

Sabbath School Lessons.

ESTHER BEFORE THE KING.

March 12. B.C. 474.

Lesson, Esther 4: 10-5: 3. Gol. Txt. Pro. 31 : 9.

Memory vs. ch. 5 : 1-3 Catechism Q. 51.

HOME READINGS.

- M. Esther 1: 1-22Vashti Divorced.
- T. Esther 2: 1-23Esther made Queen.
- W. Esther 3: 1-15Haman's Plot.
- Th. Esther 4: 1-17Esther's Resolve.
- F. Esther 5: 1-6: 14The King's Favor.
- S. Esther 7: 1-8: 17The Plot Defeated.
- S. Esther 9: 1-10: 3Esther's Memorial.

Time.—B.C. 474, thirty years before Nehemiah went to Jerusalem; Ahasuerus, the Xerxes of Grecian history, the son and successor of Darius Hystaspes, King of Persia. Place.—Shusan, Susa, the winter capital of the Persian Empire.

Who was Ahasuerus? Who was his prime minister and favorite? How did Mordecai offend him? What plot did Haman form? Who was Esther? Title of this lesson? Golden Text? Lesson plan? Time? Place? Memory verses? Catechism?

I. *Urged to Venture*, vs. 10-14. — What charge did he give the queen? What was Esther's reply? What answer did Mordecai send the queen? What did he further suggest? What did he say about God's providence?

II. *Resolved to Go*, vs. 15-17. — What request did Esther send to Mordecai? What would she and her maidens do? What heroic resolve did she announce? What did Mordecai and the Jews do?

III. *Graciously Received*, vs. 5: 1-3. — What did Esther do on the third day? Where was the king? How did he receive Esther? What did Esther then do? What did the king say to her? How did the whole matter end?

LESSONS LEARNED.

1. Earnest, humble prayer will always prevail.
2. God exercises a watchful care over his people.
3. He will defeat the plans of their enemies.
4. No fear of danger or of death should keep us from doing our duty.

A TEMPERANCE LESSON.

March 19. About 1000 B.C.

Lesson, Prov. 23: 15-23. Gol. Text, Eph. 5: 18.

Memory vs. 19-21. Catechism Q. 14.

HOME READINGS.

- M. Prov. 1: 1-19. .A Father's Counsels.
- T. Prov. 1: 0-33. Wisdom's Warnings.
- W. Prov. 4: 14-27. The Two Paths.
- Th. Prov. 23: 15-23. Timely Admonitions.
- F. Eph. 5: 1-20. .Be not Drunk with Wine.
- S. Gal. 6: 1-10. .Sowing and Reaping.
- S. Colos. 3: 1-17. . "All in the name of the L. Jesus."

Who wrote the book of Proverbs? Of what is it a collection? Title of this lesson? Golden Text? Lesson plan? Time? Place? Memory verses? Catechism?

I. *The Reward of Wise Living*, vs. 15-19. — What does the wise man say in verse 15? Meaning of *if thy heart be wise*? What similar saying in Prov. 10: 1? What was the Psalmist's prayer? Psalm 51: 10? How does the heart affect the living? Matt. 15: 18, 19; Luke 6: 45. Why should we not envy sinners? Psalm 63. What counsel in v. 17? What is meant by *the fear of the Lord*? What shall be the reward of wise living? v. 18.

II. *The Curse of Intemperance*, vs. 20, 21. — Whose company and example are we exhorted to shun? Why should we keep out of such company? What curse is pronounced upon the drunkard and the glutton? What further is said of wine-drinkers in verses 29-32? Why should we avoid every kind of intemperance?

III. *The Blessing of Faithfulness*, vs. 22, 23. — What precept is given in verse 22? Which is the fifth commandment? What does it require? What forbid? What is the reason annexed to the fifth commandment? What purchase are we exhorted to make? By what motives are the duties enjoined in this lesson enforced in verses 24-26? What other reasons can you give for their observance?

LESSONS LEARNED.

1. Wise and good children are a joy to their parents and teachers.
2. Only when the heart is right will the life be right.
3. A right life will receive a gracious reward.
4. Bad company will lead to bad ways.
5. Intemperance leads to poverty, disgrace and ruin.