished in his own sin," as they expressed it, and they had no brother. They asked Moses to give them the inheritance their father would have had in the promised land. Moses enquired of the Lord, and, at His command, gave them a portion; but they were not to marry outside their own tribe. [7]