

Sabbath School Work.

HELPS TO THE STUDY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSONS FOR 1887.*

WIDE-AWAKE and earnest American students and teachers of the Bible are desirous of having all needed helps to an understanding of the portion of the Bible text which is just before them in their lesson course. And now that the lessons for 1887 start once more with the Bible at its beginning, there will naturally be an added interest in any list or description of the more important available aids to the study of the Pentateuch.

It would be very easy to name five hundred volumes, every one of which has its special value in this line of research; and five thousand dollars could be well expended in the purchase of helpful books. But it is hardly to be supposed that readers of *The Sunday School Times* generally are just now disposed to make such an addition as this to their libraries; hence any list that is given in these columns will, at the best, be only a suggestion of a few of the more available volumes, in one department or another of Pentateuchal study.

COMMENTARIES.

Among the many modern commentaries, the Schaff-Lange stands prominent, because of its fullness. It is a commentary to choose material from, rather than to use just as it is. It is published by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. Three volumes, at \$3.00 each, cover the Pentateuch.

The Speaker's Commentary is more compact and available. Canon Cook, its editor, has his own notion of the Pharaoh of the exodus, which is not in accord with the view of Egyptologists generally; and there are other points where the commentary must be taken with allowance. Yet, as a whole, it is valuable. A single volume at \$3.00 covers the Pentateuch. This, likewise, is published by Charles Scribner's Sons. An abridgement of it is published by E. P. Dutton & Co., New York, at \$2.75.

Bishop Ellcott's Old Testament Commentary for English Readers is fresher than either of the above-named. Its first volume covers Genesis, by Dean R. Payne Smith; Exodus, by Canon Rawlinson; Leviticus, by Dr. C. D. Ginsburg; and Numbers, by C. J. Elliott. It is published, in this country, by E. P. Dutton & Co., New York, at \$6.00 per volume.

The commentaries of Keil, of Delitzsch, of Bush, of Murphy, of Wheeler, are worthy of note, each in its own way. And there are others innumerable.

SCIENTIFIC LIGHTS.

Questions of the correspondence or the conflict of science and revelation multiply and change continually. It is not easy to keep up with the latest phases of these, even so far as to indicate the volumes which present them.

Guyot's Creation; or, Biblical Cosmogony in the Light of Modern Science (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. \$1.50), is the work of a Christian scientist, who sees no conflict in the works and the word of God. This work is given added value through an extended review of it by Professor Dana; republished from the Bibliotheca Sacra, by E. J. Goodrich, Oberlin, Ohio, at thirty cents a copy. Dawson's Origin of the World (New York: Harper and Brothers. \$2.00), and Dawson's Nature and the Bible (New York: Robert Carter and Brothers. \$1.25), are from a like standpoint, and from another eminent scholar. Studies in the Creative Week, by the Rev. Dr. George Dana Boardman (New York: D. Appleton & Co. \$1.25), treats incidentally of the scientific questions involved in the record of Genesis, while it reverently and eloquently brings into prominence the deeper and truer teachings of the sacred text. Brunton's The Bible and Science (New York: Macmillan and Company. \$2.00), treats specifically of the relation of the theory of evolution to the truths of revelation. Drummond's Natural Law in the Spiritual World (New York: James Pott & Co. \$1.50) furnishes a series of striking analogies between natural and spiritual laws and their teachings.

CURRENT CRITICAL THEORIES.

