

OLD YEAR AND NEW YEAR

BY WM. M. F. BOUTS.

Old Year and New Year—

It is all God's year,

His time for sowing,

His time for reaping,

His time for growing,

For rest and quiet sleeping,

His time for soaring

On wings of the Spirit;

His time for adoring

The infinite merit.

O world above ' our world,

Our times, and our places,

Are but as child's play

To thy marvellous spaces;

But if, as dear children,

With hearts of yearning,

We love and forget not,

Are docile for learning,

Then New Year and Old Year,

Their hoping, regretting,

Will all turn to God's year,

With no time for fretting.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

B.C. 610-590] LESSON II. [Jan. 10.

JEREMIAH PREDICTING THE CAPTIVITY.

Jer. 8, 20-22, and 9: 1-16. Commit to memory vs. 8: 20-22.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved. Jer. 8, 20.

OUTLINE.

1. A Weeping Prophet, v. 20-21, and 1, 2.
2. A Guilty People, v. 3-8.
3. A Desolate Land, v. 9-16

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

Who reigned over Judah after King Josiah? Wicked and idolatrous kings.

What did they lead the people to do? To forsake the Lord.

What would this bring upon them? Great sorrow and trouble.

Who was God's prophet at this time? Jeremiah, son of Hilkiah, the high-priest who found the copy of the law.

What was Jeremiah's lament? (Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.)

Why were the people not saved? Because they refused to turn to the Lord.

What "balm in Gilead" was there to take away their sins? God's mercy and forgiving love.

What is our "balm in Gilead"? The blood of Jesus.

Why did Jeremiah mourn over the people? Because they continued to do evil.

What did he boldly declare unto them? God's wrath and punishment.

What punishment did he prophesy? The desolation of Jerusalem and the captivity of the people.

Does God love when he punishes? Yes, punishments are a sign of his love.

What is truest love? Love that seeks to make us better, even if it must be by punishment.

If God did not punish us for sins what would we think? That he had forgotten us.

When do we forsake God? When we refuse to obey him.

What always follows disobedience to him? Sin and sorrow and suffering.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

Our lesson to-day is only part of a long story, but it teaches us that it is a dreadful thing to disobey God and put off coming to him.

Why do you wait, dear little people?

Every day you wait it will be all the harder to come. There is danger and death in delay—

Yesterday To-day To-morrow

Is gone. Is ours. May never come.

The Saviour is reaching out loving arms for you to come to-day.

O don't let the GOLDEN TEXT be true of any of you.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The wrath of God.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

Who was Herod the king? The king of Judea, who killed the young children in Bethlehem, hoping to kill the Christ.*Who was John the Baptist?* The prophet who told the Jews that the Christ was come.

B.C. 606.] LESSON III. [Jan. 17.

THE FAITHFUL RECHABITES.

Jer. 35, 1: 19. Commit to memory vs. 18, 19.

GOLDEN TEXT.

For unto this day they drink none, but obey their father's commandment. Jer. 35, 14.

OUTLINE.

1. Obedience, v. 12-14.
2. Disobedience, v. 15.
3. Consequences, v. 16-19.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY

Of whom does the Lord speak to Jeremiah in this lesson? Of the Rechabites, a tribe of Arabs.

For what reason? Because they kept the commands of their father.

What was one of these commands? To

abstain from drinking wine. (Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.)

Why did God wish them brought before the people? Because they were faithful and obedient to the commands of a man.

What was the life of the men of Judah? Unfaithful and disobedient to the commands of God.

What had God done for them? Sent his servants, the prophets, to tell them how to do right.

What was his promise if they served him? Peace and possession of the land of their fathers.

Did the people turn to the Lord? They continued to worship idols.

What did God say should come upon them? Great and terrible punishment.

What was God's promise to the Rechabites? That they should dwell in their land forever.

Were the laws of the Rechabites wise and good like those of God's? No.

Why did God so reward them? Because they obeyed such laws as they had.

What does God love in his children? Faithfulness.

What does Jesus tell us? "He that is faithful in that which is least, is faithful also in much."

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

God's blessing is certain to come to every boy and girl who does what the GOLDEN TEXT says; and he knows just how hard it is to obey when you are asked to do, or not to do, something exactly different from your own wishes.

If you will read Prov. 6, 20-22; Eph. 6, 1-3; Isa. 41, 13, I think you will be encouraged to try.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Rewards and punishments.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

Who was Herod the tetrarch? The ruler of Galilee, who cut off John the Baptist's head.*Who were the disciples of Jesus Christ?* All who learned of Him as their Master.

RULES FOR FRETTERS.

A LITTLE girl who was a fretter had been visiting me. She fretted when it rained and she fretted when the sun shone. She fretted when little girls came to see her, and she fretted when they did not. It is dreadful to be a fretter. A fretter is troublesome to herself, and troublesome to her friends. We all have our trials, but fretting does not help us to bear or get rid of them. I have lately come across a short rule for fretters, which they shall have: Never fret about what you cannot help, because it will not do you any good. Never fret about what you can help; because if you can help it, do so.