



LESSON VIII.—AUG. 20.

The River of Salvation.

Ezekiel xlviil., 1-12. Memory verse, 12.

Golden Text.

'Whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely.'—Rev. xxii., 17.

Home Readings.

M. Ezek. xlviil., 1-12. The River of Salvation.

T. Isa. xxxv. Streams in the desert.

W. II. Kings iii., 9-20. A miraculous supply.

T. Zech. xiv., 4-11. Living waters.

F. Psalm lxxv. The river of God.

S. Rev. xxi., 1-7. A free gift.

S. Rev. xxii., 1-7. Water of Life.

Lesson Text.

Supt.—1. Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar.

School.—2. Then brought he me out of the way of the gate northward, and led me about the way without unto the utter gate by the way that looketh eastward; and, behold, there ran out waters on the right side.

3. And when the man that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the waters were to the ancles.

4. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters; the waters were to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through; the waters were to the loins.

5. Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over.

6. And he said unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen this? Then he brought me, and caused me to return to the brink of the river.

7. Now when I had returned, behold, at the bank of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other.

8. Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed.

9. And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh.

10. And it shall come to pass, that the fishers shall stand upon it from En-ge'di even unto En-eg'la-im; they shall be a place to spread forth nets; their fish shall be according to their kinds, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many.

11. But the miry places thereof and the marshes thereof shall not be healed; they shall be given to salt.

12. And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine.

Suggestions.

Ezekiel was shown a vision of the water of life. This vision of the temple and the river which flowed from it was a symbol of the restoration and salvation, first of the Jews to their own country by the power of God, and to the favor of God, then to the whole family of God who are now scattered throughout the world made one in Christ Jesus. The beginning of the stream was small and narrow, but as it flowed out it broadened and deepened until it became a great river. So when exiled Israel at last returned to their own country, it would be as a small remnant, but by the grace of God they would grow and increase and prosper

until they became again a free and mighty nation.

So was the beginning of Christianity. The lowly Nazarene had but a handful of followers, the term 'Christian' was at first applied in derision and scorn. But now the river of salvation has grown so deep and broad that it flows through all the world, bearing to the uttermost parts the glad news of the Father's love shown out in the Saviour of mankind.

The river was for the cleansing and healing of all with which it should come in contact. The figure of clear water is used much as a symbol of cleansing, but no water could wash a guilty soul from its defilements. The heart washed in the blood of Jesus is made whiter than snow.

The river ran out through the desert and down into the Dead Sea, transforming and healing as it went. Where there had been a dry desert, a wide river now flowed with evergreen and fruit trees on each side of its fertile banks. So the river of life flowing from the mercy-seat of God comes down into the barren places of our lives and makes them to blossom and bring forth fruits of righteousness and peace. The river was a symbol of the deepening, broadening, and transforming power of the gospel.

The Bible Class.

'The River of God.'—Psa. xli., 4; i., 3; lxxv., 9; lxxii., 8; lxxx., 11; lxxxix., 25, 26; Isa. xli., 17, 18; xxv., 6, 7; xlv., 3, 4; lxxvi., 12; John vii., 37-39; I. Cor. x., 4; Rev. xxii., 1, 2.

'The Tree of Life.'—Gen. ii., 9; iii., 24; Rev. i., 7; xxii., 2, 14.

C. E. Topic.

Aug. 20.—The leaven and the meal. Matt. xiii., 33; Dan. ii., 31-35, 45. (A missionary meeting.)

Junior C. E.

Aug. 20.—What encouragement may we get from the story of Zaccheus? Luke xix., 1-10.

Sand Map.

