

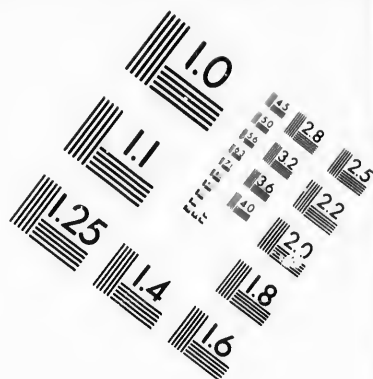
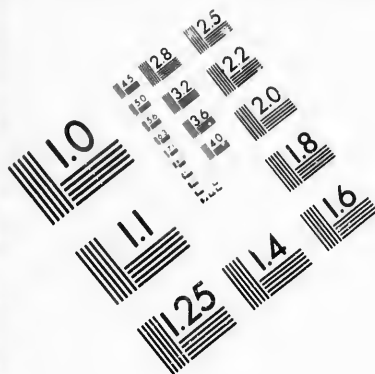
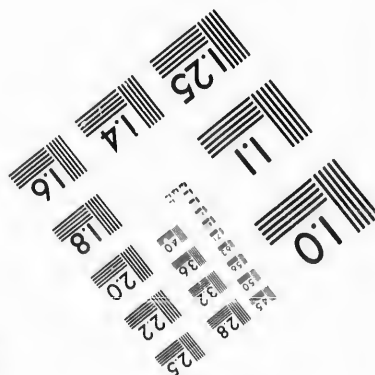
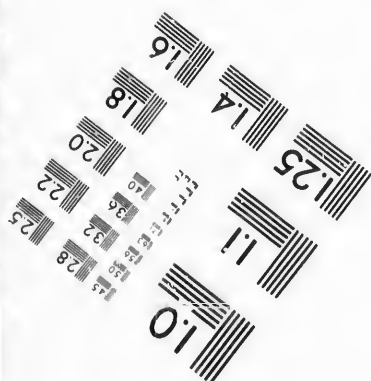
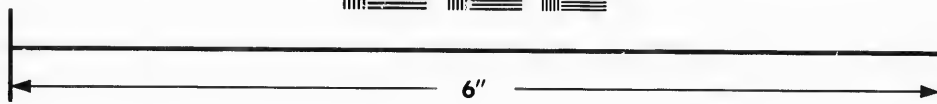
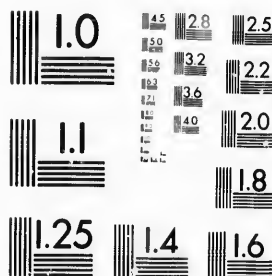


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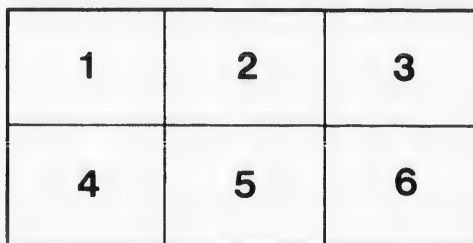
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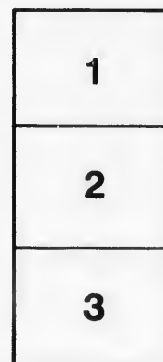
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PINNOCK'S CATECHISMS.

A

CATECHISM

OF

BIBLE AND GOSPEL HISTORY,

ADAPTED

TO THE

CAPACITY OF YOUNG MINDS.

LONDON:

PUBLISHED BY WHITTAKER, TREACHER & CO.

HALIFAX, N. S.

RE-PRINTED FOR A. & W. MACKINLAY.

1846.

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A SHORT
BIBLE AND GOSPEL HISTORY.

CHAPTER I.

Question. Who made you and all the world ?

Answer. God.

Q. What is the world called ?

A. The Earth.

Q. What did God call the light ?

A. Day.

Q. What did he call darkness ?

A. Night.

Q. What did he call the sky ?

A. The Firmament.

Q. What did he call the gathering together of the waters ?

A. Seas.

Q. What did he call the dry land ?

A. Earth.

Q. For what purpose did God make the sun ?

A. To give light by day.

Q. For what purpose did he make the moon ?

A. To give light by night.

Q. What creatures did God make to live in the sea ?

A. Fishes of all sorts.

Q. What creatures were made to live in the firmament?

A. Fowls and birds of every kind.

Q. What creatures to live upon the earth?

A. Beasts, insects, and reptiles.

CHAPTER II.

Q. WITH what did God make the first man?

A. The dust of the earth.

Q. With what did he make the first woman?

A. With one of the man's ribs, taken out of his side while he slept.

Q. How long was God creating the world and all that it contains?

A. Six days.

Q. What did he do on the seventh day?

A. He rested on the seventh day and blessed it.

Q. What was the name of the first man?

A. Ad'am.

Q. What was the name of the first woman?

A. Eve.

Q. Where did God put Ad'am and Eve after he had made them?

A. In a pleasant garden, called E'den*.

* Q. Where was the garden of E'den supposed to have been situated?

A. In Chal'dea, on the north of the Persian Gulf, near the present Bass'ora in Asiatic Turkey.

Q. What command did God give Ad'am and Eve when he put them into the garden ?

A. Not to eat the fruit of a particular tree.

Q. What was the tree called ?

A. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Q. Did they obey God ?

A. No ; they ate the fruit.

Q. Who ate it first ?

A. Eve, and then gave some to Ad'am.

Q. Who tempted Eve to eat the fruit ?

A. The Devil in the shape of a Serpent.

Q. How did God punish Ad'am and Eve for eating the fruit ?

A. He turned them out of the garden of E'den, and told them that they should die.

Q. Would they not have died, if they had not eaten the fruit ?

A. No ; they probably would have lived for ever if they had been obedient to God.

Q. When God turned them out of the garden, what did he promise them ?

A. That he would send a Saviour into the world, to save them from everlasting death.

Q. Who was that Saviour ?

A. Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Q. How were Ad'am and Eve clothed after they left the garden ?

A. God made them coats of the skins of beasts.

CHAPTER III.

Q. Who were Cain and A'bel ?

A. The two first sons of A'dam and Eve.

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Q. In what manner did mankind display their devotion after the fall?

A. By offering burnt sacrifices to God.

Q. How did they do this?

A. By killing a lamb, and burning it upon an altar.

Q. Why did they do this?

A. To shew that they believed God's promise of a Saviour.

Q. What is meant by the Fall?

A. The disobedience of Ad'am and Eve, by which all mankind became subject to death.

Q. Were Cain and A'bel both good?

A. No; Cain was wicked.

Q. What did he do?

A. He killed his brother A'bel.

Q. Why did he kill him?

A. Through envy, because his sacrifice was accepted, and Cain's was not.

Q. What happened to Cain after being so wicked?

A. He was so much hated by all that knew him, as to be obliged to leave his country, and live in a foreign land.

Q. To what country did he go?

A. To the land of Nod*.

* Q. Where was the land of Nod supposed to have been situated?

A. In that part of A'sia now called Per'sia. (And Cain went out from the presence of the Lord, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of E'den.)—*Genesis* iv. 16.

CATECHISM OF
CHAPTER IV.

Q. WHAT was the Flood?

A. When the world was full of people, and they were all grown very wicked, God sent a great deal of rain to drown them all; it filled all the earth, and was called the Flood.

Q. Was every body wicked?

A. There was only one good man.

Q. What was his name?

A. No'ah.

Q. Did God drown him?

A. No; God told him to build an ark, a kind of vessel to float upon the waters; and to go into it with all his family, and some of all kinds of creatures.

Q. What were the names of No'ah's three sons who went into the ark with him?

A. Shem, Ham, and Ja'pheth.

Q. How long was the rain coming down from heaven?

A. Forty days and forty nights.

Q. When the waters abated, where did the ark rest?

A. Upon the top of a mountain, called Ar'arat*.

Q. When No'ah wanted to know if the waters were gone, what did he do?

A. He sent a dove out of the ark, and it could not find a place that was dry to rest upon, and it came back again to the ark.

*Q. Where was mount Ar'arat?

A. In Arme'nia, in the northern part of the present Per'sia.

Q. What did No'ah do then ?

A. He sent it out again seven days after, and it came back with an olive leaf in its mouth.

Q. When did No'ah send it out again ?

A. Seven days after, and it did not come back any more, so that No'ah knew that the waters were gone.

Q. When the waters were gone, what did God tell No'ah to do ?

A. To go out of the ark, with all his family, and all the creatures it contained.

Q. What did God promise to No'ah ?

A. That he would not destroy the earth again by a flood.

Q. What did he say should be a sign to make mankind remember his promise ?

A. The rainbow.

CHAPTER V.

Q. WHEN the flood was over, how many persons were left in the world ?

A. Eight.

Q. Who were they ?

A. No'ah and his wife, and his three sons and their wives.

Q. Were No'ah's sons, Shem, Ham, and Ja'pheth, all good ?

A. No : Ham was a wicked man.

Q. What did the children of No'ah's sons do ?

A. They began to build the tower of Ba'bel*.

* Q. Where was the tower of Ba'bel ?

A. In the city of Ba'bel, or Bab'ylon, which was

Q. What was the tower of Ba'bel?

A. A tower which they meant to build up as high as heaven.

Q. Why did they wish to build it as high as heaven?

A. To save themselves from being drowned, in case God should send another flood.

Q. Did God let them finish their work?

A. No; he confounded their language, so that they could not understand one another.

Q. What did they do then?

A. They all went to different parts of the world; and dispersing themselves as each understood the other, formed several tribes and nations; for before this all the descendants of No'ah constituted a single people.

CHAPTER VI.

Q. Who was A'braham?

A. The pattern of believers, and the friend of God.

Q. Who was Sa'rah?

A. A'braham's Wife.

Q. What did God command A'braham to do?

situated on the river Euphra'tes, in Bab'ylonia. The city of Bab'ylon was built by Nim'rod, the son of Cush, and enlarged by the celebrated queen Semir'amis, who is said to have employed two hundred thousand men to encompass it with a wall in which were one hundred brazen gates, and was forty-five miles in circumference. Bab'ylon is also famous for the death of Alexander the Great,

A. To leave his country, and go to a land which God would shew him.

Q. Did A'braham obey God ?

A. Yes ; he went to the land of Ca'naan*.

Q. Whom did he take with him ?

A. His wife Sa'rah, and his nephew Lot.

Q. What did A'braham's and Lot's servants do ?

A. They quarrelled.

Q. What did A'braham and Lot consider it best to do on this occasion ?

A. They thought it would be better to part.

Q. Where did Lot go and live ?

A. In a city called Sod'om†.

Q. What promise was made by God to A'braham after this event ?

A. God promised that A'braham should be the father of a great nation.

Q. What was the name of A'braham's first son ?

A. Ish'mael.

Q. What was the name of the other son promised by God to A'braham when he was an old man ?

A. I'saac.

* Q. Where was the land of Ca'naan ?

