

26-30. We did eat and drink (Rev. Ver.), etc.; a picture of those who, at the present day, live in Christian lands, under Christian teaching and are members of Christian churches. Workers of iniquity. It is only our own character and conduct that can keep us out of the kingdom. Weeping and gnashing of teeth; a picture of grief and helpless rage. Abraham . . . Isaac . . . Jacob . . . the prophets. These have a place in the kingdom because they loved and served God. Thrust out; because unworthy to enter. East . . . west . . . north . . . south. God's children will be gathered from the ends of the earth. Last . . . first. Some who thought themselves within will be without and others thought to be without will be within.

MUSTARD

The mustard seed is well known for its minuteness. The plant grows to a size larger than garden herbs. The mustards are annuals, reproduced with extraordinary rapidity wherever the seed finds a lodgment. In fertile soil they often grow to a height of 10 or 12 feet. Many plants which attain a far less size are called trees by the Arabs. The mustards, again, are favorites with the birds which alight on them to devour the seeds.

BAKING IN THE EAST

Baking in the East is done in the courtyard round which the houses are built. Here the ground is trodden hard and smooth so as to form an excellent floor. The "stove" is a big mound of clay with a hollow in the middle where a wood fire can be kept burning until the whole interior is sufficiently hot. An opening in the top lets off the smoke. When food is ready for baking, the coals and hot ashes are raked out, and then the fire box becomes a very fair sort of oven. "When the loaf or dough is wet, it sticks to the side of the oven, but when it begins to dry and brown, it loosens. The women acquire great skill in twirling the loaves off the side of the oven and out of its mouth just as they are nicely done, rarely burning their hands or arms."

LESSON QUESTIONS

18, 19 What is meant by the kingdom of God? To what did Jesus compare it? What is the mustard seed like? Into what does it grow? What wild birds

are mentioned in the Gospels? How great will the kingdom of God become? (Rev. 11 : 15.)

20, 21 To what did Jesus next compare the kingdom of God? What does this comparison teach us about the kingdom of God? Where does Paul say that Christians are new creatures? (2 Cor. 5 : 17.)

22, 23 Whither was Jesus journeying? Through what province? What was He doing as He went? What question was asked Him? Show that the saved are a great number. (Rev. 7 : 9.)

24, 25 What did Jesus counsel His hearers to do? In what sense is the entrance into the kingdom wide? In what sense narrow? What is the test of a true disciple? (John 14 : 15.)

26-30 What is the only thing that can exclude from the kingdom of God? Whence will God's children be gathered?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Is it hard to become a Christian?
2. Does Jesus shut any one out of His kingdom?

A PRAYER

Jesus, Thou art our hope in life and in death, for in Thee we have everlasting life. From Thee we receive the things that make life worth living. We thank Thee for Thy death on the cross, and for the free offer of salvation. We thank Thee that Thou by Thy Spirit hast led us to Thyself. Keep us near Thy side. And when the day comes when we shall enter the city of our king, may we not be alone, but may there be around us many who have heard of Thee from our lips and our lives. Amen.

Prove from Scripture—That people of all nations will be in heaven.

Shorter Catechism—Review Questions 21-29.

The Question on Missions—12. How can we assist this work? The salaries of the Sunday School field workers, the helping of new and needy Sunday Schools to get supplies and part of the cost of our French Sunday School paper, are paid for from the Rally Day Fund raised by the Schools on the last Sunday in September.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise : 80 (Supplemental Lesson), 129, 148, 52 (Ps. Sel.), 233 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY), 135.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. How does the kingdom of God resemble a mustard seed?

2. How does it resemble leaven?

3. Why is any one shut out of the kingdom of God?

SIGN NAME HERE