

the helpless thousands perish, and at last to find themselves solitary and alone in the waste of waters. But their dependence on God, His love for them, and His nearness to them, were realized as never before.

IV. LANDING; at first the ark grounding in the mountains and by and by, after due and careful testing through the raven and the dove, its inmates coming out again on the dry earth—the flood gone. They had had the discipline of judgment, and of waiting. Now comes the happier, but not less profitable discipline of deliverance. Doubtless they sang some such song as the Psalmist sang, Ps. 40: 1-3.

V. WORSHIPPING; no sooner on dry ground than an altar erected. The worship there would be of gratitude for past mercies—saved, and therefore praising. And that worship would be a fitting preparation for the temptations and trials and labors incident to the ordinary every-day round of life now again beginning.

VI. ABIDING; in God's gracious promise (8: 21, 22), a promise glowing like the rainbow itself, its token and testimony (9: 13-16). If Noah did not reach a high state of godliness, it was not because the schooling was not of the right sort.

Prove from Scripture

That God's purposes are sure.

Topics for Brief Papers

(To be assigned the Sabbath previous.)

1. The raven and the dove.
2. Noah's altar and offering.
3. God's promise.

The Catechism Question

Ques. 86. *Faith in Jesus Christ.* It is a "grace"—something bestowed by God, as is brightness of mind, or music of voice, or strength of arm (Eph. 2: 8). It is a "saving grace." (Same verse; also Acts 16: 31.) Faith is the hand which takes to oneself and for oneself all the great work which Jesus Christ has done; nay, takes the Christ Himself, so that one can say in all soberness, as Paul said, Gal. 2: 20. This point is vital and should be insisted upon. Faith is not, as the Roman Catholic teaches, "assent to the things which the Church has defined to be truths." Faith is trust in a person. Note also that word "alone." Not by reliance on saint or Virgin, nor yet on our own good works, but on Christ alone, are we saved. Witness Toplady's "Rock of Ages" and Charles Wesley's "Jesus Lover of my soul."

FOR TEACHERS OF THE LITTLE ONES

Connection—Sing "Yield not to Temptation," No. 530, Book of Praise. In last lesson, who yielded to temptation? Show Book. Recall story.

A First Promise—A story about father's promise to Jennie, that he would bring her a

beautiful doll when he came home. Did you ever promise anything? We are going to hear about one of God's *First Promises*.

Faithfulness—"He is faithful that promised." (Heb. 10: 23.) God is always faithful to us. Are we faithful to God, to our work, our studies, our parents, companions, promises? Mention ways of being faithful.

An Unfaithful People—The children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Adam

