

The Champion of His People

A curious custom observed at the coronation of the British sovereigns has come down to us from the days of Richard II., more than five hundred years ago. A knight mounted on horseback and armed to the teeth challenges all who would deny the king to be the lawful sovereign of the three realms. It is a survival of the old days of chivalry, when a knight entered the lists on behalf of an injured lady, of a child, or of any one incapable of self-defence.

The note that is loudest and clearest in the passages which compose the present Quarter's lessons, is God's championship of His own. The period embraces about two hundred and fifty years; but the Lord God, who changeth not, was, all the time and in many strange circumstances, the Defender and Deliverer of the nation whom He had chosen for His people. Whether it was Joseph in the pit, in the prison, or in the palace; or Moses, the helpless babe, the lonely shepherd, or the intrepid leader of the nation of Israel—God never forgot and never forsook.

Taking our twelve lessons one by one, exclusive of Lesson 8, which is the World's Temperance lesson:

1. God seems to forget Joseph, Gen. 37: 12-36.
2. But is with him in prison, Gen. 39: 20 to 40: 15.
3. Delivers him and honors him, Gen. 41: 38-49.
4. Makes him a deliverer of many, Gen. 45: 1-15.
5. And gives him a peaceful old age, Gen. 50: 15-26.
6. Again God seems to forget His people, Ex. 1: 1-14.
7. But saves Moses alive, Ex. 2: 1-10.
9. And sends him as a deliverer, Ex. 3: 1-12.
10. God punishes His enemies, Ex. 11: 1-10.
11. But spares His own people, Ex. 12: 1-17.
12. And delivers them from their oppressors, Ex. 14: 13-27.
13. Review: Showing Himself at all times the Champion of His people.

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