A. In the south-west part of Asiatic Turkey. The Land of Ca'naan, at different times, has had the several names of *The Land of Promise*, *The Land of Is'rael*, *Palestine*, *Jude'a*, and *the Holy Land*.

† Q. Where was Sodom ?

A. In the plains of Jor'dan, in the land of Ca'naan : which country has been overflowing with water, and become a lake, now called the Dead Sea.

CHAPTER VII.

Q. WHAT was the character of Ish'mael?

A. He was a rude boy, and behaved ill to I'saac, and was sent away from home with his mother Ha'gar.

Q. What was the name of the great town near Sod'om?

A. Gomor'rah*.

Q. In what manner did the Almighty punish the wickedness of the people who lived in these towns?

A. He sent fire from heaven, and consumed them both, and all their inhabitants.

Q. Did he burn Lot?

A. No; he told him to go out of Sod'om with his wife and his two daughters.

Q. What happened to Lot's wife?

A. She looked back, though God had ordered her not, and wanted to return to Sod'om; for which God turned her into a pillar of salt.

Q. Where did Lot go and live with his daughters?

A. In a cave near the city of Zo'ar†.

* Q. Where was Gomor'rah situated?

A. A little north of Sod'om, in Ca'naan, in that part now called the Dead Sea. Gomor'rah was considered the second city of Pentap'olis, and Sod'om the first. Pentap'olis is from the Greek, signifying a country of five cities, which name was given to Sod'om, Gomor'rah, Ad'-mah, Ze'-boim, and Zo'ar. These were all destroyed by fire from heaven, except Zo'ar, which was saved through the intercession of Lot with the Almighty.

† Q. Where was Zo'ar situated?

A. In Ca'naan, on the southern part of the Dead Sea. It

CHAPTER VIII.

Q. WHEN I'saac was arrived at the age of manhood, what did God command A'braham to do ?

A. To kill him and offer him up as a sacrifice to him.

Q. Where did God tell him to do this ?

A. Upon one of the mountains in the land of Mori'ah*.

Q. Why did he order A'braham to kill his son ?

A. To shew the world that A'braham loved God, and would obey his commands.

Q. Did A'braham obey God ?

A. He would have done so, but just as he was going to kill his son, an angel prevented him, and told him to kill a ram that was caught in the bushes.

Q. What was A'braham called for his obedience to God ?

A. The Father of the Faithful.

Q. What was the conduct of A'braham when very old, and he wished his son to marry ?

A. He sent his steward to another country, called Mesopota'mia†, to find a wife for I'saac.

Q. What did the steward take with him ?

has had the several names of *Bella Saslis'sa*, and *Ba'al Salis'sa*.

* Q. Where was Mount Mori'ah or Cal'vary ?

A. Mount Mori'ah was situated near the gates of Jerusalem.

† Q. Where was Mesopota'mia ?

A. Mesopota'mia, a district to the east of Ca'naan, was situated between the rivers Ti'gris and Euphra'tes.

A. A great many things upon camels for presents.

Q. When the camels had gone a great way without water, what did the steward do?

A. He stopped at a well, and kneeled down, and prayed to God that the woman who was to marry I'saac might come and draw some water for him and his camels.

Q. Who came to the well?

A. Rebek'ah with her sheep, and offered to draw some water for him and his camels.

Q. Who was Rebek'ah?

A. The daughter of a nephew of A'braham.

Q. What did the steward do then?

A. He gave her some presents, and went home with her, and her father and mother gave her leave to go with the steward.

Q. When Rebek'ah arrived in the land of Ca'naan, what did she do?

A. She married I'saac, and was a very good wife to him.

Q. Did Sa'rah live to see her son I'saac married?

A. No; she died before he was married.

Q. To what age did A'braham live?

A. To the age of a hundred and seventy-five years.

Q. Where did his sons bury him?

A. In the cave of Macphe'lah*, where his wife Sa'rah was buried.

*Q. What was Macphe'lah, and where situated?

A. Macphe'lah was a field or plain, situated before He'bron in the south of Ca'naan.---He'bron, at one period, was the capital of Idume'a, the royal residence of David.

CHAPTER IX.

Q. How many sons had I'saac and Rebek'ah ?

A. Two : E'sau and Ja'cob.

Q. Which was the elder ?

A. E'sau.

Q. What can you tell about E'sau ?

A. One day when he came home from hunting, very hungry, he saw his brother eating a mess of pottage, or broth, and he sold his birthright to Ja'cob for the broth.

Q. Why did Ja'cob make this bargain with his brother ?

A. Because he wished to be the father of the great nation which God had promised to A'braham.

Q. Did I'saac know that E'sau had sold his birthright ?

A. No.

Q. When I'saac was very old, and quite blind, what did he tell E'sau to do ?

A. He told him to go and get some venison, and dress it, and bring it to him, that he might bless him before he died.

Q. What did Rebek'ah do ?

A. She heard what I'saac said to E'sau, and she told Ja'cob to dress himself up in E'sau's clothes, and get some meat, and cook it like venison, and take it to his father, that he might bless him before E'sau came home.

Q. Was I'saac deceived ?

A. He was ; and he prophesied that the posterity of his son Ja'cob would be blessed above his brother's race

Q. When E'sau came home, what did he do?

A. He was very angry with his brother, and said, as soon as his father was dead, he would kill him.

Q. What did Rebek'ah tell Ja'cob?

A. To go to a place a great way off, that his brother might not kill him.

CHAPTER X.

Q. WHAT happened to Ja'cob the first night of his journey?

A. He laid himself down on the ground, with only a stone for his pillow, but God gave him a comfortable dream.

Q. What did he dream?

A. He dreamed that he saw angels going up and down between earth and heaven, and God promised him that in his seed all the families of the earth should be blessed; and that he would bless him wherever he went, and bring him back to his native land.

Q. When Ja'cob awoke, what did he call the place?

A. Beth'el*.

Q. Where did Ja'cob go then?

A. To Pa'dan-a'ram†, to the house of his mother's brother.

* Q. Where was Beth'el?

A. In Ca'naan. It was first called *Luz*, but Ja'cob gave it the name of Beth'el, which signifies the House of God, It was afterwards called Beth-a'ven, which means the House of Idolatry.—*Hosea* iv. 15.

† Q. Where was Pa'dan-a'ram?

A. Pa'dan-a'ram is the name of Mesopota'mia, which is sometimes called Sedan-a'ram.—*Hosea* xiii. 13.

Q. What was his name ?

A. La'ban.

Q. What did he do there ?

A. He married Laban's two daughters.

Q. What were their names ?

A. Le'ah and Ra'chel.

Q. How many children had he ?

A. Twelve sons and one daughter.

Q. How long did Jacob stay with La'ban ?

A. Twenty years ; and then set out with his wives and children to go to Ca'naan.

Q. What did E'sau do when he heard his brother was coming back ?

A. He went to meet him with four hundred men.

Q. When they met, what happened ?

A. God softened E'sau's heart, and he was glad to see his brother, and they were reconciled.

Q. Did Ja'cob find his father I'saac alive ?

A. Yes ; but he died soon after.

Q. Where was he buried ?

A. In the cave of Machpe'lah, where his father A'braham was buried.

Q. Do you recollect how many sons Ja'cob had ?

A. Twelve.

Q. What was the name of the youngest but one ?

A. Joseph.

CHAPTER XI.

Q. What do you recollect about Joseph ?

A. He was a very good young man, and his father

loved him better than his elder brothers, which made them very jealous, and they resolved to kill him.

Q. Did they kill him?

A. No; Reu'ben, one of his brothers, persuaded them to put him into a pit, intending to take him out when they were gone.

Q. Did they leave him in the pit?

A. No; some people came by, who bought men and women for slaves, and they sold Jo'seph to them.

Q. What did they tell his father Ja'cob?

A. That his darling was killed by a wild beast; and they dipped his coat, which was of many colours, in blood, to make him believe it.

Q. Where did the people who bought Jo'seph take him?

A. To E'gypt.*

Q. What happened to him in E'gypt?

A. At first he suffered great distress: but he behaved so well, that Pha'raoh †, king of E'gypt, made him governor of that kingdom.

*Q. Where is E'gypt situated?

A. In the north-east part of Africa. This country was formerly one of the most celebrated in the world, and is said to have contained twenty thousand cities; but at present it is divested of its ancient grandeur, and its inhabitants are so degenerated, and sunk into such a state of ignorance, that we can scarcely believe that it was once the seat of learning and the arts. In consequence of the overflowing of the Nile, E'gypt is remarkable for its fertility. It is called *Miz'raim* in the Hebrew, after Miz'raim, the son of Ham, who was the founder of the nation.

† The word Pha'raoh was a common name of the kings

Q. How did he meet with his brothers again ?

A. There being a famine in their own country, his brothers came to E'gypt for to buy corn.

Q. What did Jo'seph do when he saw his brothers?

A. He knew them, and forgave them, and sent them to fetch their father, that they might all come, and settle in E'gypt, and be provided for by him.

Q. What were Jacob's children called ?

A. Is'raelites ; because Is'rael was one of Ja'cob's names.

CHAPTER XII.

Q. WHEN the good king Pha'raoh died, what happened to the Is'raelites in E'gypt ?

A. There was another king Pha'raoh, who did not fear God, and he used the Is'raelites very ill, and treated them like slaves : and he ordered, that if any of them had little boys, they should be thrown into the river.

Q. Did any of the Is'raelites disobey this cruel edict ?

A. One of them named Am'ram and his wife Joch'abed, concealed their infant son for more than three months.

Q. What did they do at the end of that time ?

A. Fearing that he would be found and drowned, they made a cradle of bulrushes, and laid him down by the river side, trusting in God to preserve him.

of E'gypt, as Cæsar was among the Romans ; ten kings of the name of Pha'raoh are mentioned in Scripture. It is pronounced *Faro*.

