

SCHOLARS' NOTES.

(From Westminster Question Book.)

LESSON XII.

Dec. 21, 1884.]

[Eccles. 12: 1-14.]

THE CREATOR REMEMBERED.

COMMIT TO MEMORY VS. 13, 14.

1. Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

2. While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain;

3. In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened,

4. And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of music shall be brought low;

5. Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail; because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets;

6. Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern.

7. Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

8. Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher; all is vanity.

9. And moreover, because the Preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge: yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, and set in order many proverbs.

10. The Preacher sought to find out acceptable words, and that which was written was upright, even words of truth.

11. The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies, which are given from one shepherd.

12. And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

13. Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

14. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth."—Eccles. 12: 1.

HOME READINGS.

M. Eccles. 12: 1-14.....The Creator Remembered.

T. Matt. 6: 16-23.....The Heavenly Treasure.

W. 1 John 2: 14-20.....Counsels for the Young.

Th. 1 Sam. 3: 1-21.....A Young Prophet.

F. 2 Chron. 34: 1-22.....A Young King.

Sa. Ps. 37: 23-40.....The Righteous Never Forsaken.

S. 2 Pet. 3: 1-14.....The Day of the Lord.

LESSON PLAN.

1. The Time for Remembering. 2. The Reason for Remembering.

Time.—About B.C. 977. Place.—Written by Solomon at Jerusalem.

INTRODUCTORY.

In this chapter the royal preacher gives the conclusion of his discourse upon the chief good, and urges the young to seek it in the service of their Creator. The infirmities of age are strikingly set forth under the emblem of an old, decaying house, and youth are urged to begin a life of piety before the coming of these days of sorrow and infirmity.

LESSON NOTES.

I. V. 1. THE DAYS OF THY YOUTH—the best days, not the dregs of them. Prov. 8: 17, 22: 6. EVIL DAYS—of old age, as contrasted with youth.

V. 2. WHILE THE SUN—while prosperity continues. NOR THE CLOUDS RETURN—as in old age, breaking the short intervals of joy. If youth is spent in sin, age will bring sorrow.

V. 3. KEEPERS OF THE HOUSE—the house is the body, the keepers are the hands and arms; the strong men, the feet and legs; the grinders, the teeth; and those that look out, the eyes.

V. 4. THE DOORS—lips. THE SOUND OF THE GRINDING IS LOW—the old cannot eat their food with satisfaction. RISE UP AT THE VOICE OF THE BIRD—the old rise early because they are sleepless. DAUGHTERS OF MUSIC—their musical powers are weakened, they care very little for song. V. 5. THAT WHICH IS HIGH—high hills, steep places. THE ALMOND TREE SHALL FLOURISH—the white almond-blossoms resemble the silvery hair of age. THE GRASSHOPPER SHALL BE A BURDEN—the least weight oppresses. HIS LONG HOME—Hebrew, "the house of his eternity." Job. 16: 22. V. 6. OR EVER—before; in close connection with the first clause of verse 1. THE SILVER CORD—the thread of life. This verse may refer to the spinal cord, the brain, the heart and lungs; or, in general, to the mainsprings of life. V. 7. The body is material, and returns to the dust; the soul is immaterial and immortal, and returns to God.

II.—V. 8. ALL IS VANITY—the world as a source of happiness is an utter failure. V. 11. AS GOADS—like sharpened sticks urging men to duty. MASTERS OF ASSEMBLIES—inspired teachers. FROM ONE SHEPHERD—God the great Shepherd of Israel. V. 12. BY THESE—inspired words. Books may be multiplied, but heavenly wisdom only is deserving of our earnest, untiring pursuit. The word of God is the Book of books evermore. V. 13. THE CONCLUSION OF THE WHOLE MATTER—the fitting close, the grand inference of the whole book. THIS IS THE WHOLE DUTY OF MAN—literally, "the whole man;" the whole profit, interest, duty of

man. V. 14. The solemn day, the day of judgment will come. We are not like the beasts that perish, but rational, accountable beings, destined to live for ever.

WHAT HAVE I LEARNED?

