

Months Department.

Lessons for 1871. THE WORDS OF JESUS.

SUNDAY, JUNE 18TH, 1871. Names written in Heaven.—Luke x. 17-24.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"Rejoice because your names are written in heaven."—vs. 20. SCRIPTURE SELECTIONS.—Matt. v. 3-12; Rev. xxi; xxii. 1-5.

Who were the seventy? vs. 1, 17. When and for what appointed? Where returned? With what feelings?

What did they report? vs. 17. What were these "devils"? How encountered? How "subject" to the seventy? Why is it said "even" the demons?

Repeat vs. 18. Why does Christ here refer to Satan? When was this fall? What? Explain the phrases "as lighting" and "from heaven."

Read vs. 19. Why "behold"? Does Christ here give new and additional powers, or explain what he had previously given? Is his language respecting serpents and scorpions literal or figurative? Who was "the enemy"? What was it to tread unhurt on serpents, scorpions, and all the enemy's power? Have Christians now the same power?

Does Christ mean to condemn the joy of the seventy? vs. 20. See 1 Cor. xii. 21; xiii. 3. What better ground of joy does he mention? The names of all Christians are written in what book? By whom? For what? Phil. iv. 3; Rev. xx. 12, Ex. xxxii. 32. What other books does God keep? Rev. xx. 12; Jer. xvii. 13. Is your name written in "the Lamb's Book of Life"?

Why did Christ exult in spirit? vs. 21. Why does he here give these titles to God? Whom does he mean by "wise and prudent" ones? Whom by "babes"? What by "these things"? How were they concealed? Ought we joyfully to adore God, that in all things he does his sovereign pleasure?

What does vs. 22 teach of Christ's relation to the Father? Of his person and attributes? Does the word "know" here include the idea of loving fellowship? Matt. vii. 23; 1 John iv. 6, 9. How does Christ reveal the Father to a human spirit? John xiv. 9, 22, 23; 1 John iv. 8.

Wherein does he pronounce his disciples blessed? vs. 23. Who were the "prophets and kings"? What had been the burden of prophecy? John v. 39. What is the life-centre of human hope and of the world's history? Gal. iii. 8; Is Christ the Lord and the Love of your heart?

SUMMARY.—The sinner's supreme joy is to be saved by Christ; Christ's supreme joy is to save the sinner.

ANALYSIS.—I. The Joy of the Seventy. —1. Expressed. vs 17. 2. Corrected. vs. vs. 18-20.

II. The Joy of Jesus.—1. Expressed in prayer. vs. 21. 2. Explained to the multitude. vs. 22. 3. Shared with the disciples. vs. 23, 24.

EXPOSITION.—The seventy.—Mentioned nowhere else in Scripture. Christ appointed them as itinerant preachers, and apparently from Luke's account near the close of his ministry. The place of their labor is uncertain. Their appointment suggests to us the seventy elders mentioned in Num. xi. 16. Compare their instructions (vs. 1-12) with those given to the apostles, Matt. 10.

Their Joy.—Its ground was their power over devils or demons, wicked spirits, probably fallen angels (Jude 6), whose chief is Satan, the Devil. Their subjection appeared in abandoning the victims of their malignity at the word of the seventy, spoken in connection with Christ's name and by his authority. The word "even" intimates the conviction that this was the highest power, and unexpected to themselves as not mentioned in their instructions.

Satan's fall.—The seventy have told what they saw. Jesus tells what he saw. They saw some few demons driven from their place of power in the bodies of demoniaes. He saw the sublime and full reality signified by their works. He saw the Prince of Darkness, and of course his subject hosts with him, fall from heaven, thrust down. See vs. 15, Eph. ii. 2. "Like lightning" means suddenly, at one stroke. Matt. xxiv. 27, with a barely possible allusion to perished glory. 2 Cor. xi. 14, Matt. iv. 8. Satan's fall from heaven was Christ's ascent to heaven, and as the hosts of the former went down with him, the redeemed hosts of the latter went up with him. Virtually both facts were accomplished in the one hour of the victory on the cross, yet so as to admit the conflict of good and evil as prolonged through the world's history.

Serpents and Scorpions.—Venomous, dreaded, hated animals, fit symbols of wicked and satanic agencies. Acts xxviii.

3-5. To tread unhurt on all satanic power is language drawn from the victor's treatment of a fallen, disarmed, and powerless foe, and strikingly exhibits at once the completeness of Christ's victory over all the foes of man, and the completeness of his disciples union with him in this victory. They are "complete in him."

