

OUTLINE.

1. Jesus and Stephen, v. 54-56.
2. Stephen and Saul, v. 57-60.
3. Saul and the Church, v. 1-4.

HOME READINGS.

- M. The first Christian martyr. Acts 7. 54-58. 4.
 Tu. Warning of persecution. John 15. 12-27.
 W. Warning the persecutors. Matt. 23. 27-39.
 Th. Parable of the vineyard. Luke 20. 9-18.
 F. God's messengers slain. Heb. 11. 32-40.
 S. Forgiveness for the persecutor. 1 Tim. 1. 12-20.
 S. Endurance of persecution. Rev. 2. 1-11.

LESSON HYMNS.

S. M.

My soul, be on thy guard;
 Ten thousand foes arise;
 The hosts of sin are pressing hard
 To draw thee from the skies.

O watch, and fight, and pray;
 The battle ne'er give o'er;
 Renew it boldly every day,
 And help divine inspire.

Ne'er think the victory won,
 Nor lay thine armour down;
 The work of faith will not be done,
 Till thou obtain the crown.

No. 746, *New Hymn Book*.

11s.

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
 Looking unto Jesus, who is gone before!
 Christ, the Royal Master, leads against the foe;
 Forward into battle see his banners go.
 Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
 Looking unto Jesus, who is gone before!

Like a mighty army, moves the Church of God;
 Brothers, we are treading where the saints have
 trod;

We are not divided, all one body we,
 One in hope and doctrine, one in charity.
 Onward, Christian soldiers, etc.

No. 746, *New Hymn Book*.

11s.

Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise
 and wane,
 But the Church of Jesus constant will remain;
 Gates of hell can never gainst that Church
 prevail;
 We have Christ's own promise, which can never
 fail.

Onward, Christian soldiers, etc.

Onward, then, ye people, join our happy throng;
 Blend with ours your voices in the triumph song.
 Glory, praise, and honour, men and angels sing,
 Through the countless ages, unto Christ the
 King.

Onward, Christian soldiers, etc.

Time.—A.D. 37, seven years after the crucifixion of Christ.

Place.—Jerusalem, and the land of Judea.

Connecting Link.—The address of Stephen. Acts 7. 1-53.

Explanations.—Three things—The words of Stephen in verses 51, 52. *Out to the heart*—

Made exceedingly angry. *Full of the Holy Ghost*
 —What a contrast between the face of Stephen
 and those of his enemies? *Save the glory of God*

—The brightness which was the token of God's
 presence. *Jesus standing*—The ascended Saviour,

—A name which was used only by Jesus himself.
Cried out—To show that they regarded his words

as blasphemous and wicked. *Stopped their ears*—
 As if unwilling to hear such words. *Ran upon*

him—Turning from a council into a murderous
 mob. *Cast him out*—The Jewish custom required

that stoning to death should take place outside
 of the city. *Stoned him*—Though done by a

mob, it was with all the forms of a Jewish execu-
 tion. *The witnesses*—Those who bore testimony

were required to cast the first stones. *Laid down*
their clothes—Their outer garments, that they

might be free to do the work. *A young man's*
feet—Who took care of them. *Saul*—Afterward

he became the apostle Paul. *Calling upon God*
 —This should read, "Calling upon the Lord,"

that is, Christ. *Receive my spirit*.—He called
 upon Jesus as Jesus while dying had called upon

his Father. Luke 23. 46. *Kneeled down*—To
 offer his dying prayer, a prayer for those who

were slaying him. *Lay not this sin*—A forgive-
 ness like that of Christ in Luke 23. 34. *Fell*

asleep—Though murdered, his death was peace-
 ful, like a sleep. *Saul was consenting*—He gave

help and sanction to it. *A great persecution*—
 The murder of Stephen led to other acts of

violence. *All scattered*—The Church was broken
 up and disciples driven away. *Excent the apostles*

—Who remained in obedience to Christ's com-
 mand. *Devout men*—This means good men who

were Jews, but not Christians. *Great lamenta-
 tion*—Sorry for his death, and the way it came

about. *Havoc of the church*—Laid it waste by
 persecution. *Haling men*—Seizing, dragging

away; an old word for hauling. *Everywhere*
preaching—So the persecution only spread the

truth all the more widely.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Jesus and Stephen, v. 54-56. Where
 was Stephen at this time? How did the council

feel toward him? What made them angry at
 him? v. 51, 52. What did Stephen see? Where

was Jesus? What did Stephen say to the council?
 What is said of Jesus in Heb. 1. 3?

2. Stephen and Saul, v. 57-60. What
 was the effect of Stephen's words on the council?

What three things did the council do to Stephen?
 Who were the witnesses? Acts 6. 13, 14. What

young man took part in this murder? What did
 he do? See also Acts. 22. 20. What two prayers

did Stephen offer while dying? Whose dying
 words were these like? Luke 23. 34, 46. What

is said of Stephen's end of life? v. 60.

3. Saul and the Church, v. 1-4. What
 was done with the body of Stephen? What was

done to the Church at that time? What was
 Saul's part in this? What did he say of it

afterwards? 1 Tim. 1. 13. What was the effect of
 this upon the Church? Was this a harm to the

Gospel? How? How did this illustrate Gen.
 50. 20?