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Sabbath School.

BIBLE LESSONS. STUDIES IN MARK. Second Quarter.

Lesson IV. April 28. Mark 13: 1-13. DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE FORETOLD.

GOLDEN TEXT. But I say unto you, that in this place is one greater than the temple - Mark 12: 6.

EXPLANATORY. A PROPHECY OF THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE. 1. And as He went out of the temple...

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the world during Christ's life was soon broken. Rome had troublous times. "Four Roman emperors were murdered in swift succession." But especially in Palestine "the war fiend ran riot." The Jews themselves were divided into contending factions...

And the same troubles must arise before the whole world is converted to Christ. Satan will never give up his kingdom without a resistance that will bring wars and persecutions. The demon will tear the nations before he will go out at the word of Christ. Be ye not troubled.

THIRD ST. Earthquakes and famines. Earthquakes. Between this prophecy and the destruction of Jerusalem there were (1) a great earthquake at Crete, A. D. 364; (2) one at Rome, A. D. 51; (3) one at Apulia in Phrygia, A. D. 53; (4) one at Laodicea in Phrygia, A. D. 60; (5) one in Campania; (6) one in Jerusalem, A. D. 67, described in Josephus (Wars of the Jews 4: 4, 5). The frequency and destructiveness of the earthquakes of this period has been remarked upon by Seneca. Famines. A great famine, prophesied in Acts (11: 28), occurred A. D. 49, and another in the reign of Claudius, and mentioned by Josephus (Antiq. 3: 15, 3). A pestilence, A. D. 65, in a single autumn carried off 30,000 persons at Rome. Tribulations. That is disturbances, or social perplexities and tumults, such as are the natural result of wide-spread war. Men who are pinched with hunger are apt, unless of noble character, to become desperate and reckless. These are the beginnings (for greater ones will flow out of them. Only the smaller portion of the terrors of those days could be described of sorrows: o' travail, of that labor-pain of the world out of which the kingdom of God is to be born.

FIFTH ST. Persecutions. 9. Take heed to yourselves. Not as a means of escaping from persecution, but as a means of preparing for it as Christ bade Peter take heed against temptation (Matt. 26: 41). For "before all things" (Luke 21: 12); i. e., before these public calamities, and they shall deliver you up to courts; and in the synagogues shall be beaten. These refer to ecclesiastical proceedings against them. And ye shall be brought before rulers and kings. Before civil tribunals next. For my sake, for a testimony against them. Rather unto them, give you an opportunity of bearing testimony to me before them. In the Acts of the Apostles we have the best commentary on this announcement. (Cf. Matt. 10: 17, 18).

SIXTH ST. The Gospel must first be published. Preached, proclaimed, and it is in proper conception of preaching. Among all nations. The Gospel had been published through the Roman world as then known, and every nation had received its testimony before the destruction of Jerusalem. (See Rom. 1: 8; Col. 1: 6, 23; Tim. 4: 17).

SEVENTH ST. Be not deceived. Use judgment, reason and faith (ver. 5). Take heed. "Forewarned is forearmed" (ver. 10). Fourth. Have no anxiety, fear, or fetters, or at all events, as persons under arrest. Take no thought beforehand. (Be not anxious, as in the Rev. Ver.) The idea is: You need not distress yourselves by anxiously considering beforehand how you ought to speak, how you should meet your persecutions. Neither do ye meditate: is to be omitted, according to the best authorities. Whatsoever shall be given you. A promise of special information for particular emergencies in that hour. Not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost. This promise was more fully given two days later at the institution of the Lord's Supper (John 16: 7, 15). Observe that this direction affords no countenance whatever to preaching the truth without previous preparation.

EIGHTH ST. Expect trials and difficulties. 12. Now the brother shall betray the brother to death: i. e., report him as a Christian and enter complaint that will result in his death. Children shall rise up against their parents. The feeling against Christianity shall be so intense as to lead to mutual affection and fraternal peace. Neither do ye meditate: is to be omitted, according to the best authorities. Whatsoever shall be given you. A promise of special information for particular emergencies in that hour. Not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost. This promise was more fully given two days later at the institution of the Lord's Supper (John 16: 7, 15). Observe that this direction affords no countenance whatever to preaching the truth without previous preparation.