Q. What happened to him ?

A. Pha'raoh's daughter found him, and took him and brought him up as her own child.

Q. What name did she give him ?

A. The name of Mo'ses.

Q. Why did she give him that name ?

A. On account of the place in which she had found the infant, for Mo'ses signifies "taken out of the waters."

Q. Whom did she take for his nurse ?

A. His mother Joch'abed.

Q. What was the name of Mo'ses' brother ?

A. A'aron.

Q. When Mo'ses was grown up, what did God tell him to do ?

A. To take his brother A'aron with him, and go to Pha'raoh, and tell him he must let the people of Is'rael go.

Q. Did Pha'raoh let them go ?

A. No : he said he did not fear God, and would not let them go.

Q. What did God do ?

A. He sent many plagues to make him fear him, and at last killed all the eldest sons of the E'gyptians in one night.

Q. Did Pha'raoh let them go then ?

A. Yes ; but after they were gone, he was sorry for it, and went after them with all his army.

Q. Where did he come up with them ?

A. On the borders of the Red Sea*.

*Q. Where is the Red Sea, and why is it so called ?

A. The Red Sea is situated between E'gypt and

Q. How did the Is'raelites get through the Red Sea ?

A. God divided the waters, and they went through on dry land.

Q. What happened to Pha'raoh ?

A. He went after them ; but God brought all the water back upon him, and drowned him with all his army.

“ Over horse, and over car,
Over every man of war ;
Over Pharaoh's crown of gold,
The loud thundering billows roll'd ;
As the level waters spread,
Down they sank, they sank like lead.”

CHAPTER XIII.

Q. AFTER God had delivered the Is'raelites out of E'gypt, whom did he appoint to be their leader ?

A. Mo'ses.

Q. How did he shew them which way he wished them to go ?

A. He caused a cloudy pillar to go before them in the day ; and a pillar of fire in the night.

Ara'bia, and is so called from the word *E'dom*, which signifies *red*. E'sau having sold his birthright to his younger brother Ja'cob for some *red* pottage, he was afterwards named *E'dom* or *red*; and the country which he resided in received his name. Hence this sea was called the *Red* Sea, as it was situated on the borders of E'dom ; and it was through the north part of it that the Is'raelites passed when they escaped from Pha'raoh.

Q. How did God feed them?

A. He rained manna from heaven to serve them instead of bread.

Q. What was manna?

A. A delicious kind of food.

Q. How did he give them drink?

A. Twice, when they were thirsty, he caused water to flow from a stony rock.

Q. Where did God give them the Ten Commandments?

A. Upon the top of a mountain, called Mount Si'nia*.

Q. In what manner were the Commandments given?

A. He wrote them upon two tables of stone, and gave them to Mo'ses.

Q. What was there particular about Mo'ses, when he came down from the mountain?

A. His face shone so bright that the people could not look at him.

Q. When God had given to Mo'ses the Commandments and other laws, what did he tell him to do?

A. He commanded him to erect a tabernacle, which was a sort of tent, for public worship.

Q. What did God tell Mo'ses to do to his brother A'aron?

A. To anoint him to be high priest, and his sons to be priests under him. God also commanded Mo'ses to set apart the tribe of Le'vi for the service of the tabernacle.

* Q. Where is Mount Si'nia?

A. In Ara'bia Petræ'a.

CHAPTER XIV.

Q. WHAT was the principal thing kept in the tabernacle?

A. The ark of the covenant.

Q. What was the ark of the covenant?

A. A small chest, covered with gold, the lid of which was called the mercy-seat.

Q. What was kept in this ark?

A. The two tables of the law.

Q. When the people of Is'rael were journeying through the wilderness; how did they know when they were to stop and when to go on?

A. When the pillar of cloud, which was always over the tabernacle, moved, they knew they were to go on; when it stood still, they knew they were to stop, set up the tabernacle. and pitch their tents.

Q. How did the people of Is'rael behave after God had delivered them from the Egyp'tians?

A. They murmured and rebelled against God, whenever they were in any difficulty.

Q. How did God punish them?

A. He said that all the men who came out of E'gypt, except Josh'ua and Caleb, who were faithful, should die in the wilderness; but that their children should take possession of Ca'naan.

Q. Where did A'aron die?

A. Upon Mount Hor*, and Elea'zer, his son, was made high priest in his stead.

* Q. Where was Mount Hor?

A. In the north part of Ara'bia Petra's, bordering on Ca'naan.

Q. Did Mo'ses go into the promised land ?

A. No ; but God gave him a view of it from Mount Pis'gah*, and he died in the land of Mo'ab†.

CHAPTER XV.

Q. When Mo'ses was dead, whom did God appoint to be the leader of the people of Is'rael ?

A. Josh'ua.

Q. What was the name of the first town they took possession of in the land of Ca'naan ?

A. Je'richo‡.

Q. Did they take it without resistance ?

A. No : the people resisted them, and God gave them possession of it by a miracle.

Q. What was the miracle ?

A. God ordered them to carry the ark of the covenant round the town for six days, and on the seventh the priests were to blow their trumpets and the people shout ; and when they had done this, the walls of the town fell flat to the ground ; and they went in, and took possession of it.

Q. Was Josh'ua a good man ?

*Q. Where was Mount Pis'gah situated ?

A. In the land of Mo'ab, to the east of the river Jor'dan.

† Q. Where was the land of Mo'ab ?

A. In Ara'bia Petræ'a, situated to the east of the Dead Sea.

‡ Q. Where was the city of Jer'icho situated ?

A. In the land of Ca'naan, about twenty three miles from Jer'usalem.

A. Yes ; he lived to an old age, and was much regretted when he died.

CHAPTER XVI.

Q. AFTER the death of Josh'ua, what was the behaviour of the next generation of the people of Is'rael ?

A. They did not remain faithful to God, but worshipped idols, and did not destroy the nations that were left in the land of Ca'naan.

Q. How were they punished for their transgressions ?

A. God delivered them over into the hands of the Heathen nations, by whom they were cruelly harassed.

Q. How did they act in their distress ?

A. While oppressed by calamity they remembered their sins, and besought pardon from their offended God ; and the Lord sent them deliverers, who freed them from the power of their enemies.

Q. Did they shew themselves grateful for this deliverance ?

A. No ; as soon as they found themselves in safety they again fell into idolatry, and provoked the anger of the Almighty by their manifold transgressions.

Q. What was the civil state of the country ?

A. "There was no king in Is'rael, and every man did that which seemed right in his own eyes ;" consequently the country was distracted by many atrocious outrages which it was scarcely possible to prevent.

Q. What was the external condition of the country?

A. When the protection of Jeho'vah was withdrawn, the Israelites suffered severely from the invasions of the hostile nations which surrounded the land of Ca'naan.

Q. Who were the most powerful of their enemies?

A. The Philis'tines?

Q. Who were the Philis'tines?

A. A people of the southern part of Ca'naan.

Q. Did God suffer the Philis'tines to overcome them?

A. No; he raised up a very strong man whose name was Sam'son; he was so strong that he could kill a lion as easily as a lamb.

Q. What proofs of strength did he give?

A. He could fight with hundreds of men at once. When he was shut up in the city of Ga'za†, he took the gates of the town upon his shoulders and carried them away.

Q. Was Sam'son a good man?

A. He was frequently seduced to transgress the divine laws, and once to punish him, God deprived him of his strength; when Sam'son thus lost the assistance of the Almighty, he fell an easy prey to the

* Q. Where was the land of the Philis'tines?

A. (See Map.) On the sea coast to the south-west of Ca'naan.

† Q. Where was the city of Ga'za situated?

A. In the southern part of Ca'naan, on the borders of the Mediterranean Sea. It was in this city that Camby'ses deposited his riches when he went into E'gypt.

Philis'tines, who threw him into prison and put out his eyes.

Q. What did he do then?

A. He repented, and prayed to God, and God gave him his strength again; but the Philistines did not know it.

Q. What did the Philis'tines do?

A. They one day sent for him to the temple of one of their idols, and he laid hold of the two pillars which supported it, and pulled the buildings upon them, and destroyed them all.

Q. Did Sam'son die with them?

A. Yes; God suffered him to be killed, because he had been wicked.

CHAPTER XVII.

Q. Is the history of any private family introduced among the historical books of the Old Testament?

A. Yes; the book of Ruth contains a very affecting narrative of the life of a widow named Nao'mi and her daughter-in-law, Ruth.

Q. Why is this narrative introduced?

A. To shew the origin of the royal family of David, from which Je'sus Christ, the Saviour of the world, was descended.

Q. How did Nao'mi and Ruth become acquainted?

A. Nao'mi's husband removed with his two sons into the land of Mo'ab; and soon after the young men married two sisters, Or'pah and Ruth. In a short time, however, Nao'mi witnessed the death of

her husband and children, and determined in consequence to return to her own country.

Q. In what manner did Nao'mi's daughters-in-law behave ?

A. One remained at home with her own kindred, but Ruth refused to be parted from Nao'mi ; saying, "Whither thou goest I will go, thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God."

Q. On their arrival in Ju'dea how did Ruth behave ?

A. She worked as a gleaner in the field, for her own and Nao'mi's support.

Q. Did any remarkable circumstance occur there ?

A. Yes ; her beauty and modesty attracted the attention of Bo'az, a near relative of her deceased husband ; having made enquiries respecting her conduct, he sought and obtained her as his wife.

Q. What was their son's name ?

A. O'bed, the grandfather of Da'vid, who became king of Is'rael, and from whom the Mes'siah was descended.

Q. Who was Han'nah ?

A. A very good woman, who lived in the days of E'li.

Q. Who was E'li ?

A. High-priest and judge of Is'rael.

Q. What is meant by the Land of Is'rael ?

A. The Land of Is'rael comprehended all Ca'naan*

* *The Land of Ca'naan* was so called because it was first peopled by the descendants of Ca'naan (the son of Ham)—It received the name of *The Land of Promise*, because God had promised to give it to the descendants of Abra'ham,

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which God gave for an inheritance to the descendants of Ja'cob, afterwards called the children of Is'rael.

Q. What can you tell me about Han'nah?

A. She had no children, which made her very unhappy, and she prayed to God that he would please to let her have a child; her prayers were heard, and she had a son.

Q. What name did she give him?

A. The name of Sa'muel.

Q. What do you know about Sam'uel?

A. As soon as he could speak, his mother taught him to fear and love God: and when he was four years old she brought him to E'li, and told him she wished him to spend his whole life in serving God: so E'li took him to live with him, and Sam'uel grew wiser and better every year.