Children are delighted to have lessons illustrated and geography taught by means of the sandboard map. Many appropriate toys can be found at variety stores; others can be made to take the place of pictures or symbols used on a card or cloth map. Directions for making a sand board are given as follows by Miss J. A. Dimock: A convenient size for the board is four feet six inches in length and two feet six inches in width, with a raised edge of about one inch. It may be made with very little trouble at home, or at a trifling cost by a carpenter. Paint the surface a bright blue to represent the waters of the Mediterranean; and form the map with very damp sand. The best sand is that obtained at an iron foundry, and should be new; about fifty pounds will be the quantity required. This, when molded by the hand and a small trowel into mountains and valleys, table lands, water courses, and deserts, will keep its place, even after the board is tipped at a considerable angle, so that every child in the room may see it. Make openings in the sand, showing the blue 'water' beneath, for the rivers and small seas, or use small mirrors and strips of silver paper or tin. The divisions of Palestine may be marked by cardboard fences, and the roads by white cord. A few supplemental lessons on the mountains, bodies of water, the formation of the seacoast, and the divisions of the country will familiarize the class with its physical features and pave the way for their further enjoyment of the regular lessons. If after school the sand is returned to its own box and about one quart of water poured over it, it will be in good condition for next Sunday's use.—Michigan 'Advocate.'

The prime object of the Sunday-school is the conversion of the children. And any school that aims lower than that is not fulfilling its mission, and in a school where there are no conversions, there is certainly room for serious investigation and hearty confession to God, and a change of operations and a more definite working towards this end. Every Sunday-school must assume a tremendous responsibility in this respect. It is far more important that the children that are in the school are led to Christ than that your school outrival a neighboring school in numbers, machinery and popularity.—Rev. W. H. Bucks.



Tobacco Catechism.

(By Dr. R. H. McDonald, of San Francisco.)

CHAPTER XI.—GENERAL EFFECTS ON THE SYSTEM.

1. Q.—What is the natural effect of tobacco on the system?

A.—It is narcotic and emetic.

2. Q.—What is an emetic?

A.—Anything which causes a person to vomit after taking it.

3. Q.—What is a narcotic?

A.—Any drug, which, taken in small doses, stupefies the nerves, and causes sleepiness; and in larger quantities, produces convulsions, stupor, and death.

4. Q.—Does the use of tobacco ever cause death immediately?

A.—Sometimes, but it usually poisons the system slowly.

5. Q.—But does a little do any harm?

A.—Yes. Any poison must do more or less injury, in proportion to the quantity taken.

6. Q.—Has it hereditary effects?

A.—There is no vice where the sin of the father is more strikingly visited upon the children than in the use of tobacco.

A vigorous man may use it all his life, but his children often enter life enfeebled, and predisposed to disease.

7. Q.—How is it that there are some who are not made sick by the use of tobacco?

A.—Some people have inherited a taste for it, and are not so easily affected by the poison.

8. Q.—How can a man form a habit of using tobacco if it be so deadly a poison?

A.—If taken in small doses at the beginning, the system grows to tolerate many kinds of poison.

9. Q.—What law applies to the use of tobacco, alcohol, opium, and other narcotics and stimulants?

A.—If the sudden discontinuance of the habit produces discomfort or disease, that discomfort or disease shows the amount of injury which has been done.

10. Q.—What injury is done to the system by using tobacco in any way?

A.—It poisons the stomach, affecting digestion, and often producing dyspepsia; and it renders the whole system liable to disease.

No one can use it, day by day, for any length of time, without experiencing its poisonous and baneful influences.

'The way of transgressors is hard.'—Prov. xiii., 15.

11. Q.—How does the habit of using tobacco increase the dangers of typhoid fever?

A.—In typhoid fever, there are ulcerations in the bowels, which cause death by eating through the coats of the intestines. Using tobacco promotes this perforation, and increases the chances of death.

13. Q.—How do learned and sensible physicians regard tobacco?

A.—In all forms, they regard it as too dangerous for common use even as a medicine; and they use it only in lock-jaw and other extreme disorders.

12. Q.—What effect has tobacco upon vitality?

A.—When Europeans first visited New Zealand, they found, in the native Maoris, the most finely developed and powerful men of any of the tribes inhabiting the islands of the Pacific.

Since the introduction of tobacco, for which the Maoris developed a passionate liking, they have, from this cause alone, it is said, become less in number; and at the same time, reduced in stature, and in physical well-being; so as to be an all together inferior type of men.—'Medical Journal.'

Dangerous Drugs.

(E. O. Crossman, M.D.)

Alcohol as a beverage is a menace to society, but it is not the only intoxicant or the one most disastrous to mankind. Some are more concealed in their use, and their victims do not present the outward manifestations characteristic of the drinker of alcoholic stimulants. They are certain to destroy soul, mind and body, and yet these in-