The centre of interest in present Pentateuchal discussion is, however, not so much scientific as literary. Those who wish to familiarize themselves at first hand with the claims made by the radical Continental critics, may consult the English translations of Kuenen's Historico-Critical Inquiry into the Origin and Composition of the Hexateuch (Pentateuch and Book of Joshua), (New York: Macmillan and Company. \$4.00) and of Wellhausen's Prolegomena to the History of Israel (New York: Scribner and Welford.) A popular statement of the radical theory by its best known Scotch advocate will be found in Professor W. Robertson Smith's The Old Testament in the Jewish Church (New York: D. Appleton & Co. \$1.75). On the conservative side, and in reply to the radicals, the student may consult Stebbins's Study of the Pentateuch (Boston: George H. Ellis. \$1.25), which partially replies to Kuenen, and is partially an independent study of the Pentateuch from the standpoint of a conservative Unitarian; Green's Moses and the Prophets (New York: Robert Carter and Brothers. \$1.00), which is an able reply to Professor Smith; the English translation (feeble, but not faithful) of König's Hauptprobleme—The Religious History of Israel—(New York: Scribner and Welford. \$1.50), which is an effective reply, on critical principles, to the evolutionary critics; Vos's Mosaic Origin of Pentateuchal Codes (New York: A. C. Armstrong & Son. \$1.50), which is an excellent general introduction to the study of the Pentateuch; Bissell's The Pentateuch: Its origin and structure (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. \$3.00), which is more detailed than Vos's book, yet less temperate in tone; and Curtiss's Levitical Priests (New York: Scribner and Welford. \$2.00), a work which, though not bearing specifically upon the lessons of the six months, is of too great importance, in the criticism of the Pentateuch, to be passed over by the student of Pentateuchal problems. A compact and independent treatment of the subject is given in Bartlett's Sources of History in the Pentateuch (New York: Anson D. F. Randolph & Co. \$1.00).

HISTORICAL LIGHTS.

Stanley's History of the Jewish Church (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 3 volumes, \$2 each) is unequalled in its vivid and picturesque delineations of Oriental life and character. William Smith's Student's Old Testament History (New York: Harper and Brothers. \$1.25), and Philip Smith's Student's Ancient History of the East (New York: Harper and Brothers. \$1.25), are

* The Presbyterian News Co. can supply any of the above mentioned books at special rates.

excellent condensed chronological histories. The latter may be supplemented by Lenormant and Chevallier's Ancient History of the East (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company. 2 volumes, \$5.50 the set). Kurt's Manual of Sacred History (Philadelphia: H. B. Garner. \$3) will be found useful in tracing what may be called the moral purpose of Israel's history.

Geikie's Hours with the Bible (New York: James Pott & Co. \$1.50 a volume) is a systematic Bible history, with free illustrations from the results of modern research. It is an admirable work of its kind. The first two volumes cover the Pentateuchal record. Eidersheim's Bible History (New York: E. and J. B. Young & Co. 75 cents a volume) has less of attractive illustrativeness; but it is a scholarly and reverent treatment of the Bible history in its continuity. Its first two volumes cover the ground of the Old Testament lessons for 1887.

ILLUSTRATIVE LIGHTS.

The subject-matter of the Pentateuch is capable of illustration from many sources. Prominent in this line is the history of the early peoples of the Bible story, and the vestiges of their early literature.

Smith's Chaldean Account of Genesis (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. \$3.00) is suggestive; but it must be used with caution, as Smith's translations of the so-called Genesis legends have not been sustained at all points by later scholarship. Lenormant's Beginnings of History (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. \$2.50) focuses the light of Oriental traditions upon the period between the creation and the deluge.

The best small history of Egypt is Berkeley's The Pharaohs and their People (New York: Scribner and Welford. \$2.00). A good larger compend of both the history and the antiquities of Egypt, for English readers, is Rawlinson's History of Ancient Egypt (New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. \$6.00). The standard history of Egypt is Brugsch's Egypt Under the Pharaohs (New York: Scribner and Welford. \$12.00).

Tomkin's Studies on the Times of Abraham, as published by the Bagsters (New York: John Wiley & Sons. \$5.00) is an admirable independent study of the life and times of Abraham in the light of modern research. Its pictorial illustrations add to its value. Sayce's The Ancient Empires of the East (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. \$1.50) gives a popular outline sketch of the peoples of Egypt, Babylon, Assyria, Phoenicia, and other Bible lands, in the light of modern discovery. Prudenburg's Witnesses from the Dust (Cincinnati: Cranston and Stowe. \$1.00) culls judiciously from the writings of the best Oriental discoverers, those facts, descriptions, and translations which seem to bear on the early Bible narrative. A valuable series of hand-books, called By-paths of Bible Knowledge, is published by the London Religious Tract Society (New York: E. and J. B. Young & Co. \$1.25 per volume).