Q. What did God do with Sam'uel?

A. At length he made him his prophet; that is, he employed him to tell the people of Is'rael what he chose they should do.

Isaac and Jacob—It was called the *Land of the He'b'rews Is'raelites. or Is'rael*, since the time of Jos'h'ua, who divided it among the twelve tribes of Is'rael.—In the time of Rehobo'am, the son of Solomon, it was divided into two kingdoms, that of *Is'rael* and *Ju'dea*, and continued so till the inhabitants were led in captivity to Baby'lou, and A-syria; but after their return, it received the name of *Ju'dea*, from the tribe of Ju'dah—It was called *Phœni'cia* and *Pal'estine* by the Greeks and Ro'mans.—The name of the *Holy Land* was given to it by the Chri'tians, on account of the miracles wrought there by Je'sus Christ. Phœni'cia comprised also a considerable portion north of Ca'naan, which included Tyre and Si'don.

Q. Did the people of Is'rael remain satisfied with Sam'uel as their Judge?

A. No; at last they insisted upon having a king, which was very foolish and 'wicked, as God was their king: but as they wished it, the Lord said they should have a king.

Q. Whom did God choose to be king of Is'rael?

A. Saul, the son of Kish, of the tribe of Ben'jamin.

CHAPTER XVIII.

Q. WHAT can you tell me about Saul's being made king?

A. He was travelling in search of some asses his father had lost, and he went to Ra'mah, to the house of Sam'uel, who anointed him king, as the Lord commanded: afterwards when Sam'uel presented him to the people of Is'rael as king, they shouted, and said, God save the king.

Q. Was Saul a good king?

A. At first he was a very good king, and subdued all their enemies; but afterwards he grew proud, and despised the commands of God, who sent Sam'uel, the prophet, to tell him that he would take his blessing from him, and give it to a better man than he; after which he could not conquer the enemies of Is'rael, and was very unhappy to the end of his life.

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CHAPTER XIX.

Q. Who was Da'vid?

A. Da'vid was the son of a man named Jes'se, who lived at Beth'lehem*.

Q. Was Da'vid a good youth?

A. Yes: he loved God with all his heart,

Q. What can you tell me about Da'vid?

A. When Saul proved wicked, God chose Da'vid to be the next king of Is'rael, and sent Sam'uel to anoint him, but did not let him come to the throne till after Saul's death.

Q. Can you tell me any thing remarkable that Da'vid did?

A. When he was a very young man, there was a war between the Is'raelites and Philis'tines; and among the Philis'tines was a monstrous giant named Goli'ah of Gath†, who frightened Saul and his people very much; but David, trusting in God, went to fight the great giant, and killed him, with no other weapon than a sling and a stone.

Q. What did he do after he had killed the giant?

A. He cut off his head, and then the Is'raelites were delivered from their enemies.

Q. After this, what happened to Da'vid?

A. Saul was very jealous of him, and would have

* Q. Where was Beth'lehem?

A. About six miles from Jeru'salem.

† Q. Where was Gath?

A. A noted city of the Philis'tines; about thirty-two miles west of Jeru'salem.

killed him, if the Lord had not many times delivered him out of his hands; at last, Saul was killed in battle, and Da'vid was made king of Is'rael.

Q. What great town did Da'vid build?

A. He built Jeru'salem*, upon Mount Sion.

Q. Of what was Da'vid particularly fond?

A. He was very fond of playing upon the harp and singing to the glory of God; and he wrote a number of Psalms, which are now read and sung in our churches.

CHAPTER XX.

Q. Who was Ab'salom?

A. One of David's sons.

Q. Was he a good young man?

A. No: he liked better to follow idle sports than to serve God, and he did not love his good father; he wished the people to make him king instead of Da'vid, and raised an army to fight against his father.

Q. Did Da'vid love his wicked son?

A. Yes; and begged all his officers to save his life.

Q. Did God suffer him to go unpunished?

A. No; as he was riding, his hair, which was very long, caught in the boughs of an oak, and the mule

* Q. What was Jeru'salem?

A. Jeru'salem was the capital of Ju'dea. It was founded in the year of the world 2035 by Melchiz'edeck, when the *Jews* entered the Land of Promise.

left him hanging to the tree by his hair, till Jo'ab, one of Da'vid's officers, saw him, and killed him with a spear.

Q. Did Da'vid rejoice at Ab'salom's death?

A. No: he lamented, and said, Oh! that I had died for thee. Oh! Ab'salom, my son, my son!

Q. When Da'vid was an old man, what did he do?

A. He made one of his sons, whose name was Sol'omon, king in his stead, and soon after died.

CHAPTER XXI.

Q. WHAT can you tell me about Sol'omon?

A. That he was the wisest man that ever lived, and while he honoured God, he was a very powerful monarch.

Q. What remarkable thing did he do?

A. He built a magnificent temple, for the worship of God, at Jeru'salem, on Mount Mori'ah, where A'braham offered up his son I'saac.

Q. What was the temple called?

A. Sol'omon's Temple.

Q. Did Sol'omon continue a good and wise king?

A. No; he became vain of his wisdom, and set up idols for the people of Is'rael to worship, which made God very angry, and he told Sol'omon that he would take the kingdom from his family. So Sol'omon lost the favour of God, and was very unhappy during the rest of his life.

CATECHISM OF
CHAPTER XXII.

Q. Who succeeded So'lomon?

A. Rehobo'am, his son, who was a very foolish prince, and took the advice of young persons, and told his subjects he would use them ill.

Q. What was the consequence of this folly?

A. A great many of the people made Jerobo'am, one of So'lomon's officers, their king.

Q. What was the consequence of this?

A. The kingdom of Is'rael was divided into two parts, one of which was called the kingdom of Ju'dah, and the other the kingdom of Is'rael.

Q. What was the kingdom of Ju'dah?

A. The tribes of Ju'dah and Ben'jamin, who remained faithful to Rehobo'am.

Q. What was the kingdom of Is'rael?

A. The other ten tribes, who made Jerobo'am their king.

Q. Was Jerobo'am a good king?

A. No; he was very proud and wicked, and made two golden calves for the people to sacrifice to, instead of God; he set up one in Dan*, and the other in Beth'el.

Q. What can you tell me about this?

A. As Jerobo'am was offering a sacrifice to the calf of Beth'el, God sent a prophet to him to tell him that his altar would be destroyed; Jerobo'am put out his

* Where was Dan?

A. The city of Dan was situated near the head of the river Jor'dan, in the north of Ca'nnaan.

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hand to lay hold on the prophet; but God caused Jerobo'am's hand to wither, and the altar was split in pieces.

Q. What effect had these miracles upon Jerobo'am?

A. He intreated the prophet to pray for him, who did so; and his hand was restored; but Jerobo'am did not amend his conduct.

Q. What city did Jerobo'am build?

A. The city of Sama'ria*. After Jerobo'am's death, a number of kings reigned over Is'rael; but the glory of the nation was taken away, because the king and the people did not obey God.

CHAPTER XXIII.

Q. Who was A'hab?

A. One of the kings of Is'rael. He was a wicked man, and his queen, who was named Jez'ebel, hated the Lord, and worshipped idols.

Q. Who was Eli'jah?

A. A very good man, who lived in the days of A'hab and Jez'ebel, and God made him a prophet, that is, sent him to foretel things that were to happen at a future time and to tell the people of Is'rael that they must worship God, and forsake idols.

* Q. What was Sama'ria?

A. Sama'ria, situated about the centre of Ca'naan, was the capital of the province of Sama'ria; at that period it was the seat of the kings of Is'rael.

Q. Did A'hab and Jez'ebel attend to what Eli'jah said ?

A. No ; they were so angry with him, that they attempted to kill him, but God told him to go to a place where they could not find him, and sent him food every morning by ravens.

Q. Did Eli'jah remain in this place ?

A. No ; God sent him to Za'repheth, a city near Si'don*, where he was sustained by a poor widow woman, for whom by the inspiration of God, he performed a miracle.

Q. What was this miracle ?

A. There was a great famine in the land, and the poor widow had nothing but a handful of meal and a little oil, which she was going to make into a cake, that she and her son might eat their last morsel together, expecting afterwards to die ; but Eli'jah, through God's permission, made her handful of meal, and little cruse of oil, last till the famine was over.

Q. Did Eli'jah perform any other miracle for this poor widow ?

A. Yes ; when her son died, he was restored to life again at the prayers of Eli'jah.

Q. Did Eli'jah continue faithful to God ?

* Q. What was Si'don, and where situated ?

A. Si'don (or Zi'don) was a very famous city, the capital of Phœnicia, founded by Si'don, the son of Ca'naan. This city has always been famous for its great trade and navigation ; and the invention of glass, linen, and a beautiful purple dye is attributed to it. At present it is called Sai'de, and belongs to the Turks ; but it has no resemblance to its ancient grandeur.

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A. Yes; and God rewarded him, by taking him up to heaven in a chariot of fire. without his dying.

Q. What happened to A'hab and Jez'ebel?

A. King A'hab was killed in battle, and his wicked queen Jez'ebel was thrown out of a window, and killed on the spot, and the dogs devoured her.

CHAPTER XXIV.

Q. Who was Eli'sha?

A. Eli'sha was the servant of Eli'jah, and after Eli'jah was taken up to heaven, he became the prophet of God in Eli'jah's room, and was a very good man.

Q. What can you tell me about him?

A. Some wicked children laughed at him, and behaved very rudely to him, and God sent two great bears which tore them to pieces.

Q. What happened to the kingdom of Is'rael?

A. The kings and people continued very wicked, and gave themselves up to idolatry; therefore God suffered them to be carried away prisoners into a strange land. An end was thus put to the kingdom of Is'rael, but the kingdom of Ju'dah remained.

Q. Were the kings of Ju'dah, who reigned after Rehobo'am, good?

A. Some were good and some were wicked, and God sent many prophets to them, to tell them that if they did not repent they would be punished.

Q. Mention some of these prophets?

A. Isa'iah, Jeremi'ah and Eze'kiel.

Q. Did the people attend to the prophets?

A. No; and at last, Nebuchadnezzar, king of Baby'lon*, sent great armies against Jeru'salem, and burnt it to the ground, with the fine temple which Sol'omon had built.