Rejoice not.—The seventy erred in prizing their power over demons as an end, as in itself a good, rather than as means subservient to its real end, or as a sign of the higher gracious power conferred upon them. Only in this view is their joy condemned.

Rejoice.—Not for temporary distinction, but for their eternal redemption should they rejoice with supreme joy. Their names are enrolled or written in heaven, as citizens there, in heaven where Christ is enthroned, in the Lamb's Book of Life. They enter heaven because Christ as the Lamb, or Sacrifice for sin, destroyed the Devil's works, and redeemed to eternal life his own. What value God puts on every man, on every deed of every man! What solemn meaning to existence!

Rejoiced.—vs. 21. The disciples with grateful joy, the Saviour with adoring exultation. Such is the distinction indicated in the original by the distinction of words.

The wise and prudent.—The unbelieving, self-sufficient, who pride themselves on their own reason and will not prayerfully and teachably, listen to heavenly instruction.

All things.—Christ here asserts with equal freeness his absolute supremacy, impossible unless he were God, and the derivation of this mediatorial sovereignty from the Father.

Blessed.—Until Christ appeared in the flesh, and by his death made actual atonement for sin, men could understand but comparatively little of his person and work, and, what is more, could not enjoy those richer spiritual gifts which were consequent upon his earthly work. The Holy Spirit had been in the world graciously working from the beginning, but with no such power as after our Lord's exaltation. Psalm li. 11; John xvi. 7; Acts ii. This blessing is far more ours than theirs who were addressed, for according to John's prophecy, Christ does constantly increase. John iii. 30.

Prophets and kings.—The most favored of God's people. The kings intended were, of course, only such as were godly, such as David, Solomon, Hezekiah. Abridged from the Baptist Teacher. Recite.—Scripture Catechism, 303, 304.

ANSWER TO SCRIPTURE ENIGMA.

No. LVII.

Here are the words in reply to the Questions of last week and the texts giving the facts noticed:

- CY-rus . . . . . Is. xlii. 28. E-lisba . . . . . 2 Kings vi. 1-5. M-ary . . . . . John xii. 3. U-rbane . . . . . Rom. xvi. 9. S-tephen . . . . . Acts vii. 55. T-erah's . . . . . Gen. xi. 31. B-alaam . . . . . Num. xxxi. 8. E-utyehus . . . . . Acts xx. 9. B-elshazzar . . . . . Dan. v. 2. O-badiab . . . . . 1 Kings xviii. 5. R-abshakeh . . . . . 2 Kings xviii. 19. N-athan . . . . . 2 Sam. xii. 7. A-hab . . . . . 1 Kings xxii. 30. G-ibeonites . . . . . Josh. ix. 3, 4. A-bisbai . . . . . 1 Sam. xxvi. 8. I-saac . . . . . Gen. xxiv. 63. N-ain . . . . . Luke vii. 11-15.

And here is the momentous truth without which true and substantial happiness cannot be enjoyed, YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN.—John iii. 7.

BIBLE QUESTIONS.

- 9. What special blessing was promised to a family as a reward for their obedience to a parent's command? 10. What tests does the apostle John give by which we may know the children of God? 11. Give some examples from the Old Testament of weak things employed to confound the mighty. 12. Give examples of early death being promised as a token of Divine favour.

In the Christian system, everything works its opposite. Honor, comes of self-abasement, wealth of poverty, and wisdom of ignorance.

A learned man has said that the three hardest words to pronounce in the English language are, "I was mistaken."

STORY OF THE WORLD.

BY OLIVE THORNE.

"I've been to the museum!" shouted Frank Drury, the minute he got into the house.

"Why didn't you bring some home to me, Frankie?" asked baby Nell, from the floor where she sat, dressing her doll.

"A pretty time I'd have, goosey, bringing it home to you. Why, there were animals there, or bones of animals, bigger'n this room!"

"Why, Frankie!" said Nell.

"Father," said Frank, turning to Mr. Drury, who had just come in, "do you believe those big skeletons were really live animals on the earth?"

"What else can I believe?" asked Mr. Drury, smiling, "when the bones are all there, and they are bones, and not the work of man."

"I don't know," said Frank; but they are such horrid creatures, and so big. I can hardly believe they were really alive. I'm glad I didn't live in the days when they flourished."

"No man lived in those days, my son."

"Why, father! how do you know?"

"Because no bones of human beings are found. This world has had a strange and wonderful history, and men are just learning to read it, as it is written in rocks and mountains."

