

COURSE OF SCRIPTURE LESSONS FOR 1853.

FIRST SERIES.

- March 20.**—*Scripture to be read*—Ex. xx. 18-23. *To be committed*—Ps. cvi. 19-21. *Subject*—The Law given and forgotten. *Prominent topics of the Lesson*—People saw thundersings, &c.—explain from chap. xix.—the law—people fear—God's design in thus showing his glory, "that ye sin not." His glory employed to enforce the command, ye shall not make gods—yet they made gods, chapter xxxii. Apply Psal. cvi.—special aggravation—they made a calf in Horeb—weakness of our resolutions—O to be strengthened with might by the Spirit!
- March 27.**—*Scripture to be read*—Joshua v. *To be committed*—Heb. iv. 8; 9. *Subject*—Joshua. *Prominent topics of the Lesson*—Glance over the chapter, for the purpose of recalling the principal facts of the preceding history—passage of Jordan—circumcision—the forty years in the wilderness—the passover—the manna. The angel of the covenant appears to Joshua, as to Moses in the bush. Another rest than that of Canaan remaineth (Heb. iv.)
- April 3.**—*Scripture to be read*—1 Sam. viii. 1-9. *To be committed*—Ps. cvi. 14, 15. *Subject*—Samuel. *Prominent topics of the Lesson*—Samuel the last of the judges (name some of the others)—himself a good man, but his sons not like him—the people suffer, and have a right to complain to Samuel—but they prescribe to God—not only ask a king, but ask in order that they might be like all the nations ("come out from among them," &c.)—God displeased, yet granted their prayer—illustrate by it Psal. cvi. 15—also James iv. 3.
- April 10.**—*Scripture to be read*—2 Sam. xxii. 1-7. *To be committed*—Rev. v. 9, 10. *Subject*—David. *Prominent topics of the Lesson*—David when delivered praised God—so did others, as Moses at the Red Sea—the Psalms of David—this the xviii.—his enemies, who—what God was to him, a rock. &c.—how he, though a king, was saved from his enemies, verse 4. In heaven the redeemed sing the praise of their Redeemer, Rev. v.
- April 17.**—*Scripture to be read*—1 Kings v. 1-12. *To be committed*—Ps. xliii. 3, 4. *Subject*—Solomon. *Prominent topics of the Lesson*—Solomon—God had given him peace, and he employs it in serving God—Tyre and Sidon—their situation on the sea—their greatness then—their meanness now—Hiram's friendship for David and Solomon—it was of the Lord, who has the hearts of all men in his hand—the treaty—the design of it—the spirit in which it was concluded. The temple and the altar.

SECOND SERIES.

- March 20.**—*Scripture to be read*—Luke x. 38-42. *To be committed*—Prov. ii. 3-6. *Subject*—The family of Bethany—the two portions. *Prominent topics of the Lesson*—Bethany, the character and history of the family from John xi. Kindness of all the family—Martha's excessive carefulness—Mary, without forgetting hospitality, seeks first the kingdom. Sitting at Jesus' feet, this thing alone needful—good, ever enduring.
- March 27.**—*Scripture to be read*—Luke xii. 22-34. *To be committed*—1 Peter v. 6, 7. *Subject*—God's care—the little flock. *Prominent topics of the Lesson*—Trust in God's care—a lesson from the brutes, from our own frame, from vegetable life—(Solomon's glory)—Those who know God in Christ find him a Father—see Lord's prayer.—If you come to him by the altar, he is an exceeding joy, Ps. xliii.—The little flock—the Father's love—the treasure in heaven.
- April 3.**—*Scripture to be read*—Matt. xii. 14-21. *To be committed*—Rom. viii. 37-39. *Subject*—Chosen of God—the trust of the Gentiles, &c. *Prominent topics of the Lesson*—Then (v. 13) they plotted his death—in his retirement continued the work—Isa. xlii. 1. Characteristics of Christ, servant, chosen, beloved, Spirit upon him—gentle in operation, but the effect mighty—trust of the Gentiles.
- April 10.**—*Scripture to be read*—Matt. xii. 38-42. *To be committed*—Jer. iii. 20-22. *Subject*—The men of Nineveh and the Queen of Sheba. *Prominent topics of the Lesson*—Why called adulterous (Jer. iii. 20)—demanding external signs, but resisting the power of the word (Luke xvii. 20, 21.) Exercise in the history of Nineveh (Jonah) and Queen of Sheba, 1 Kings x. A greater than Solomon is here.
- April 17.**—*Scripture to be read*—Matt. xiv. 1-14. *To be committed*—Ps. ciii. 8-10. *Subject*—The Baptist's death. *Prominent topics of the Lesson*—Herod, the son of the Herod mentioned Matt. ii.—His crime—John's faithfulness—firmness of character, see Luke vii. 24, 25.—Martyrdom of John—the uneasy conscience of the murderer.—Jesus retires, Matt. x. 33.—His compassion and power.