Q. What happened to the king?

A. King Zedeki'ah and all the people that were not killed, were carried away captives, and the kingdom of Ju'dah was destroyed; but God promised that, after seventy years, Jeru'salem should be rebuilt.

CHAPTER XXV.

Q. Who reigned over the kingdom of Bab'ylon at this time?

A. King Nebuchadnezzar.

Q. What remarkable miracle was performed by God in his reign?

A. Three of the captive Jews, named Sha'drach, Me'shach, and Abedne'go, were delivered safe out of a fiery furnace into which they had been thrown by the king's orders.

Q. Why did he cause them to be put there?

A. Because they believed in the true God, and would not bow down and worship an image of gold which Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

Q. What followed?

A. When the cruel king saw that the Almighty had

* Q. Where was Bab'ylon?

A. Bab'ylon was situated on the river Euphra'tes.

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preserved them, and that not a hair of their heads was singed, he was so struck with the power and justice of God, that he immediately ordered they should be set at liberty, and commanded his subjects, in future, to worship the only true and living God.

Q. Who was Dan'iel ?

A. One of those who had been carried captive into Bab'ylon; who being a very good young man, God chose him to be a prophet, and he gained the favour of Dari'us, king of Persia.*

Q. What can you tell me concerning Dari'us and Dan'iel ?

A. Some ungodly people persuaded Dari'us to give orders that nobody should say their prayers for thirty days, under pain of being cast into a den of lions: Dan'iel prayed to God, as usual, and was cast into the den.

Q. Did the lions kill him ?

A. No; in the morning, when Dari'us, who was very sorry for what he had done, went to the den, he found that God had prevented the lions from hurting him.

Q. What did Dari'us do then ?

A. He took Dan'iel out of the den, and ordered the wicked people who had advised him to be so cruel, to be thrown in; and the lions devoured them immediately.

* Q. Where is Persia ?

A. In A'sia, but the boundaries of the ancient Per'sia were by no means so extensive as the present.

CHAPTER XXVI.

Q. WHAT were the Is'raelites called when they were captives in Bab'ylon?

A. Jews.

Q. Why were they called Jews?

A. They were so called from Ju'dah their founder.

Q. What happened to the Jews at the end of seventy years from the destruction of Jeru'salem?

A. They were set at liberty by Cy'rus, king of Per'sia, who gave them leave to go back to their own land, and to re-build Jeru'salem and their temple.

Q. Did they finish it in the reign of Cy'rus?

A. No; they were continually prevented by their enemies; especially the Samar'itans; but in the reign of Artaxerx'es who was also called Ahasue'rus, Es'ther the queen, who was a Jewess, interceded for her countrymen, and the king permitted Ez'ra to conduct the Jews to their native land.

Q. What did Ez'ra do for them?

A. He gave the Jews the book of Scripture, and instructed them in their duty, but they afterwards grew neglectful of it, and God made them suffer greatly; but as they did not quite forsake him, it pleased him to raise up Matthi'as a deliverer for them.

Q. After the death of Matthi'as, who fought for the Jews?

A. Ju'dah Maccabe'us, one of his sons; he defeated

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the vast armies of Sy'ria*, and other nations who invaded Jude'a†.

Q. What happened after the death of Ju'das Mac-cabe'us?

A. The rulers suffered Ju'das Aristobu'lus to be their king, though he was not of the family of Da'vid; and after him several others bore the title of king of the Jews.

Q. Who was the last of them?

A. Her'od the Great, in whose reign Jude'a became a Roman province, and our Saviour was born.

Q. Was He'rod a Jew by birth?

A. No; he was the first foreigner that took the title of "King of the Jews," and it was in his reign that Christ was born, according to the prophecy delivered by Ja'cob on his death-bed, "the sceptre shall not depart from Ju'dah, nor a law-giver from between his feet, until Shi'loh come."

* Q. Where was Sy'ria?

A. Sy'ria was a large country of Asia, lying to the east and north-east of the Holy Land, between Phœni'cia and the Mediterra'nean Sea to the west, and the river Euphra'tes to the east.

† Q. Where was Jude'a?

A. Jude'a was situated in the South of Ca'naan, west of the river Jord'an. It took its name originally from Ju'dah, the fourth son of Ja'cob.

CATECHISM OF
CHAPTER XXVII.

NEW TESTAMENT.

Q. Who was Zachari'as?

A. He was a priest who lived in the days of Her'od; his wife's name was Elizabeth, and they were very good, but had no child, though they were both grown old.

Q. Did they continue childless?

A. No; one day when Zachari'as was burning incense in the temple, as was the custom with the Jews, an angel appeared to him, and promised him a son, telling him to call his name John, and that he would be great in the sight of the Lord, and was to prepare people's minds to receive and to know the Messia'h.

Q. Did Zachari'as believe what the angel told him?

A. No; he doubted; and the angel told him, that he was the angel Ga'briel, sent by the Lord to tell him the good news, and that to punish him for his unbelief, he should be dumb till the things he foretold should come to pass.

Q. Was the angel Ga'briel sent to foretel any other remarkable event?

A. Yes; about six months after, he was sent from God unto a city of Gal'ilee*, called Naz'areth, to a virgin who had promised to be the wife of a man named Jo'seph; to tell her that she should have a

* Q. What was Gal'ilee?

A. A province of Palestine, divided into Upper and Lower Gal'ilee

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son, and should call his name Je'sus; that he should be great, and should be called the Son of the Highest.

Q. What is the meaning of the word Je'sus?

A. It is the same name as Josh'ua, which signifies a saviour, and our Lord was called by that name because "he shall save his people from their sins."

CHAPTER XXVIII.

Q. WHAT was the virgin's name?

A. Mary.

Q. How did the angel first address her?

A. "Hail! thou that art highly favoured, blessed art thou among women."

Q. Did Zachari'as recover his speech when his child was born?

A. Yes; his mouth was opened, and he prophesied that his son John should be called the prophet of the Highest, and should go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give knowledge of salvation unto his people, by the remission of their sins, through the mercy of God.

Q. Where was Je'sus born?

A. In Ju'dea, in the city of David, called Beth'lehem, where Jo'seph and Mary went to have their names set down in the books, as Augus'tus Cæsar, the Roman emperor, had ordered that all his subjects should go to the cities that their families first belonged to, for that purpose.

Q. What was done with the child Je'sus when he was born?

A. He was wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger; the town being so full of people who

came to have their names set down, there was no room for them in the inn.

Q. Was the birth of Christ announced in any particular way?

A. Yes; an angel appeared to some shepherds who were keeping watch over their flocks by night, and said unto them, "Fear not; for behold! I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to you and all people. For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord; and this shall be a sign unto you, ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

Q. When the angel had said this, what happened?

A. There suddenly appeared, with the angels, a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace, good-will towards men."

Q. Did the shepherds do as the angels had commanded them?

A. Yes; they went to Beth'lehem, where they found Mary and Joseph with the babe in the manger; and when they had seen this, they made known abroad what had been told them concerning this child, and returned home glorifying and praising God for all things they had heard and seen.

CHAPTER XXIX.

Q. Who was Sim'eon?

A. Sim'eon was a good man, who was born at Jeru'salem, to whom it was revealed, by the Holy Ghost, that he had seen the Lord's Christ.

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A. His parents brought him to Jeru'salem to present him to the Lord in the temple, where he came by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and taking Je'sus in his arms, blessed God, and said, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation."

Q. Was there any one else in the temple?

A. Yes; Anna, a prophetess, a very old woman, who served God with fasting and prayers, day and night and she also blessed and returned thanks to God.

Q. Did any other remarkable event attend the birth of Christ?

A. Yes; God caused a wonderful star to appear in a country far distant from Jude'a to some wise men, and made known to them that this star would, if they followed its course, lead them to the presence of Je'sus

Q. Did they follow the star?

A. Yes; and at length arrived at Jeru'salem, at which place Her'od inquired of them where, according to the prophets, Je'sus should be born; and sending them to Beth'lehem, ordered them, when they had found the young child, to return and inform him.

Q. What happened afterwards?

A. The star moved before them till it stood over where the young child was, and they went into the house, and saw Je'sus and Mary his mother, and fell down and worshipped him, and presented unto him gold, frank'incense*, and myrrh†.

* Frank'incense, s. a sweet scented-gum.

† Myrrh, s. a precious kind of gum.

Q. Did they afterwards return to Her'od ?

A. No ; they were warned of God in a dream, not to do so, and therefore they returned to their own country another way.

Q. What happened after the wise men were gone ?

A. The angel of the Lord appeared unto Jo'seph in a dream, and told him that Her'od would seek to destroy Je'sus, and that he must flee into E'gypt with Mary and the young child, and remain there till he brought him word.

Q. Did Jo'seph do as the angel ordered him ?

A. Yes, he did ; and after he was gone, Her'od sent and killed all the children that were in Beth'lehem, whom he supposed, from their age, to have been born since the star appeared to the wise men.

Q. What happened to this wicked king ?

A. He was soon after seized with a terrible disorder, of which he died in great agonies, and Archela'us, his son, reigned in Jude'a, who was also a very barbarous tyrant.

Q. After the death of Her'od what happened to Joseph ?

A. An angel appeared to him in a dream, and told him to take the young child and his mother, and return into the land of Is'rael, which he did ; but hearing that Archela'us reigned in Jude'a, he was afraid to go thither, and went into a city called Nazareth* in

* Q. Where was Naz'areth ?

A. Naz'areth was situated in Lower Gal'ilee, and was the usual residence of our Saviour. Hence he was called a Naz'arene.

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the province of Gal'ilee, which was in the dominions of Her'od An'tipas.

CHAPTER XXX.

Q. Who was Her'od An'tipas?

A. Another son of Her'od the Great, who was of a milder disposition than Archela'us.

Q. Have you not something remarkable to relate of Je'sus when he was twelve years old?

A. Yes; he went to Jeru'salem with his mother and Jo'seph, to go to the temple, as was the custom at the feast of the passover; but instead of returning with them, he staid behind, and they found him three days after in the temple, in the midst of the doctors, hearing them, and asking them questions; and all who heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

Q. Did he afterwards return to Naz'areth with Jo'seph and Mary?

A. Yes; and was subject unto them; and he increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

Q. When the time drew near for Je'sus to appear as the Messi'ah, what did God command John, the son of Zachari'as, to do?

