

HOME READINGS.

- M. The seven chosen. Acts 6. 1-15.
 Tu. Bishops and deacons. 1 Tim. 3. 1-13.
 W. Diversities of gifts. 1 Cor. 12. 1-13.
 Th. The building of character. Eph. 4. 1-16.
 F. The use of endowments. Matt. 25. 14-30.
 S. Stephen's address. Acts 7. 1-16.
 S. Stephen's rebuke. Acts 7. 44-53.

LESSON HYMNS.

No. 441, *New Hymn Book*.

S. M.

A charge to keep I have,
 A God to glorify,
 A never-dying soul to save,
 And fit it for the sky :
 To serve the present age,
 My calling to fulfil ;
 O may it all my powers engage
 To do my Master's will !
 Help me to watch and pray,
 And on thyself rely ;
 Assured, if I my trust betray,
 I shall for ever die.

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What a Friend we have in Jesus,
 All our sins and griefs to bear !
 What a privilege to carry
 Everything to God in prayer !
 O what peace we often forfeit,
 O what needless pain we bear,
 All because we do not carry
 Everything to God in prayer !
 Are we weak and heavy-laden,
 Cumbered with a load of care ?
 Precious Saviour, still our refuge,
 Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Do thy friends despise, forsake thee ?
 Take it to the Lord in prayer ;
 In his arms he'll take and shield thee,
 Thou wilt find a solace there.

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Take the name of Jesus with you,
 Child of sorrow and of woe ;
 It will joy and comfort give you ;
 Take it, then, where'er you go.
 Precious name, O how sweet !
 Hope of earth and joy of heaven.

Take the name of Jesus ever,
 As a shield from every snare ;
 If temptations round you gather,
 Breathe that holy name in prayer.

O the precious name of Jesus,
 How it thrills our souls with joy,
 When his loving arms receive us,
 And his songs our tongues employ !

Time.—A.D. 35. There is some reason for supposing that this lesson embraces a period of two years, from 35 to 37 A.D.

Place.—Jerusalem.

Connecting Links.—1. The advice of Gamaliel. Acts 5. 33-39. 2. The release of the apostles. Acts 5. 40-42.

Explanations.—*In those days*—Perhaps even a few years after the events of the last lesson. *Multiplicd*—While the Church was growing rapidly. *A murmuring*—A complaint, which might have risen to a quarrel. *Grecians*—The Jews who were of foreign birth and language. *Hebrews*—Jews native to Palestine. *Widows were neglected*—Being foreigners, were apt to be passed over. *Daily ministration*—The supply of food given, perhaps every day, by the Church. *Twelve*—The apostles. *Multitude of the disciples*—The great body of the Church. *Not reason*—Not fitting or suitable. *Leave the word*—Stop preaching in order to give alms. *Serve tables*—By doing the work for the poor. They felt that their time should be given to God's work. *Seven men of honest report*—Men who were known to be good. *Wisdom*—They would need wisdom for this work of caring for the poor and distributing the gifts of the Church. *We will give ourselves*—The apostles would do nothing but pray and preach. *They chose*—Stephen and Philip are the only ones of whom anything is known. *Proselyte*—One born a Gentile who had become a Jew. *Laid their hands on them*—Setting them apart to their office. *Word of God increased*—That is, the number of those who believed in the Gospel. *Priests were obedient*—Many Jewish priests believed in Jesus. *Stephen . . . did great wonders*—By his faith he wrought miracles. *The synagogue*—A place where Jews met to worship, but not like the Temple, where sacrifice was offered. *Not able to resist*—Stephen preached with such power that none could answer him. *Suborned men*—They persuaded or hired men to speak falsely about him. *Blasphemous words*—Words which would show contempt for the law of God. *Before the council*—The body of men which ruled the Jews. *This holy place*—The Temple, where the council met. *The law*—The law of God as given by Moses. *Destroy this place*—Jesus had said that the place would be destroyed on account of the sins of its people. *Change the customs*—The laws and usages given by Moses. *Face of an angel*—Shining with glory given by the Lord.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. **The Seven**, v. 1-7. What trouble arose in the Church ? Who were these two classes of people ? What was the cause of the trouble ? What was this daily ministration ? How was the murmuring stopped ? What spirit did the apostles show ? Who chose the seven men ? What were they chosen for ? What is said of these men in the GOLDEN TEXT ? What was done with these men ? What was the result to the Church ?

2. **Stephen**, v. 8-15. Who was Stephen, and what was his character ? What did he do ? How was Luke 21. 15 fulfilled in him ? What did his enemies say against him ? What did they do, and for what purpose ? What four charges did they bring against him ? How did this fulfil Matt. 10. 17 ? What had Jesus said in Matt. 24. 2, and John 4. 21 ? How was this a false witness against Stephen ? How did Stephen's face look ? How did this show the truth of 2 Cor. 3. 18 ?