

Sabbath School Lessons.

June 12th, 1864.

THE COMING OF THE SON OF MAN.

Read Luke xvii. 20-37.

I. The Kingdom of God is within you, ver. 20, 21.

The Pharisees, from Christ's miracles, probably thought that He might be the Elias, and asked "when the kingdom of God would come;"—his answer blighted all their expectations of worldly pomp;—it "cometh not with observation;" that is, with no outward show—"it is within you." It is a kingdom whose empire is the heart—whose laws are "righteousness, peace, and joy," Rom. xiv. 17.

II. The Coming of Christ will be sudden, ver. 22-25.

This was said to the disciples. The kingdom had come into their hearts, but their Master would come again in glory, and of that coming He seems now to speak. They would long for a day of the Son of Man—for another day of His presence. They need not seek it. He would come like lightning, and fill the world with His brightness.

III. Men will be unprepared for it, ver. 26-30.

As they lived in Noah's time, in spite of all his warnings, and as they lived in Lot's time, so men will be found living only for this world when Christ comes. It does not say they will be living in crime, but in deep ungodliness.

IV. We should be prepared for it, ver. 31-37.

1. By not loving this world. Let him who is on the housetop never mind his stuff. It was loving her stuff that made Lot's wife look back.

2. By loving and longing for Christ's coming. Willing to lose this life itself for His sake; thus, at His coming, we would find we had secured life everlasting. He who seeks to save his life—who counts this life and its enjoyments the only things worth having, will find he has lost his life.

3. Prepare now. Christ tells them His coming would be sudden, like that of a thief. It would separate many for ever. One taken—to be with Christ. The other left—without Christ. How awful!

APPLICATION.

1. Is the kingdom of God within you?—The Pharisees were always looking for some king to reign on the outside of their hearts. Christ tells them to look within. If God was their king, their hearts were His kingdom. Have you let Christ into your heart, and are you

thoughts, words, and actions, pleasing to Him? David, Ps. cxix. 11. Abijah had good in him, 1 Kings xiv. 13.

2. Learn what change of place cannot do, ver. 21-23. It cannot change your character. Many seem to think if they were only out of such a place into such another, it would be all right with them. Judas was not changed.

It cannot make you happy. How many wander over the world to get away from themselves! Get your hearts changed and all will be right.

3. Christ will come again. So Christ says, ver. 24. So the angels said, Acts i. 11. We cannot tell when or how He will come. You will see Him! Rev. i. 7. Will you rejoice?

4. See what ruins souls. Not great crimes, not using the world, but giving the heart to it.

This ruined the sinners at the flood, and those of Sodom. "They did eat, drink, and married," but neither loved nor obeyed God. They might plead that they were "honest, respectable, inoffensive people." "If any love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed."

5. Are you ready for Christ's coming at death? If Christ is your best friend, you would like to see Him—to see Him soon.—So Jacob longed for Joseph. Your heart will be with him already. It will not be with this world's "stuff."

6. How sudden, how sad the separations of that day! The husband and wife, brothers and sisters, companions and friends if not friends of Christ, will be separated then. This made David mourn so bitterly for Absalom and Saul.—Edin. S. S. Lessons.

June 19th, 1864.

NAOMI AND HER DAUGHTERS.

Read Ruth i. 6-22.

(Connection.—The scenes so beautifully described in this book must have taken place towards the latter end of that period when Judges ruled Israel—King David being the only great-grandchild of him and Boaz.)

I. The Sojourn in Moab.

Ver. 1-5. Elimelech and his family left in consequence of a famine—very likely to occur in any country where government was so unsettled, and where industry was discouraged by hostile invasions and frequent ravages (See Judges vi. 4-11.) Probably he had property in cattle, and was of some consequence at home. Went out full, ver. 21.

The marriage of his sons after his death with Moab's daughters was against God's law. Elimelech dreaded such society less than