A. To go forth into the wilderness of Jude'a, as the forerunner or messenger of Christ. He was clothed in a garment of camel's hair, and lived upon locusts* and wild honey.

* It is supposed that the Locusts here meant is a vegetable resembling a bean, which grows wild in that country, although

Q. What did John do in the wilderness?

A. He exhorted all the people who went out to meet him, to repent of their sins; and those who promised to amend their lives were baptized with water, in token that they should, by the mercy of God, be cleansed from the sins they had committed, and be admitted into the kingdom of heaven.

Q. Did not Je'sus come from Gal'ilee to John to be baptized of him?

A. Yes; a short time after John began to preach and to baptize.

CHAPTER XXXI.

Q. WHAT happened after the baptism of Je'sus?

A. He went up directly out of the water, and the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending upon him, and a voice came from heaven saying "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Q. After this, what happened to Je'sus?

A. He went into the wilderness, where he fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards, when he was hungry, the devil came to him, promising to give him all the kingdoms of the world, if he would fall down and worship him.

Q. What did Je'sus do?

A. Je'sus, despising all earthly riches, and determined to bear all sorrows for the sake of mankind,

some have imagined that those destructive insects, which bear the name of locusts, were the food of John the Baptist. The former opinion is by far the most reasonable.

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said to the devil, "Get thee behind me, Satan: it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."

Q. Did the devil then leave him?

A. Yes; and angels came and ministered to him, and attended on him as the Son of God.

Q. What happened after Je'sus left the wilderness?

A. A man named An'drew, with his brothers Si'mon, Phil'i, and Nathan'iel, followed Je'sus as his first disciples.

CHAPTER XXXII.

Q. Do you know what is a miracle?

A. When God allows any extraordinary circumstance to take place, or any act to be performed, contrary to the common course of nature, or to the law which he has established in the universe, this is called a miracle.

Q. Where did Jesus perform his first miracle?

A. At Ca'na in Gal'ilee, at a marriage feast, to which he was invited with his mother and disciples.

Q. What was the miracle?

A. He turned six waterpots of water into wine.

Q. Can you relate any thing that Je'sus did in his way from Jude'a to Gal'ilee?

A. He sat down to rest by a well, called Ja'cob's well, and there came a woman of Sama'ria to draw water: he asked her for some water, and entered into conversation with her, teaching her how to worship God.

Q. Were his disciples with him at the time?

A. No; they were gone to buy provision, and when they returned, were surprised to find Je'sus talking with a Samar'itan woman, because there was a great hatred between the Jews and Samar'itans; but Je'sus loved all mankind.

Q. Can you not tell me another miracle performed by Je'sus in Ca'na of Gal'ilee?

A. Yes; a nobleman, whose son was sick at Cap'er'naum*, went to him, and besought him to go and heal him; but Je'sus, without going, only said, Go thy way, thy son liveth; and from that hour the fever left him, and he recovered.

Q. Did not Je'sus perform any other miracles?

A. Yes; he healed the sick, restored sight to the blind, made the dumb to speak, and the deaf to hear, raised to life those who were dead, and performed many other wondrous works.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

Q. Who were the twelve apostles?

A. Twelve men whom Je'sus chose from among his disciples to preach the Gospel; and he gave them power to heal sickness, and to do other wonderful works in his name.

Q. What were the names of the twelve apostles?

A. Si'mon Pe'ter, James the son of Zeb'edee, and John his brother, An'drew, Phil'ip, Barthol'omew, Mat'thew, Tho'mas, James the son of Al'pheus,

* Q. Where was Cap'er'naum?

A. A city in Gal'ilee; where our Saviour usually resided during his ministry.

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Thad'deus, \ Si'mon the Ca'naanite, and Jud'as Iscar'iot.

Q. What does the word Gospel mean?

A. Good tidings or news. Je'sus brought the most happy news to those who would repent and believe him to be the Son of God.

Q. What do you mean by repenting?

A. I mean to be sorry for our sins, and amend our lives.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

Q. WHAT was our Saviour's sermon on the mount?

A. A sermon he preached to the multitude, teaching them to be humble, meek, patient, merciful, and good-natured to all people, to love their enemies, and keep from swearing; he also taught them that excellent prayer which we call the Lord's Prayer, because it was made by our Saviour.

Q. Relate to me how Je'sus raised to life the widow's son?

A. As he went into the city called Nain*, he met the body of a dead man, carrying out to be buried, and he had compassion on his mother, for he was her only son, and he touched the bier†, and said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise; and he who was dead sat up and began to speak; and Je'sus delivered him over to his mother.

* Q. Where was Nain?

A. Nain was situated in Gal'ilee, near mount Tabor.

† Bier, s. a hand-carriage for the dead.

Q. In what manner did he still the tempest ?

A. He was in a bark with his disciples, upon the lake, and there arose a great tempest while he was asleep ; his disciples awoke him, and Je'sus rebuked the winds, and said unto the water, Peace, be still ; and the winds ceased, and there was a great calm.

Q. What effect had these miracles on the minds of the people ?

A. Many believed on him, and many did not ; and his enemies, the Scribes and Phari'sees, said he performed miracles by the power of the devil. But Je'sus went about, preaching and teaching in every town and village, with his apostles, and he taught them many things by parables.

Q. Who were the Scribes ?

A. Teachers of the Law among the Jews.

Q. Who were the Phari'sees ?

A. A sect among the Jews, who pretended to a rigid exactness in the law of God ; but, under that pretence, were very vicious.

Q. Were there any other remarkable sects among the Jews at the time of Christ's preaching ?

A. Yes, several ; but the most remarkable were the Esse'nes, the Sad'ducees, and the Hero'dians.

Q. Are the Esse'nes mentioned in the New Testament ?

A. Not by name, but there are several allusions made to their peculiar doctrines. They pretended to greater purity of life even than the Pha'risees, and studiously avoided the most innocent indulgence.

Q. Who were the Sad'ducees ?

A. They were a sect founded by a Jewish doctor

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called Sa'dok, from whom they took their name: they only received the five books of Mo'ses as authority, rejecting the rest of Scripture; and they denied the doctrine of the immortality of the soul, and a future state of rewards and punishments.

Q. How did our Saviour expose the absurdity of the Sad'ducean doctrine?

A. He shewed that in the portions of Scripture which they themselves acknowledged, God calls himself "the God of A'braham, of I'saac, and of Ja'cob," many years after their disease; now as he is not "the God of the dead but of the living," it follows that these patriarchs must have been alive though in a different state of existence.

Q. Who were the Hero'dians?

A. They were a political rather than a religious sect, and were remarkable for their attachment to Her'od and the Ro'man government, which the other Jews detested.

Q. Did the Hero'dians ever attempt to entrap our Lord in conversation?

A. They asked him, "whether it were lawful to pay tribute to Cæ'sar or not? If he answered "yes," they knew that the Jewish people, through hatred of the Ro'man power, would drive Je'sus from their cities; but if he replied in the negative, they had an opportunity of accusing him to the Ro'man governors as a preacher of rebellion.

Q. How did our Lord baffle their treachery?

A. He requested to be shewn a piece of coin, and demanded of them "whose was the image and superscription?" they replied, "Cæ'sar's;" then he an-

swered and said unto them, "Render unto Cæ'sar the things that are Cæ'sar's, and unto God the things that are God's."

Q. There are a class of people called Publicans mentioned in the Gospel,—what were they?

A. The Publicans were the persons who collected the taxes which the Ro'man government imposed on all the nations it had subdued.

Q. Were the Publicans a respectable class of people?

A. No; partly on account of the odious nature of the tax, but chiefly on account of the rapacity and cruelty with which it was levied, the Publicans were universally detested, and in common conversation classed with profligates and sinners.

CHAPTER XXXV.

Q. WHAT do you mean by parables?

A. Short stories, the object of which was to teach them that when the world is at an end, the Messi'ah will send forth his angels, and they shall cast all those who do wickedly into a place of torment, where they will suffer the utmost misery for ever, but that the righteous shall be rewarded in heaven.

Q. What happened to John the Baptist?

A. He was cast into prison by Her'od An'tipas.

Q. What was the occasion of this?

A. Her'od An'tipas married Hero'dias, wife of his brother Her'od Phil'ip, for which John the Baptist reproved him. This enraged Hero'dias, and she persuaded Her'od to put John into prison.

Q. What happened to John the Baptist in prison?

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A. After remaining there some time he was beheaded by order of Her'od.

Q. Why did Her'od order him to be put to death?

A. One day, when the daughter of Hero'dias had pleased Her'od by her dancing, he swore that he would give her whatever she asked of him; and her mother made her request the head of John in a charger or basin. The king was very sorry, but for the sake of his oath he ordered him to be beheaded.

Q. How was it that Je'sus fed the people when they followed him to a desert place?

A. The people were about five thousand in number, and they had only five barley loaves and two small fishes. But Je'sus made them all sit down, and after they had eaten as much as they could, they took up the fragments of the five barley loaves, enough to fill twelve baskets.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

Q. WHAT was the transfiguration?

A. Je'sus took Peter, James, and John his brother, unto a high mountain to pray, and, as he prayed, he was transfigured, or changed in his appearance, and his face shone as the sun, and his raiment became white as the light, and there appeared unto him Mo'ses and Eli'as talking with him; and behold! a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice was heard, which said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, hear ye him."

Q. What did the disciples?

A. They fell on their faces and were afraid; but Je'sus touched them, and said, Arise, and be not

afraid: and when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, but Je'sus only.

Q. What was the reason of the enmity the Jews bore to Je'sus?

A. They expected that the Messi'ah would come in great earthly pomp to deliver them from their subjection to the Romans, and set their nation up as in the days of Da'vid and Sol'omon, above all the kingdoms of the earth; and because Je'sus came in a meek and lowly manner they would not believe him to be the Messi'ah, and they carried their rage against him to such a height, that they resolved to kill him.

Q. Did Je'sus know this?

A. Yes; he told his disciples that he should be put to death by the chief priests and scribes, and that he should rise again from the dead the third day: this they did not understand, for they as well as the Jews expected to see their master a king on earth.

Q. Did not the Jews attempt to stone Je'sus?

A. Yes; they more than once attempted it, but he escaped out of their hands.

Q. What other name beside Je'sus is given to our Lord?

A. He is called Christ, which signifies the same as Messiah or *anointed*, that is, set apart by the will of God to be the Redeemer of mankind.

