

WHEN I AM WEAK THEN AM I STRONG

When—weak in body, weak in mind. And weak in spirit, Lord I find That this poor dying frame of mine Has only power to waste and pine...

This wayward bosom's wandering love, So seldom turn'd on things above, So fond of earth and earthly toys, Of withering flowers and fleeting joys...

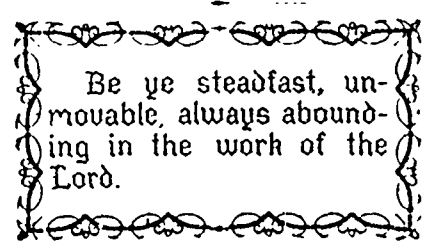
Waste'er my journey's gloom or length Through this dark world, be thus my strength. That while, my Father, Thou canst see Of worth or merit nothing in me...

THE CULTURE OF RESERVE.

The much-needed bit of a sermon on the prevalence of diminutives in the catalogues of female schools, recently published, has been the means of calling our attention to another and earlier protest against the same practice...

"In the unrestrained and affectionate intercourse of the family, the girl has not felt the necessity of concealing in any degree her real self. She is under an observation that is intelligent and sympathetic, and she is sure of the kindest construction of all her actions...

parents and guardians recognized more clearly that this was a part of education. - Scribner's Monthly



1 COR. 15: 58

SCHOLARS' NOTES

(From the International Lessons for 1877 by Edwin W Rice a student by American Sunday School Union)

MAY 20 LESSON XX JONAH AT NINEVEH (About 825 780 B.C.) READ JONAH III 1-10 REVISE vs 7-10 DAILY READINGS - M - Jonah 1-4 T - Jonah 1-4 M - Matt. xii 34-45 TH - Joel ii 19-28 P - Jerk xviii 12-27 Sa - Jer xliii 1-12 S - Jonah III 1-10

CONVERTED HISTORY - Jonah prophesied probably some time during the reign of Jeroboam II, about 825 to 784 B.C. When God commanded him to go to Nineveh he attempted to flee to Tarshish, the vessel was overtaken by a storm, Jonah was thrown overboard, swallowed by a great fish (Jonah 1: 7); after three days thrown out on dry land. Then he was a second time ordered to Nineveh...

TO THE SCHOLAR - Read the whole book of Jonah. Find out all that you can about the great city of Nineveh. NOTES - Jonah (Jona), son of Amithai, of Gath Hepher a town of Zebulun, later in Ezer-Gallilee, which has been identified with Al Meshhad, a little village two and a half miles north-east of Nazareth...

EXPLANATIONS AND QUESTIONS.

LESSON TOPICS - (I) JONAH PREACHES. (II) THE NINEVITES REPENT. (III) GOD'S JUDGMENT STAYED. I JONAH PREACHES (1) JONAH, see Notes THE SECOND TIME FOR THE FIRST TIME see Jonah 1:1 (2) PREACH make proclamation. I said then, am about to tell the word, command. NINEVITE see Notes EXCEEDED GREAT CITY. Heb 'great unto God' - i.e. regarded of God as a great city. THREE DAYS' JOURNEY. It would take three days to walk around it. (4) BROKE AND HE CRIED, began to enter and preached as he went. A DAY'S JOURNEY, this might take him across the city, being three days' journey about it. I QUESTIONS - Relate the story of God's first command to Jonah and his attempted escape from obeying it. What does God say the second time? To what place was Jonah to go? Describe Nineveh. How large was it? When did Jonah begin his preaching? What did he proclaim? State how God had overthrown other cities. Gen. xix. 24, 25; compare Isa. l. 7. II THE NINEVITES REPENT (5) BELIEVED GOD, speaking by the mouth of Jonah, proclaimed a fast, (compare 2 Chron. x. 3, 13), there was entire abstinence from food until evening, sackcloth, coarse garments, see Notes; compare Joel 1: 13, 14, FROM THE GREATEST TO THE LEAST all, both old and young (Kell) (6) HIS ROBE, a large upper garment decorated with great magnificence, coarse hair cloth took the place of his royal robes SAT IN ASHES, in token of the deepest sorrow and humiliation. Compare Job 1: 8 (7) BROKE HIS SHOE, oxen and sheep, FROD, be driven to pasture. (8) GREAT HE COVERED, it was an ashle custom to put mourning on heads as well as men; they would share in the woe if the city was destroyed, compare Joel 1: 14-20; Job xxxviii. 41. PROLENCE, for which sin Nineveh was noted, see Nahum II. 11, 12; III. 19; Habakkuk 1: 3; IN THEIR HANDS, used for grasping. II QUESTIONS - State how the Ninevites showed their grief? The son of the king. How did he change his clothing? Where sit? What proclaimed he? How wisely was the fast to be observed?

the sackcloth put on! they made to God? How were they to show their repentance!

III GOD'S JUDGMENT STAYED (8) WHO CAN TELL, who knoweth, VISIBLY ANGRY, glow of anger (10) REPENTED, changed his method of dealing with them when they repented, his threats are conditional as well as his promises.

III QUESTIONS - What hope had the Ninevites? How did God receive them? Show that there is always hope for those who will turn to God. Ex xxxiii 8; Joel ii. 13; Isa. lv. 7. What shall be the fate of those who do not repent? Luke xiii 5. To whom must we look for forgiveness? Eph. 1: 7.

What facts in this lesson teach us - (1) That God is angry with sinful nations! (2) That God's wrath should be pacified! (3) That repentance may stay God's judgment!

