

Lesson II.

MAN THE CROWN OF CREATION

January 12, 1913

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—The Lesson follows on, and is, in a way, an expansion of the closing portion of Lesson I. It emphasizes the peculiar dignity of man,—his likeness to God, and his supremacy over the brute creation. It tells of God's special care for him. We see God's love providing for man, a home, a definite work, and a companion for life.

GOLDEN TEXT—God created man in his own image.—Genesis 1 : 27.

Memorize vs. 16, 17. THE LESSON PASSAGE—Genesis 1 : 26, 27 ; 2 : 7-9, 15-24. Study Genesis 1 : 26, 27 ; 2 : 4-25 ; Psalm 8.

26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness : and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him ; male and female created he them.

Ch. 2 : 7 And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life ; and man became a living soul.

8 And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden ; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

9 And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food ; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

15 And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and keep it.

16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat :

17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it : for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Revised Version—1 And God ; 2 the ; 3 the man ; 4 man.

Daily Readings—(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Secretary, 26 Old Bailey, London, England.)—M.—Man, the crown of creation, Gen. 2 : 4-17. T.—Man, the crown of creation, Gen. 2 : 18-24. W.—Man's adoration, Ps. 8. Th.—He knoweth our frame, Ps. 103 : 13-22. F.—We are His offspring, Acts 17 : 22-31. S.—Created for His glory, Isa. 43 : 1-7. S.—Man immortal, 1 Thess. 4 : 13-18.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED



EDEN AS IT IS TO-DAY

I. THE FIRST MAN.—26, 27. Let us make man. The words used in the other works of creation are, "Let there be," a bare command. Here the words are "Let Us make" implying something of a different order of importance. This enhances the dignity of the last work, the creation of man. The word "Us" does not prove the trinity of God, but it suggests it. "Man," Hebrew, *Adam*, red. In our image, after our likeness. These expressions do not express

18 And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone ; I will make him an help meet for him.

19 And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air : and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them : and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.

20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field ; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

21 And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept : and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof ;

22 And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh : she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife : and they shall be one flesh.

separate ideas, but give variety and emphasis to the same idea. They at once differentiate man from the rest of creation. "Image" does not imply equality to God, but a common quality, such, for example, as is found in sun and candle. This common quality is to be found in the spiritual nature of man. Let them have dominion. The relation of man to the creatures is that of sovereignty (see Ps. 8)

Ch. 2 : 7. God formed man ; word for "formed" not the same as word used for "created." It implies shaping, as a potter shapes the clay. Breathed into his nostrils the breath of life . . . living soul. Breath is the most obvious sign of life. The divine breath quickens the dust into life. Man is not only the image of God ; he lives by the breath of God. "His life is a fragment of the divine life." This divine inbreathing is not mentioned in the creation of any other living thing.

II. HIS HOME AND WORK.—8, 9, 15-17. God planted a garden ; a park, rather than a garden. Eastward. The original home of man is in the distant East, in a region near Babylonia. Eden. The root meaning is "delightful." Every tree ; every kind of tree. Tree of life ; according to ch. 3 : 22, the tree whose fruit makes the eaters of it immortal. The tree of knowledge of good and evil ; the tree whose fruit enables those who eat of it to distinguish between good and evil. Vs. 10-14 tell of the river that waters the garden, dividing into four branches after leaving the garden. Put him into the