NINTH ST. False Messiahs. 5. Take heed. The four most key-notes of this Discourse on the Last Things are "Be-ware," "Watch," "Endure," and "Pray." Let any man deceive you. By leading them to think that Christ had come again in the flesh, or that these new-comers were the real Messiah, instead of Jesus.

TENTH ST. The coming of Christ. (1) There was a second advent which began with the day of Pentecost and culminated at the destruction of Jerusalem, when Christ's kingdom had really been established on the earth in the place of the old dispensation. In John 14: 16-18 it is expressly implied that Jesus himself came in the coming of the Holy Spirit. (1) It was a second coming, a return after his departure. (2) It was a second: he promised to abide with the church. "Lo, I am with you always." (3) It was preceded by great judgments such as are here described. (4) The Gospel was first preached to all nations. So Paul says in Rom. 1: 8 (written A. D. 58), and in Col. 1: 6, 23 (written A. D. 62).

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A Life Necessity.

A Fourth Avenue car was rumbling up the avenue; the day was cold, and the door opened and shut to admit and discharge passengers with an agonizing groan that rasped the nerves of every one who heard it. At Thirty-fourth street a new conductor jumped on the car, and the man who examines the register opened the door, which gave a peculiar agonizing shriek. The new conductor put his hand in his pocket, took out a small oil-can and oiled the track on which the door slides and the rollers on which it hung, saying to the former conductor, who stood still on the platform, "I always carry an oil-can; there are so many things that need greasing." Was that the reason that, though a man evidently past middle life, his cheeks were ruddy and his face free from lines? The man who had brought the car from the City Hall, shrieking and groaning on its way, was thin, worn and crushed, apparently by circumstances. Is there a philosophy of oil-cans? We rumbled on to the tunnel, feeling we were under the care of a man trained to meet emergencies; time was short, but the nervous anxiety that had made the journey from City Hall interminable had disappeared, and we leaned back, saying inwardly, "Well, we might as well take the next train." Unconscious teacher, how often has your comfortable manner and hearty voice recalled us to the necessity of using an oil-can to modify the friction of life!

Recently three or four earnest women met at luncheon. The conversation drifted on to the question, "Shall we have a hundred eyes, or be blind?" Which is the best? Which is the most comfortable? The conclusion was that there must be a judicious blending of sight and blindness; affection enough to forgive and forget. At the close an earnest woman, whose every gesture is an indication of wisdom and mental balance, said: "I sometimes think that one must go through life carrying an oil-can, if she desires peace." Here was another face beaming with health and good cheer, whose philosophy of life was an oil-can—deep, trustful affection, hearing and forbearing—Christian Union.

Was America Ever Discovered? At the time when Columbus started in search of the New World, nearly every man, woman and child in Europe insisted that there was no New World to discover. When he came back, crowned with success, a large proportion of these good people adhered to their theory; and if they were alive to-day many of them would doubtless insist that America had never been discovered at all. A man will give up anything in the world more readily than a pet theory. For example, look at the individuals who still maintain that Columbus discovered America. Pierce's golden Medical Discovery has cured thousands upon thousands of cases, and will cure thousands more, but these people can't give up their point. Nevertheless the "Discovery" will cure any case of consumption, if taken in time.

WE REMEMBER THAT Patner's Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil with Hypophosphites has been used for many years with success for Coughs, Colds, Bronchitis and other lung troubles. That it is unsurpassed for Scrofula, General Debility, Loss of Vigor, etc. That for Lack of Energy, Nervousness, Paralysis, Loss of Brain Power, it has been highly recommended. That as a Tonic for children, for invalids recovering from sickness, for women who are nursing, it is of the greatest value. And that it is sold by all dealers. BROWN BROTHERS & CO., Druggists, Halifax, N. S.

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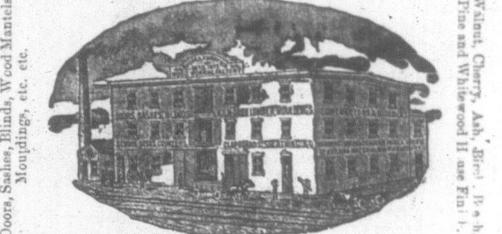
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