MAY 27 LESSON XXI THE DEATH OF ELISHA (About 830 B.C.) READ 2 Kings xiii 14-21 REVISE vs 14, 20, 21

DAILY READINGS - M - 2 Kings II. 4-16 P - 1 Kings x 15-30. W - Num xx 7-14. TH - Gen xlii 22-33. F - Acts xix 11-20. Sa - Mark vi 4-16. S - 2 Kings xiii 14-21

GOLDEN TEXT - He being dead yet speaketh - Heb. xi 4

CENTRAL TRUTH - The righteous hold on their way

CONVERTED HISTORY - The Syrians during the reign of Jehu (about 850 B.C.) took from Israel most of the territory east of the Jordan; they retained it in great part during the reign of Jehoshaphat, who had fifty horsemen and ten chariots left to him. Jonah visited Elisha during his last sickness, and was promised victory over the Syrians. After Elisha's burial a dead man was raised to life by touching his bones.

TO THE SCHOLAR - Note how a feeble old man was strong in faith, while a vigorous young man was weak in faith.

NOTES - JOASH or Je-ho'sah (v. 10), son of Jehouahaz and grandson of Jehu, reigned over Israel 18 years (840-826 B.C.); three times defeated the Syrians (v. 25); conquered Amaziah king of Judah and plundered Jerusalem (2 Kings xiv 8-14), not to be confounded with Josiah king of Judah. Bow and arrows, used very early (Gen. xxi 20), arrows carried in a quiver (Gen. xxviii 3); sometimes poisoned (Job vi 4). War was declared by the discharge of an arrow into the enemy's country. Windows simple openings closed in with a ledge work, which might be opened (compare Acts xx. 9, 10) a place six miles east of the Sea of Galilee, where the Israelites had previously gained a great victory (1 Kings xx. 26-29); identified with the modern Elk, on the eastern high-road from Damascus to Jerusalem. Mo-abites, descendants of Lot (Gen. xix 37) occupied the territory east of the Jordan and the Dead Sea to the south of Gilead, gained their living largely by plunder, and often invaded Israel. Sepulchre. The Jews buried their dead in caves or tombs out in the side of a rock, the mouth being covered with a heavy stone. The bodies were not put in coffins, but simply wrapped in grave-clothes, hence the dead man might touch the bones of Elisha.

EXPLANATIONS AND QUESTIONS.

LESSON TOPICS - (I) ELISHA'S LAST SICKNESS. (II) HIS PROMISE TO JOASH. (III) HIS BONES RAISE A DEAD MAN.

I ELISHA'S LAST SICKNESS (14) SICKNESS WHERE OF HE DIED, the sickness of which he was to die, WENT OVER HIS FACE, bending over the sick man as he lay; CARRIER OF ISRAEL, etc., i.e., the true defence of Israel, which had few horses, men and chariots at this time. v. 7 compare 2 Kings II. 12.

I QUESTIONS - State what befell Elisha. Who visited him? How did the king show his grief? What did he say? Why should he call Elisha 'father'? The meaning of his exclamation 'Who had uttered a similar one? How many chariots and horsemen had Israel at this time? v. 7. What part of its territory had been conquered by the Syrians? 2 Kings v. 33.

II HIS PROMISE TO JOASH (15) TAKE BOW AND ARROWS, symbols of war, he was to fight for the promised victory, (16) SAND UPON THE BOW, to string it, ELISHA WENT AWAY, etc., showing that the power came through the prophet from the Lord. (17) WINDOW, see Notes. EASTWARD, toward the country beyond the Jordan which the Syrians had taken. (17) ARROW OF THE LORD'S DELIVERANCE, the deliverance was to come from God; ARK, see Note (18) TAKE THE ARROWS, all that were left in the quiver; SMITH UPON THE GROUND, 'shoot the arrows to the ground' (Kell); SHOT, shot; STAYED, stopped shooting (19) WAS WRITTEN, at Joash's lack of zeal and faith; FULFILLMENT of this promise, see v. 25.

II QUESTIONS - What did Elisha bid Joash take? What did he thus show? Describe an Oriental window. How was it opened? Why eastward in this case? What did the shooting signify? What was the king hidden to do with the rest of the arrows? How many times did he shoot? What spirit did this show in the king? How did it affect Elisha? What ought the king to have done? How many times should he smite the Syrians? Show the fulfilment of this prophecy. v. 26.

III HIS BONES RAISE A DEAD MAN. (20) ELSHA DIED, probably at the age of between eighty and ninety years; THEY BURIED HIM, Josephus says with a magnificent funeral, Jerome says near Ramatha. MOABITES see Note; COMING IN OF THE YEAR, in the spring, when the Jewish year commenced; at that time the crops were ripe. (21) STRUCK A BAND, of Arab plunder

etc.; THEY CAST HIM MAN, in him in haste; for fear of being captured, and taking care. Note: 197 down - etc. - as soon as he came and touched.

III QUESTIONS - At about what age did Elisha die? How and where is he said to have been buried? Describe the Jewish sepulchre and mode of burial. Who invaded the land? At what season? Why then? How was a funeral interrupted? Where did they put the body? Why in haste? Describe what followed - Olive Ekelele's illustration of dry bones quickened in the Spirit. See Ezekiel xxviii. 1-14.

How does this lesson teach us - (1) That though good men die God's work will go on! (2) That unbelief limits God's grace! (compare Mark vi. 5.) (3) That a godly man's power continues after his death! See Golden Text.

GOOD MEN DIE THEIR WORK LIVES.

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