"I don't see how histories can be written in rocks," said Frank, with a puzzled look.

"That's because you are not a geologist," answered Mr. Drury.

"What is a geologist, father?"

"It is a man who makes it his business to examine and study rocks and mountains to try and learn how and when the earth was made."

"Oh, father! can they find out how the earth was made?" asked Frank eagerly.

"There have been many suggestions and suppositions on the subject; or, to speak more correctly, there have been many theories about it, but I believe they are pretty well agreed now on the main points."

"What are they agreed on father?"

"The first point on which most of them agree, is, that the center of the earth is a mass of liquid fire."

"I don't believe it," said Frank, stoutly.

"Why don't you believe it, my son?" asked Mr. Drury. "Because you have reason to know, or merely because you don't like the idea?"

Frank blushed. "I suppose it's because I don't like the idea."

"Well, men who have studied it all their lives do believe it. I will tell you some of their reasons if you would like to hear."

"I would like it—very much."

"One reason is, that the deeper you get into the ground, the warmer it is."

"Why!—is it?"

"Yes. If you'd ever been down a deep mine you would know. Another is, that Artesian wells—do you know what they are?"

"Oh yes! there's one in the Park. I saw them bore it, and it's ever so many hundred feet deep. It spouts up the water all the time."

"Well, deep Artesian wells always throw up warm water—the deeper the well, the warmer the water. Another reason is the hot springs in the world, such as the Geysers in Iceland."

"Oh yes! I've read about them in my Geography."

"But the best and strongest proof is the existence of volcanoes, which throw up liquid lava, fire, and heated gases."

"Don't you think there's any danger of its burning the world up?" asked Frank, a little anxiously, for this was a new and very uncomfortable idea to him.

"Oh no!—it is supposed to be constantly cooling and getting solid."

"How far is it down to the fire?" asked Frank.

"It is supposed to be thirty miles—a mere crust."

"That's a pretty good crust, I should think," said Frank laughing.

"In proportion to the thickness, or diameter, of the earth, this crust is as thick as the skin of an apple, compared to the size of the apple."

Frank grew sober again, and Mr. Drury went on:

"It is supposed, by those who know the most about it, that this earth was once a huge, burning body. All the rocks and everything were melted up together in one fiery mass. But it was all the time flying

through space at a fearful rate, and, of course, it naturally got cooler as time went on. From being a vast body of vapor, it first became a liquid, hot and boiling; then, as it still whirled through the cold space, it became thicker, and more pasty; and, finally, it began to crust over."

Frank drew a long breath, as though he was glad to get to land again, even if it was the merest "crust."

"This crust, though solid, could not, of course resist the boiling and heaving of the red-hot mass within in. And it must have been something to awful to imagine, the pitching and tossing of the solid crust, the dreadful crackings and burstings, when it was forced to give way, and the red-hot matter rushing out and cooling on the surface. That would leave a hill, you see."

"And mountains, too, father?"

"They were formed thus: as the earth cooled, it grew smaller."

"Why, father?"

"Because nearly all substances do so. Of course, then, as the part under the crust cooled more, the crust would be too big for it, that would cause the crust to crack and break, forming chains of mountains, and ravines. In some places the burning mass would burst a hole through the crust, and pour out a quantity of the fluid, that would get cool, and thus form a single mountain. In some mountains they can trace three such eruptions."

"What happened next?" asked Frank breathlessly.

"All this time the earth was supposed to be surrounded by a mass of vapor; but as the crust became cooler, the vapor began to turn into water, and of course it fell on the earth in rain."

"That would cool it more, wouldn't it?"

"It would after a while, but at first the rain itself was hot with terrific thunder and lightnings. But so much rain fell that at last it filled up the hollows in the crust, and finally it covered the whole earth, a hot, muddy sea."

"It must have been a nice place to live," said Frank.

"Nothing could live, for an instant, on such a globe," said Mr. Drury. "But it was getting cooler, and the constant rains were purifying the air all the time. Finally, after ages of such commotion—as soon, in fact, as the world was cool enough, plants and animals began to appear."

"How do they know that, father?"

"They find remains of them in the rocks. The animals were the lowest order of sea animals, and the plants, had neither leaves nor flowers, at first. But they soon grew to immense forests, in the warm, damp soil, and those plants are the source of our coal. Coal is formed by the partial decay of plants."

"Why!—is it, father?"

"Yes, and it has been made in our day, as an experiment, by a Frenchman to prove how it was made."

"Did he make real coal, father?"

"He had an apparatus where he could place wood, and plants, so as to keep them very hot, and under strong pressure and that was all."