Q. What persons were anointed under the old dispensation?

A. Prophets, priests, and kings.

Q. In which of these relations is Je'sus called the Christ, or the Anointed?

A. In all three; he was the great Prophet sent into

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the world to teach the will of God ; the High Priest that was to reconcile us to God by the sacrifice of himself ; and he is our Lord and King to govern us by his laws, and at last to bring us to glory.

CHAPTER XXXVII.

Q. RELATE to me the miracle of Je'sus raising Laz'arus from the dead ?

A. Laz'arus, the brother of Martha and Mary, was sick, and the sisters sent to Je'sus to intreat him to come ; but he went not till he knew that Laz'arus was dead. He desired to be conducted to the place where Laz'arus was buried, and ordered that the stone which lay at the entrance of the cave should be moved away ; when this was done, Je'sus cried with a loud voice, " Laz'arus, come forth !" and he who was dead came forth in his grave clothes ; and Je'sus said, " Loose him, and let him go ;" and many of the Jews who saw these things believed on him.

Q. What particular mark of respect did Mary shew to Je'sus at Beth'any ?

A. He was supping with a man named Si'mon who invited Martha, Mary, and Laz'arus to meet him. Martha waited on our Lord : but Mary took

* Q. Where was Beth'any ?

A. Beth'any was a considerable place, situated at the foot of the Mount of Olives, about two miles from Jerusalem, in the way to Jer'icho. At present it is only a small village. Near an old ruin, which is called Laz'arus's castle, is shewn his sepulchre, which the Turks regard with great veneration, and is used by them as a place of prayer.

a box of the most costly ointment, and poured it on his head, and then anointed his feet, and wiped them with her hair.

Q. Did any body object to what she had done?

A. Yes; Ju'das Iscar'iot, one of our Lord's apostles, who was a bad man, said that the ointment might have been sold for a great deal of money, and given to the poor; but Je'sus commended what she had done, and said, "The poor ye have always with you, and whenever you will, you may do them good, but me ye have not always."

Q. Did not Je'sus make a triumphant entry into Jerusalem?

A. Yes; he said unto his disciples, "Go into the village over against you, and ye shall find an ass tied and with her a colt, whereon never man sat; loose them, and bring them unto me. And if any man say aught unto you, ye shall say, the Lord hath need of them, and he shall send them immediately."

Q. Did they do as the Lord commanded them?

A. Yes; they brought the colt to Je'sus, and they cast their garments on the colt, and set Je'sus upon him; and many spread their garments in the way, others cut down branches and strewed them, and all cried out, "Hosannah*! blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord."

Q. When Je'sus came near to Jeru'salem, what did he do?

A. He wept over the city, and foretold that it would be destroyed by the Ro'man power.

* Hosannah, s. (from the Hebrew, signifying, *save, we beseech thee,*) an exclamation, or song of praise.

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Q. How did our Saviour allude to the Ro'mans as the destroyers of Jeru'salem?

A. He said, "where the carcass is, there shall the eagles be gathered together;" thus typically describing the Roman soldiers, whose ensigns were eagles.

Q. What recommendation did our Lord give to his disciples respecting their conduct when the Romans should advance against Jeru'salem?

A. He advised them when they saw the city compassed about with arms, to flee to the mountains; and we find from history that the Christians acted on this advice, so that very few of them shared in the fearful calamities, by which the Jewish nation was overwhelmed.

Q. What length of time elapsed between the delivery of this prophecy and its fulfilment?

A. About seventy years.

Q. By whom was Jeru'salem destroyed?

A. By Ti'tus, the son of the Roman emperor Ves'pasian.

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

Q. Who was it that undertook to betray Je'sus to the chief priests, scribes, and elders of the people, that they might kill him?

A. Ju'das Iscari'ot, one of the twelve disciples: he agreed to deliver him unto them for thirty pieces of silver, and from that time he sought opportunity to betray him.

Q. Did Je'sus know what passed between the chief priests and Ju'das?

A. Yes, he did; for all hearts were open to him; he also knew that the hour was near, when, according to the will of the Father, he was to lay down his life for the sins of the world, and he desired his disciples to prepare for receiving the passover with him.

Q. What was the feast of the passover?

A. It was a feast established in commemoration of the deliverance of the Jews from their bondage in E'gypt, at which time the destroying angel, when he put to death the first-born of the Egyptians, *passed over* the houses of the Is'raelites, which were all marked with the blood of the Paschal Lamb.

CHAPTER XXXIX.

Q. WHAT was the Paschal Lamb?

A. A lamb without blemish and without spot, which was sacrificed and eaten at the feast of the passover, and which was an emblem of our Lord, who was crucified for the sins of the world.

Q. Did not Je'sus, at the feast of the passover, give notice to his disciples, that he knew that one of them would betray him?

A. Yes, he did; and he said that it would be that apostle to whom he should give a sop, when he had dipped it; and he gave the sop to Ju'das, who soon after went out.

Q. Where did Je'sus go after the feast of the pass-over?

A. To the Mount of Ol'ives*, where Si'mon Pe'ter

* Q. Where was the Mount of Ol'ives?

A. The Mount of Ol'ives was situated a little to the east of Jerus'alem.

declared to our Lord that he would remain faithful to him ; but Je'sus said, "Verily, I say unto thee, the cock shall not crow till thou hast denied me thrice."

Q. What did Je'sus do after this ?

A. He went into a place called Gethsem'ane*, where he continued some time in prayer, and the thought of what he was shortly to suffer threw him into such an agony, that the sweat ran off his face like drops of blood; yet he resolved to submit willingly to these sufferings for the sake of mankind, and he said, "Father, not my will, but thine be done."

CHAPTER XL.

Q. How did Judas betray Je'sus Christ ?

A. He came with a band of men and officers, with lanthorns, torches, and weapons, and drew nigh unto Je'sus to kiss him ; but Je'sus said, " Ju'das, betrayest thou the Son of Man with a kiss ? " And when he had asked him whom they sought, he delivered himself into their hands, and they bound him, and led him away to Caiaphas, the high priest.

Q. Did Si'mon P'eter follow Je'sus ?

A. Yes, he did ; but when he was asked whether he was one of his disciples, he denied him, and when he had denied him a third time, the cock crowed ; and Je'sus looked on him, and Pe'ter remembered the words which Je'sus had said unto him, and he went out and wept bitterly.

* A garden near Jeru'salem.

Q. How was Je'sus treated by the chief priests ?

A. They hired false witnesses against him, but they could prove no crime in him; and when Je'sus said he was the Son of God, they accused him of blasphemy, and said he was deserving of death; and the men who held Je'sus mocked him, and spat in his face, and buffeted him: and others smote him with the palms of their hands; but he bore all their insults patiently for the sake of mankind.

Q. Did they put Je'sus to death ?

A. No; the Jews being under the government of the Romans, had not the power of putting him to death; but delivered him to the Roman Governor.

Q. Was Je'sus condemned to die ?

A. After being taken before Pon'tius Pilate and Her'od, who mocked and insulted him, Pilate tried to persuade the Jews to let him go, but they cried out, Let him be crucified; and Pilate to please them, ordered Jesus to be scourged.

Q. Was this cruel treatment foretold by any of the prophets ?

A. Isa'iah says, "he was wounded for our transgressions; he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

Q. What did the soldiers who scourged Je'sus do ?

A. They platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and a reed in his right hand; and they put on him a purple robe, and bowed the knee before him, mocking him, and saying, Hail ! King of the Jews !

Q. Were the Jews satisfied with this ?

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A. No; they continued to cry out, Crucify him, Crucify him! and when Pilate saw that he could not prevail, he delivered Je'sus to be crucified.

Q. When Je'sus was condemned what did Judas do?

A. He repented, and took the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, and cast them down in the temple, and went and hanged himself.

Q. What did the chief priests do with the silver?

A. They bought the potter's field with it, to bury strangers in, and it was called from that time the field of blood.

CHAPTER XLI.

Q. WHERE was Je'sus put to death?

A. In a place called Gol'gotha, or the place of a skull on Mount Cal'vary*, where they made him bear his cross, followed by a great company of men and women.

Q. How did they put him to death?

A. They crucified him; that is, they stretched Je'sus on a cross, nailing him to it by his hands and feet.

Q. Was he crucified alone?

A. No; two thieves were crucified with him, one on his right hand, and the other on his left.

Q. Was this circumstance predicted by any of the prophets?

A. Yes; it was foretold, that "he should be numbered with the transgressors."

* Q. Where was Mount Cal'vary?

A. Near Jeru'salem.

Q. Did not Je'sus set us an example of patience and forgiveness upon the cross ?

A. Yes ; he prayed for his murderers, saying, Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.

Q. What did Pilate cause to be written at the top of the cross ?

A. "This is Je'sus, the king of the Jews."

Q. How did the Jews behave to him when he was upon the cross ?

A. They reviled him saying, "If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross : and the chief priests and scribes mocked him, saying, He saved others, himself he cannot save."

Q. How did the thieves behave upon the cross ?

A. One of them reviled him, but the other was penitent, and said to Je'sus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.

Q. What answer did Je'sus make him ?

A. "Verily I say unto thee, this day shalt thou be with me in Paradise."

CHAPTER XLII.

Q. WHAT happened at the moment of Je'sus' death?

A. The earth did quake, and the rocks were rent, and there was darkness over the land for three hours.

Q. Was there any remarkable proof of Christ's being dead before he was taken from the cross ?

A. Yes ; the soldiers, instead of breaking the legs of Je'sus, as they did of the two thieves crucified with him, seeing him dead already, pierced his side with a spear, whence there came out blood and water,

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whereby also were fulfilled two remarkable prophecies concerning our Saviour.

Q. What were those prophecies ?

A. That "a bone of him should not be broken;" and again, "They shall look on him whom they pierced."

Q. Was there any other remarkable prophecy fulfilled at the crucifixion of our Saviour ?

A. Yes ; the soldiers who crucified Je'sus, parted his garments amongst them, but they cast lots for his coat, which was woven from the top throughout.

Q. What was the prophecy they ignorantly fulfilled by this act ?

A. "They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots."

CHAPTER XLIII.

Q. By whom was Je'sus buried ?

A. By Jo'seph of Arimathe'a*, a rich man, who begged his body, and wrapping it up in linen, with spices, laid it in a new tomb, hewn out of a rock, and rolled a great stone against the door to secure it.