J. Comper Gray's The Biblical Museum (New York: A. D. F. Randolph & Co. \$1.25 per volume) gives suggestive notes, and homiletic illustrations and applications, on the Bible text, such as are likely to be helpful to the average teacher. Its first two volumes cover the Pentateuch. The Notes of "G. M." (McIntosh), on Genesis, and on Exodus, point out the deeper spiritual truths indicated in the Bible narrative. These books, although published in London, can be obtained of F. H. Revell, of Chicago, and of almost any prominent publishing house.

The standard books of Oriental illustrations need only to be suggested. Among these are Burder and Harmer, and Paxton, and Roberts, and Thomson, and Van Lennep, and Hackett. A very good compilation from the earlier of these writers was made by Bush, fully fifty years ago. It is still of service to those who have it at hand. A recent volume of The Clerical Library is Anecdotes Illustrative of Old Testament Texts (New York: A. C. Armstrong & Son. \$1.50). The illustrations in this, as in Bush's volume, are arranged under the Bible texts in their order.

HOMILETICAL LIGHTS.

From Trapp and Matthew Henry onward, there are stimulating and instructive writers on the Pentateuchal teachings, whose words are as fresh and potent to-day as when they were first given out.

Kingsley's Gospel of the Pentateuch (New York: Macmillan and Company. \$1.50) shows the gleam of New Testament truths in the beginnings of the Old. Robertson's Notes on Genesis (New York: Macmillan & Co. \$1.75) is full of suggestiveness, as is everything of that writer's work. Maurice's Patriarchs and Lawgivers (New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. \$1.50) is as rich and as helpful in its vivifying characterizations of the early Old Testament personages as Stanley's Jewish Church is in its graphic delineation of their history.

Gibson's The Ages Before Moses (New York: A. D. F. Randolph & Co. \$1.25) is an excellent little work of its kind. Parker's The People's Bible (New York: Funk and Wagnalls. \$1.50 a volume) is perhaps the fullest and brightest of recent homiletical writings on this portion of Scripture. Each volume is complete in itself. The first volume covers Genesis. Three more volumes complete the Pentateuch.

Books which treat of the exodus and wanderings of the Israelites will be spoken of later on in the course of the lesson series. Their number and scope forbid their inclusion in this list. It is impossible now to do more than suggest a few books out of the many which press for a choice.—S. S. Times.

A PRECOCIOUS YOUTH.

A MOTHER gave her little boy two bright, new pennies, and asked him what he was going to do with them. After a moment's thought the child replied: "I am going to give one to the missionaries and with the other I am going to buy a stick of candy." After a while he returned from his play and told his mother that he had lost one of the pennies. "Which did you lose?" she asked. "I lost the missionary penny," he promptly replied. How many grown people are like that little boy! —Richmond Religious Herald.

THE CHRISTMAS PEACE.

Blow, bugles of battle, the marches of peace; East, west, north, and south let the long quarrel cease; Sing the song of great joy that the angels began, Sing of glory to God and of good will to man! Hark! joining in chorus The heavens bend o'er us! The dark night is ending, and dawn has begun. —Whittier.

LESSON HELPS.

FIRST QUARTER.

Studies in the Old Testament.—GENESIS.

THE BEGINNING.

LESSON I. January 2nd. Gen. i. 26-31; ii. 1-3; memorize verses ii. 1-3.

GOLDEN TEXT.—In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.—Gen. i. 1.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

We should worship, love, and obey God our Creator.

DAILY READINGS.

M. Gen. i. 1-25. T. Gen. i. 26 to ii. 8.
W. Isa. xl. 12-18. Th. John i. 1-13.
F. Ps. xix. 1-14. Sa. Ps. viii. 1-9.
Su. Col. i. 9-20.

THE PENTATEUCH.—"The five fold book," includes the first five books of the Bible, which were only one book in the Hebrew.

GENESIS.—

(1) Name.—It means *origin*, and treats of the beginnings of all things.

(2) Author.—Moses, who lived Anno Mundi 2433-2553 i.e., B.C. 1571-1451.

(3) Place.—Probably in the Wilderness of the Wanderings, south of Palestine.

(4) Date of Writing.—Probably B.C. 1491-1451.

(5) Sources.—From direct revelation, and documents, and personal knowledge.