"It is funny to think we are burning up forests which grew before men were made."

"Yes, we are both warmed and lighted—when we use gas—by the vegetation of the most remote ages of the world. And another singular thing is, that the wonderful store of coal is found all over the world—in the cold, as well as the warm climates—proving that in those days it was as warm up at the north pole as it is now at the equator, for it was only in a warm, moist climate, that such vegetation would grow."

Ferns—such as we see, a foot or two high—grew to enormous trees. Another class of plants, which we call mosses, grew, at that time, to trees ninety feet high."

"Were there no animals, father?"

"Animals now began to appear, and such frightful looking animals! One is almost afraid of their skeletons. Think of a lizard thirty feet long, with a head like a snake. Or a sort of a whale, with a neck like a long snake. Or—worse still—a flying monstrosity, which you might call a dragon—for you never could pronounce his scientific name—more than twice as large as the largest birds now known."

"I'm glad I didn't live in those days."

"There wouldn't be much pleasure in living in the neighborhood of such animals, I think. Nor with the pretty creature called the *labrynthodon*."

"Nice name, anyhow."

"It is as graceful as he was. He was about nine feet long, and over three feet high,

a fearful creature. One of the most horrible was discovered, by a little girl, in England, about sixty years ago."

"Tell me about it, please."

"She got her living by breaking off pieces of rocks to find fossils of small animals. One day, when she was hunting about as usual, she saw some bones sticking out. She soon saw it was part of a large animal, and she hired men to dig it out. It was thirty feet long, with eyes larger than a man's head, and a delightful little mouth, containing one hundred and sixty teeth. This beauty now reposes in the British Museum, where I saw him—or his bones."

"Ugh! I don't want to see him," said Frank.

"After these creatures disappeared, things began to look as we know them. Birds came, and with them flowers. Animals, such as we know began to flourish. And at last, when all was ready—came man."

"But, father, the Bible says the world was made in six days."

"I know it does in the translation. It means six periods; but instead of six of our days, each one consisted of ages. When geologists first began to talk about the earth being so old, some people were terribly alarmed lest the Bible record should be proved untrue. They seemed to fear that the Creator had written a different history in the rocks from that in His inspired Word. But the more that Word and the rocks are studied, the better they agree and explain each other."

"Geology must be an interesting study, father."

"It is very interesting. Not only to know the history of the earth, before men lived on it, but to track out the history of men, from their savage and half wild state to civilization—to see how little by little they progressed in knowledge and the arts—how they made use of copper, and wood, and at last iron—how they lived in caves, then huts, and finally houses—with all modern improvements—how from living on wild fruits, and raw flesh, they have come to scour earth, air, and sea to supply their tables; and from wearing skins to cover them, down to the products of the tailor's skill."

"Some people wear skins and live in huts now, don't they father?"

"Yes, I don't know but a race could be found in the world exhibiting every state of progress, from savage to most enlightened."

"There are plenty of savages, anyway," said Frank.

"When men first began to find the bones of these enormous animals I have been telling you about, they thought some of them were human bones, and that's where the stories of giants originated. Bones that ignorant people called human, turned out to belong to animals."

"Then there never were such giants, father?"

"Never, as far as we know."

"Nor fairies—of course?"

"Nor fairies, as you say."

"Then," said Frank, with a half-serious face, "I shall never enjoy the old story books again."

"You're old enough to enjoy other things," said Mr. Drury, just as the tabell rang.—Interior.

THE HORSE-SHOE.

A farmer went to town one day, accompanied by his son, little Thomas.

"See," said he to him on the way, "there is a broken horse shoe in the road; pick it up and put it in your pocket."

"O no, father," replied Thomas, "it isn't worth while to stoop and pick it up."

His father, answering nothing, picked it up and put it in his own pocket. He sold it to the blacksmith of the next village for three farthings, and bought cherries with the money.

After this they continued their journey. The sun was burning hot. Neither house nor tree or spring was anywhere to be seen. Thomas suffered with thirst, and had great difficulty in keeping up with his father.

The latter then, as if by accident, let fall a cherry. Thomas picked it up with as much eagerness as if it had been gold, and put it in his mouth. A few paces further on the father let fall another cherry, which Thomas seized with the same haste. This game continued until all the cherries had been picked up. When the last had been eaten, the father turned to his son smiling, and said to him:

"You see now that if you had been willing to stoop once to pick up the horse-shoe, you would not have been obliged to do it a hundred times for the cherries."—From the French.