1. That we should begin to serve God while we are young.

2. That we must expect peculiar trials in old age.

3. That old age is an unfavorable time to seek religion.

4. That we should serve the Lord with gladness at all times.

5. That we must certainly give account to God for all our opportunities.

LESSON XIII.

Dec. 23, 1884.]

REVIEW.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"Blessed is everyone that feareth the Lord; that walketh in his ways."—Ps. 128: 1.

HOME READINGS.

M. Lessons I., II. F. Lessons VIII., IX.

T. Lesson III. Sa. Lessons X., XI.

W. Lessons IV., V. S. Lesson XII.

Th. Lessons VI., VII.

INTRODUCTORY QUESTIONS.

Who was the first king of Israel? How was he chosen to that office? How long did he reign? What are the principal events of his reign? Of what sin was he guilty? How was he punished? Give an account of his death.

Whom did the Lord choose to succeed Saul? From whom was David descended? When and by whom was he first anointed king? For what purpose was he first brought to the court of Saul? What was his first great exploit? Why did Saul become his enemy? What were the leading events in his life before the death of Saul?

By which of the tribes was David then made king? What city was his capital? How long did he reign in Hebron? Who was made king by the other tribes? How did his reign end? What did all the tribes then do? What city did David make his capital? How long did he reign in Jerusalem? What were the leading events of his reign? What part of the Bible did he write?

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSONS.

I.—What is the title of the first lesson? Golden Text? Lesson Plan? Who now claimed the throne? Who favored his claims? Who informed David of the plot? What did David do? How did the people receive the proclamation?

II.—What is the title of the second lesson? Golden Text? Lesson Plan? What did David charge Solomon to do? Why did David not build the temple himself? What had the Lord promised respecting Solomon? What had David provided? What charge did he give to the princes of Israel?

III.—What is the title of the third lesson? Golden Text? Lesson Plan? How did the Lord appear to Solomon? What did he say to him? For what did Solomon ask? What did the Lord think of his request? What more did he promise him?

IV.—What is the title of the fourth lesson? Golden Text? Lesson Plan? When did Solomon begin to build the temple? Of what parts did the building consist? Of what was the house built? What were its dimensions? How did the Lord encourage Solomon in his work?

V.—What is the title of the fifth lesson? Golden Text? Lesson Plan? Who offered the prayer of dedication? With whom did he say God keeps covenant? How did God keep his promise to David? Whose prayers did Solomon ask God to hear? What blessings did he ask in answer to prayer?

VI.—What is the title of the sixth lesson? Golden Text? Lesson Plan? For what purpose did the queen of Sheba visit Solomon? How many of her questions did Solomon answer? What did she say of what she saw and heard? What presents did she give to Solomon? What does the Golden Text say of Jesus?

VII.—What is the title of the seventh lesson? Golden Text? Lesson Plan? What happened when Solomon was old? What did he worship? How did the Lord regard Solomon? What made Solomon's conduct the more wicked? What punishment did the Lord foretell?

VIII.—What is the title of the eighth lesson? Golden Text? Lesson Plan? What is the beginning of wisdom? What is the counsel of wisdom? What must we do when tempted? What good advice does the wise man give? Why should we follow this advice?

IX.—What is the title of the ninth lesson? Golden Text? Lesson Plan? Whom does wisdom call? What does she say? What does she promise? What is the value of wisdom? What is wisdom's call to the young?

X.—What is the title of the tenth lesson? Golden Text? Lesson Plan? What evils of drunkenness are mentioned in verse 28? What counsel is given in verse 31? What does it do at the last? How may we avoid the danger of drunkenness? What should we do to check the evils of intemperance?

XI.—What is the title of the eleventh lesson? Golden Text? Lesson Plan? What did Solomon first test? From what did he next seek enjoyment? What other sources of worldly pleasure did he test? What source of worldly pleasure did he pronounce the greatest? Did it stand the test?

XII.—What is the title of the twelfth lesson? Golden Text? Lesson Plan? With what counsel does this lesson begin? Why should we begin a life of piety in youth? What becomes of us at death? What is the whole duty of man? How is this duty enforced?

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