

LESSON XII.

FRUITS OF RIGHT AND WRONG DOING

December 17, 1899

Malachi 3: 1-6. Commit to memory vs. 16-18. Compare Mal. 3: 1-6, also Matt. 11: 7-15

13 Your words have been stout against me, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, What have we spoken so much against thee?

14 Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts?

15 And now we call the proud happy: yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered.

16 Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

17 And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

18 Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth

God and him that serveth him not

Ch. 4: 1 For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and ye shall grow up as calves of the stall.

3 And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.

4 Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.

5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

Revised Version.—1 Wherein; 2 Charge; 3 Margin, in mournful apparel; 4 Built up; 5 They tempt God, and are delivered; 6 Spake one with another; 7 Omit it; 8 Day that I do make, even a peculiar treasure; 9 It burneth as a furnace; 10 And all that work wickedness; 11 Gambol as; 12 That I do make; 13 Even statutes; 14 Before the great and terrible day of the Lord come.

GOLDEN TEXT

"Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Gal. 6: 7.

TIME

Probably B.C. 430-427, as last lesson.

DAILY READINGS

M.—Mat. 3: 13 to 4: 6. Fruits of right and wrong doing.

T.—Psalm 73: 1-20. The mystery explained.

W.—Job 22: 12-27. Folly of rejecting God.

Th.—2 Tim. 2: 19-26. God knows His own.

F.—Eccles. 8: 1-13. Certainty of judgment.

S.—Deut. 4: 5-10. Remember!

S.—Deut. 4: 1-10. Sowing and reaping.

PLACE

Jerusalem and its vicinity.

CATECHISM

Review questions 79-81.

LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise 4 (Ps.), 136, 591, 146, 148.

LESSON PLAN

I. Rebellion, 13-15.

Deliberate, scornful, determined.

II. Remembrance, 16-18.

On God's part, of those who were faithful.

III. Retribution, Ch. 4: 1.

Upon the wicked.

IV. Reward, 2, 3.

To His own.

V. Reminder, 4-6.

To look backward to Moses and forward to the day of the Lord.

CONNECTION

This lesson is God's answer through His prophet to the doubts of His people. He assures them of His constant care and of their final blessedness.

EXPLANATION

13-15. Stout against me. God's people had spoken presumptuously and boldly against Him. **Yet ye say.** They deny it and challenge God to show it. **Ye have said;** God's answer to their challenge. **What profit?** It was not a very high motive to serve God for hope of temporal reward. **Kept his ordinance;** Rev. Ver., "Kept his charge." **Walked mournfully;** fasting much. **Call the proud happy.** The proud seemed to prosper more than the meek.

16-18. Then; in such time of perplexity and doubt. **Spake often;** about the trials of their lives and the ways of God. **And the Lord hearkened;** to the cry of the pious (Matt. 18: 19, 20). **A book of remembrance.** Their deeds were remem-

bered by Him as though they had been written in a book (Dan. 7: 10). **Thought upon His name;** to reverence and honor it at all times. **In that day;** the day of judgment. (Compare ch. 4: 3.) **I make up my jewels.** God's people are His peculiar treasure. **Return and discern.** They shall no longer be troubled with the doubts of vs. 13-15. The difference between the two classes will be plain.

Ch. 4: 1. For behold; a word of warning to the wicked. **The day cometh;** the day of judgment. **Burn as an oven;** fierce and terrible against the wicked. **Neither root nor branch.** Their hopes shall be utterly consumed. (Amos 2: 9; Matt. 3: 10.)

2. Shall the sun of righteousness arise; as the rising sun makes everything