INTRODUCTION.—With the new year we study the early history of mankind written from the divine standpoint, and instruction and interest. We must study with the first verse of the chapter a general view of the creative week.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—a personal God, a spirit, "infinite changeable in his being, wisdom, goodness, truth and love."

The Creation.—(1) All things in God. (2) The description of the world, but in popular language.

(3) The facts as recorded, in agreement with the latest science. Therefore they must have been.

(4) The word *create* is used of life, of man, the very first.

must stop, having been utterly matter, or life or spirit. (5) The divine days, ages long. In the beginning, there were no 24 hours.

26. *Man in our image*: a spirit like reason, will, conscience, feelings, "innocent, holy. Man's body was made from the dust, still so made, the elements of the body being the same as the elements of dust. Let them have dominion: intellect and character must rule.

The power's of earth are made to serve man's good. 27. *Male and female*: woman, as well as man, is the creation of God, and with him has dominion. See chap. ii. 7, 21-24. 28. *God blessed them*: God wants his people to be happy, and the world full of good and happy beings. 1. *All the host* every individual in his order or place like an organized army. 2. *And he rested on the seventh day* nothing has been created since the advent of man. The seventh day is the divine day, the long period in which we are living, and God is caring for created things and for the spiritual nature of man. This is the origin of our Sabbath.

SUBJECTS FOR FURTHER STUDY AND SPECIAL REPORTS.—Genesis.—The Creator.—The order of creation.—The harmony of the Bible with science.—The creation of man.—The creation of woman.—Man made in the image of God.—The seventh day.—God's sabbath work, and man's.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTION.—What is the Pentateuch? Why so called? Meaning of Genesis? Who wrote this book and where? Could Moses have known of himself all the things written here?

SUBJECT: THE CREATION.—GOD'S WORK AND MAN'S DUTY.

I. THE CREATOR.—Who made all things? Through which person of the Godhead? John i. 1-3. What was the work of the Spirit? (Gen. i. 2.) What do we learn about God from this narrative? Where else do we learn more about him? (John iv. 24; i Cor. viii. 6; i Tim. i. 17.)

What two names are applied to God in Genesis? Why does God say, Let us make, etc.? What is the best definition of God? What difference does it make to us whether there is a creator or not?

II. THE CREATION.—During how many days was the process of creation? What was done on the first day? on the second? the third? the fourth? the fifth? the sixth? Where these days of 24 hours long, or divine days extending over long periods? In reference to what is the word *create* used? (Gen. i. 1, 21, 27.) What is the difference between *create* and *made*?

Does this account agree with modern science? Point out the harmony. How does this prove the inspiration of Genesis? Must God's Works and God's Word agree?

III. THE CREATION OF MAN: (vs. 26-31).—On which of the six days was man created? Of what was his body made? (Gen. ii. 7.) In whose likeness was his spirit created? What is meant by the image of God? Over what was man to have dominion? Why? Has man such dominion now? How was woman created? (Gen. ii. 20-21) How should we act toward our Creator? (i Tim. i. 17; Matt. xxii. 37; Ps. cvii. 8; Eccl. xii. 13.) What was given them for food? Was man, as well as all nature, good at that time?

Is any nobler method of creation of man conceivable than this? Is it said how man's body was formed of the dust? Would the statements here made agree with the theory of evolution, so far as the body is concerned? Is the soul a direct, immediate creation of God? What comfort and hope in the fact that we are made in God's image? What duties arise from our being created beings? What from our dominion over nature?

IV. THE SABBATH (vs. 1-3).—On which day did God rest? Rest from what? Is that divine seventh day still continuing? What is God doing on this seventh day? (John v. 17; iii. 16, 17; Heb. xiii. 20, 21.) What ought we to do on every seventh day? Repeat the fourth commandment. Should we keep that day after the example of God? In what respects?

Why is it not said of the seventh day, "There was evening," as after the other days? Has anything been created since the advent of man? What does God's example teach us about keeping the Sabbath? Does this show that the duty of Sabbath-keeping is universal? If we keep Sunday do we keep every seventh day?

Presbyterian News Co.

TORONTO.
PUBLICATIONS & Co.

REVUE

ONLY ONE D

25¢ Per Annum and Club

PT

TRACTS

Prepared

7110

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11