Q. Did any of the prophets foretell the manner of Christ's interment ?

A. Isa'ah declared that "he should make his grave with the rich."

Q. As the chief priests did not believe that Je'sus

* Q. What was Arimathe'a ?

A. Arimathe'a was a city of Ju'dea ; here lived Samuel the prophet.

would rise again after three days; what did they do to prevent his disciples taking him away by night?

A. They appointed a guard to keep watch over him, and sealed the stone to make the sepulchre* sure.

Q. Did he rise again, as he said he would?

A. Yes; early in the morning of the first day of the week, the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and rolled back the stone from the sepulchre. Those who watched were frightened, and were as dead men, and Je'sus rose from the dead, but no man saw him rise.

Q. By whom was the resurrection of Christ foretold?

A. It was obscurely predicted by Da'vid and Isa'iah, but was explicitly foretold by himself.

Q. In what words did Da'vid foretel the resurrection?

A. "Thou shalt not leave my soul in hell, neither shalt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption."

Q. What is the meaning of the word hell in this passage?

A. The state of the dead, the place or condition of the soul after it is parted from the body. It has the same signification in that article of the Apostles' Creed which declares that Christ "descended into hell."

Q. What are the words of Isa'iah on the subject?

A. When thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his

* Sepulchre, s. a grave, a tomb.

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days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand."

Q. By what type did our Lord declare that he should rise again from the grave?

A. While the Jews were boasting of their temple he said "destroy this temple, and in three days I will build it up again," meaning, as the scripture tells us "the temple of his body." He also explicitly told his disciples before his last journey to Jerusalem, "that he must suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again on the third day."

CHAPTER XLIV.

Q. Who first discovered that the body of our Lord was gone from the sepulchre?

A. Mary Magdalen, and Mary the mother of Jesus, who came with some women to the sepulchre to anoint the body of Jesus.

Q. What did Mary Magdalen do when she found that Jesus was gone?

A. She went to Peter and John, saying, they have taken away the Lord, and we know not where they have laid him. And as some of the women entered the sepulchre, two angels stood by them in shining garments, and told them that Jesus was risen from the dead.

Q. Unto whom did Jesus first appear after his resurrection?

A. Unto Mary Magdalen, as she stood by the sepulchre, but she knew not that it was he till he said

unto her, Mary. And he desired her and the other woman, whom he also met, to go to his disciples; and tell them to go into Galilee, where they should see him.

Q. Did the disciples believe that the women had seen Je'sus?

A. No; they did not.

CHAPTER XLV.

Q. WHAT did the chief priests do when they found Je'sus was risen from the dead?

A. They bribed the soldiers to say that the disciples came by night, and stole the body of Je'sus away, while they slept; and the Jews believed them.

Q. How was it that Je'sus first appeared to his disciples?

A. The same day that he arose from the dead, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, Je'sus came and stood in the midst, and said unto them, Peace be unto you: and he shewed them his hands and side.

Q. Were all the disciples together at this time?

A. All but Thomas, who refused to believe when the disciples told him they had seen him: but Je'sus appeared to his disciples after eight days, when Thomas was with them.

Q. Did Thomas then believe?

A. Je'sus said to him, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands, and reach hither thy hand, and feel my side, and be not faithless, but believing; and Thomas said unto him, My Lord, and my God!

CHAPTER XLVI.

Q. How long did Je'sus remain on earth after his resurrection?

A. Forty days, during which time he appeared in Gal'ilee to above five hundred people at once, and gave many infallible proofs of his being alive.

Q. What promise did Je'sus make his disciples before he ascended into heaven?

A. That he would send down the Holy Ghost upon them, and desired them to wait in Jeru'salem till the time of its coming, and then go and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

Q. Where was Je'sus at the time he ascended into heaven?

A. At Beth'any, with his disciples, and as he blessed them, he was parted from them, and taken up, and a cloud received him out of their sight; and he was received into heaven, and sat at the right hand of God.

Q. Whom did the disciples chose to be an apostle in the room of Ju'das Iscar'iot?

A. A man named Matthi'as.

Q. On what day was it the Holy Ghost came upon the disciples?

A. On the day of Pen'tecost, a great feast of the Jews, when the disciples were assembled together in one place.

Q. How did the Holy Ghost descend?

A. There was a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and there appeared unto them cloven tongues, like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them, and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak languages unknown to them before.

CHAPTER XLVII.

The Acts of the Apostles.

Q. By whom is the book called the "Acts of the Apostles" supposed to have been written?

A. By the Evangelist St. Luke, who has dedicated this as well as his Gospel to some Christian convert named Theo'philus.

Q. What are the principal contents of this treatise?

A. It contains the general history of the Christian Church, from the Resurrection to the mission of Saint Paul to the Gentiles, and a particular history of that apostle's labours from the time of his conversion until his arrival in Rome.

Q. What are the most remarkable facts recorded in the general history?

A. The miracles wrought by the Apostles, the first persecution of the Christians, and the preaching of the Gospel to the Gentiles.

Q. In what respect do the miracles wrought by the Apostles differ from those performed by our Saviour?

A. He performed all his mighty works in his own name and by his own inherent authority; they worked miracles only in the name of Jesus Christ; all the supernatural works of Christ were miracles of mercy those performed by the apostles were sometimes miracles of vengeance.

Q. Can you give me any instances?

A. The miraculous punishment of Ana'nias and Sap'phira with death for telling a lie.

Q. Who was the first martyr?

A. Saint Ste'phen, who was cruelly stoned by the unbelieving Jews.

Q. Were any of the Apostles put to death in the first persecution?

A. Yes; James the brother of John was slain by He'rod, and a miracle was necessary to rescue Saint Pe'ter from the same fate.

Q. Who was the first remarkable Gentile convert?

A. Corne'lius, a Ro'man centurion at Cæsa'rea.

Q. What do you mean by a centurion?

A. An officer in the Ro'man army; who had the command of one hundred men.

Q. Was there any thing very remarkable in his conversion?

A. While he was on his knees praying before God, an angel appeared, and desired him to send to Jop'pa for Saint Pe'ter, who would instruct him in the doctrines of truth; and about the same time Pe'ter saw a vision tending to dispel his Jewish prejudices, and to teach him that all men are equal before God.

Q. Who is it that is called "the Great Apostle of the Gentiles?"

A. Saint Paul, who from the time of his own conversion laboured to diffuse the Gospel over the then known world.

Q. Is there any thing remarkable in the history of Saint Paul's conversion?

A. He was originally a violent persecutor of the Chris'tians, and consented to the death of the martyr Ste'phen; but as he was journeying to Damas'cus, he was suddenly struck to the earth by a visible manifestation of divine glory, and the ways of truth were revealed to him.

Q. What was the consequence of Saint Paul's active exertions in the diffusion of Christianity?

A. The Jews sought his life, and made such a fierce

attack on him in the Temple, that but for the interference of the Ro'man soldiers he would have been murdered.

Q. How did this end ?

A. Saint Paul was accused by the Jews before the Ro'man deputy ; he however appealed to Cæ'sar, and was in consequence sent off as a prisoner to Rome.

Q. How does the Acts of the Apostles terminate ?

A. With the arrival of Saint Paul at Rome, after having encountered the greatest danger and distress.

CHAPTER XLVIII.

Of the Epistles written by the Apostles.

Q. Who were the writers of the different Epistles ?

A. St. Paul, St. Peter, St. James, St. John, and St. Jude.

Q. Why did they write them ?

A. To instruct those people whom they had before converted ; and to keep them in the faith when they were absent from them, and could not discourse to them in person.

Q. By whom and to whom was the first Epistle written ?

A. The first Epistle was written by St. Paul to the Ro'mans, and teaches both Jews and Gen'tiles to forget their former differences in religious matters, to believe in Je'sus Christ, and to look to his mercy only for salvation.

Q. What other Epistles did St. Paul write ?

A. He wrote two Epistles to the Corin'thians, one to the Gala'tians, one to the Ephe'sians, one to the Philip'prians, one to the Colos'sians, and two to the Thessalo'nians. He also wrote two Epistles to his disciple Timo'thy, one to Ti'tus, and one to Phil'emón.

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Q. Why did St. Paul write to the Corin'thians?

A. He wrote to them to show how unwise it was for them to disagree with one another, and reprove them on account of the divisions that had taken place among them in his absence.

Q. What were these divisions?

A. Some of the Corin'thians professed to follow the doctrine preached by Paul, some declared themselves to be followers of Apol'los, and others of Ce'phas.

Q. How did St. Paul reprove them?

A. By showing them that Christ is one, and his religion is one; and that whether Paul, Apol'los, or Ce'phas, might plant, it was God only that could give the increase.

Q. On what occasions were the other Epistles of St. Paul written?

A. The occasions were various, but the end intended by all of them was the same; namely, to induce those to whom he wrote to believe stedfastly in Je'sus Christ, to obey his divine commands, and to forsake sin and wickedness.

Q. By whom was the Epistle to the Hebrews written?

A. It is also generally ascribed to St. Paul; but the author of it is not certainly known. It relates chiefly to the difference between the priesthood of Christ and the Levitical (or Jewish) priesthood; and it points out the superiority of the Christian religion from its simplicity and purity.

Q. To whom was the General Epistle of St. James written?

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A. It was not written to any one man or country, but generally to all the Jews dispersed through many countries; and therefore is called the *General Epistle of St. James*.

Q. Were the first and second Epistles General of St. Peter written to the Jews?

A. No; they were written to those persons who were converted to Christianity, whoever they might be, or wherever they might reside.

Q. How many Epistles were written by St. John?

A. Three; the first, a general Epistle; the second, to a lady who was among the number of his disciples, commending her for bringing up her children in the true principles of religion and virtue; and the third, to Ga'ius, a professor of the Gospel, whom St. John praises for his belief in Christ and his hospitality to strangers.

Q. What is contained in the General Epistle of St. Jude, and to whom is it addressed?

A. It is addressed to all Christian churches, and particularly recommends them to contend against all sectaries, and to unite in the defence of their faith.

Q. By whom was the book of the Revelations written?

A. It was written by St. John, who is here called the divine, when he was banished to the Isle of Patmos* by the Ro'man emperor Domitian.

Q. What does it contain?

A. It contains Epistles addressed to the seven Churches in Asia, relating to their respective circumstances, and predicts the most remarkable events in the Christian Church to the end of the world.

* Q. Where is Patmos situated?

A. In the Grecian Archipelago.

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