

## Easter Bells.

BY L. A. MORRISON.

EASTER bells! Glad Easter bells!  
Ring your silver jubilee;  
Earth's redemption-chorus swells  
In your matin melody.  
Breaks the light o'er land afar,  
Long in error's sadden'd sway;  
Rolls apace the tones which are  
Heralds of millennial day.

Peal with joy for Easter morn!  
Golden glory gilds the sky:  
Once, the Son—of Mary born—  
Born for human weal to die.  
In the cross and passion paid  
All the penalties of sin;  
For the full atonement made,  
Rising, brought the Easter in.

So, sweet bells, ring hope and peace  
Unto all who hear your chime;  
Bid the restless surgings cease—  
Quell the turbulence of Time.  
Laud the right and leash the wrong;  
Praise the truth, and on your wings  
Bear her Easter triumph song,  
Till the world its homage brings.

Easter bells! Glad Easter bells!  
Ring for Freedom's golden reign,  
And the harmony which dwells  
Where her peaceful laws obtain!  
Peal for Christ, and crown him King!  
By his grace our souls are free;  
Then your silver tongues may sing  
Easter golden jubilee!

## LESSON NOTES.

## SECOND QUARTER.

## STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK.

A. D. 30] LESSON IV. [April 28

## DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE FORETOLD.

Mark 13. 1-13. Memory verses, 1, 2.

## GOLDEN TEXT.

But I say unto you, That in this place is one greater than the temple. Matt. 12. 6.

## OUTLINE.

1. Prophecy, v. 1, 2.
2. Warning, v. 3-8.
3. Advice, v. 9-13.

TIME.—30 A. D.

PLACES.—Jerusalem. Mount of Olives.

CONNECTING LINKS.—The teaching of Jesus was done. He had bidden farewell to the temple, and was returning for the rest at Bethany before he should come back to the passover and death. On the summit of Olivet, or somewhere on the pathway winding up its western slope, he paused, and spoke the words of the lesson.

EXPLANATIONS.—*What manner of stones.*—The immense size was what fastened the attention of the disciples. Some of them were twenty-four feet in length by six in thickness. *Thrown down*—Or, loosened down by gradual demolition. *Rumors of war*—Or, threats of war; there were three such—one by Claudius, one by Caligula, and one by Nero. *Earthquakes*—Between this prophecy and the year 70 A. D., there were earthquakes in Crete, in Rome, in Laodicea, etc. *Famines*—There were four famines during the reign of Claudius, attended with great suffering, and terrible natural calamities. *Take no thought beforehand*—That is, be not anxious, or do not give way to worrying care.

## QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. *Prophecy.*  
By how many ways might Jesus have gone from the temple?  
Where were the very great stones to which the disciples called his notice?  
Did they refer to the temple when they spoke of the buildings?  
What was the prophecy that Jesus made? ver. 2.  
Was it ever fulfilled?  
Does it show any thing concerning his character?
2. *Warning.*  
What was the effect of this prophecy upon the disciples?  
Why did only these four ask the question of ver. 4?

Did Jesus answer them as they desired?  
What were the warnings which Jesus gave?  
What historic evidence can you find that these warnings were well founded?  
Mention some of the historic occurrences which fulfilled the prophecy of these warnings?

3. *Advice.*

How soon was action on the advice of Jesus needed?  
What ones of the disciples were brought before councils and tried?  
What one of the apostles was brought before kings?  
What ones, if any, were scourged?  
Does the advice of Jesus in ver. 11 mean that men should preach or teach without preparation?  
What preparation had these men already had for their work?  
What great need of the Church to-day is pointed out in ver. 11?

## PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Earthly insignificance is here taught. The great stones of the arch of the bridge from David's palace to the royal porch have crumbled and fallen. Christ's word stands stronger in this century than in any previous one.

Many false Christs and false religions have arisen, and will. Many have been deceived. But God is not deceived. As you sow, so will you reap.

How hard human ills are to bear! See the picture in vers. 12 and 13. But there is salvation for fidelity. For God is stronger than all sin.

"For right is right, since God is God,  
And right the day must win."

## HINTS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Read very carefully the first fourteen verses of the 24th chapter of Matthew.
2. This lesson should be studied with an historical commentary, to see how much of this prophecy was fulfilled.
3. Read such parts of Josephus as bear on the story; or any good history of the Jews under Claudius, Caligula, Nero, Vespasian, and Titus.
4. From the Acts of the Apostles find all mention of persecutions and sufferings endured by Peter, James, and John.
5. Read Paul's own account of his sufferings in 2 Cor. 11. 21-28.

## THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What prophecy did Jesus make in this lesson? The destruction of the city. 2. What question did four disciples ask? When it should be. 3. What did Jesus say must first come? Wars, sorrows, earthquakes, famines. 4. How widely did he say the Gospel must first be published? Among all nations. 5. What previous utterance of Jesus is proven by these prophecies? "But I say unto you," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The end of the world.

## CATECHISM QUESTION.

19. How did Jesus Christ show that he was a teacher sent from God?  
By performing signs and wonders such as could be performed only by the power of God.

A. D. 30] LESSON V. [May 5

## THE COMMAND TO WATCH.

Mark 13. 24-37. Memory verses, 35-37.

## GOLDEN TEXT.

Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. Mark 13. 33.

## OUTLINE.

1. The Son Coming, v. 24-32.
2. The Servants Watching, v. 33-37.

TIME.—30 A. D.

PLACE.—Mount of Olives.

CONNECTING LINKS.—This a part of the same conversation which was begun in the last lesson.

EXPLANATIONS.—*From the four winds*—That is, from every part of the earth. *The uttermost part of the earth*, etc.—That is, from the farthest part of the earth, then believed to be a great plain met everywhere by the sky. *Branch yet tender*—The new green sprout of the tree. *At the cock-crowing*—At three o'clock in the morning. These divisions mark the quarters of the night.

## QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. *The Son Coming.*  
How has the prophecy of this lesson changed from that of the last?

What great natural phenomena shall mark this era?

How had Jesus in another place described this coming? Matt. 25. 31, etc.

What prophecy did angels afterward make concerning it? Acts 1. 11.

What is to be his first act at his coming? How does Paul describe this same scene? 1 Thess. 4. 16, 17.

Does ver. 30 refer to the first part of this chapter or the last?

How much was fulfilled before the generation had passed?

To what does ver. 32 refer?

Will you explain the thought in ver. 32?

2. *The Servants Watching.*

If the thought of ver. 32 is true, what is the evident duty of all Christians?

By what parables had Jesus previously illustrated this truth? Matt. 24. 43; 25. 1-12.

How does the close of these parables compare with our present lesson? Matt. 24. 44 and 25. 13, and vers. 35 and 37 of this lesson.

How is the Son of man like the man in ver. 34?

For what was the porter here commanded to watch?

In what sense are Christians like these servants?

Why ought good servants not to be found sleeping?

What things prove that this instruction could not have been designed simply for the hearers? vers. 32, 35, and 37.

## PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Notice thoughtfully the circumstances under which Jesus spoke these words; then remember:

There is an end coming. Are you ready? There is to be a separation when he comes. The elect will be gathered to his kingdom. Are you one?

There will be some, perhaps, sleeping. Will you?

He has laid great duties upon us, not of performance, but of patience. Take heed. Watch!

You are ignorant; watch and pray. No man is omitted: to every man he gives a work; therefore, watch!

## HINTS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. We advise each student to commit all of this lesson to memory.
2. Do not try to force these words down to actual application to any occurrences. They are partly fulfilled, and partly unfulfilled. But study them with believing hearts.
3. Make practical application of ver. 31. Show how the last clause has been repeatedly fulfilled.
4. Read Christ's description of the judgment given in Matt. 25.
5. Read carefully all the teachings of Scripture concerning Christ's second coming. Zech. 14. 5, last clause; Acts 1. 11; 17. 31; 1 Thess. 4. 16; 2 Thess. 1. 7; Heb. 9. 28; Rev. 1. 7.

## THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Of what day is Jesus speaking in these verses? Of his final coming. 2. By what signs will it be attended? "The powers in heaven shall be shaken." 3. With whom only did he say rested the knowledge of these things? Only with God the Father. 4. What duty did he lay upon the disciples because of this uncertainty. "Take ye heed," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Christian watchfulness.

## CATECHISM QUESTION.

20. What do you mean by the Holy Spirit's inspiration?

That he put it into the minds of holy men to write, and instructed them how to write.

WHAT a man can do in the world is largely decided by what a man is determined that he will do in the world. A tallow-candle can be driven through an oak plank, if only a fair charge of powder is at the back of it in the rifle-barrel.

THERE is a town in Australia called Random. A resident of that place, being absent from it and being asked where he lived, said he "lived at Random." He was taken up as a vagrant.

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