

The Sunday-School. **FOURTH QUARTER, LESSON XIII.—Dec. 27.**

REVIEW AND CHRISTMAS LESSON.

READ PSALM 103 AND MATTHEW 2: 1-12. THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST.

If preferred, this lesson may be used on the 20th of December, and the lesson for that day transferred to the 27th.

This review can be made a very effective and interesting Christmas lesson. For the kingdom of David was the anti-type of the kingdom of Christ. Jesus was the Son of David, and continued his line, and renewed his kingdom. The promises to David were completely fulfilled only in Jesus. The wise men from the East sought from afar the new-born King, as the queen of the South sought the kingdom of David as completed by David's son Solomon.

The preparation by Saul and his reign is comparable to the Jewish nation just before the time of Christ. Saul and his new era prepared the way for the splendid development under David. The Jews, by their dispersion, by their synagogue services, their careful preserving and teaching of the Scriptures, their subjection to the Romans, their rebuilding of the temple, were a part of the preparation for Christ.

JESUS, THE SON OF DAVID. Born at Jerusalem.

Youth and Training. David's youth and training was a foregleam of the earthly childhood of Jesus. David's early training was exactly the best for the work he was to do in life,— in a country home, religious and intelligent, with sufficient temptation, but not overwhelming till he was fully grown, and daily duties that developed him physically as well as mentally, amid the influences of nature, of music, of meditation. He had physical strength, beauty, and attractiveness. He had natural abilities of a high order and great variety. He was business man, statesman, warrior, musician, and poet. "There was," says Kitto, "a rare combination in him of all that was gentle, tender and mild, with the most exalted enthusiasm, the most noble aspirations, the most generous sentiments, the most manly deportment, the most heroic daring, and the most invincible prowess, joined to invariable consideration for others, open-heartedness, humbleness, and entire absence of all pretension." He had the conditions of power over men. "He had a wonderfully rich, lovable character. He moved many men with that irresistible fascination which only the greatest exercise." David learned many lessons in the court of Saul, and in his exile which fitted him for his kingly duties. He learned the character and needs of his people by living among them, suffering their trials, experiencing their grievances and privations and sorrows.

So Jesus became man and passed through childhood and youth in order that being "touched with the feeling of our infirmities," in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin," he might be "able to succour them that are tempted." Heb. 2: 18; 4: 15.

King of the Jews. Jesus was the king of the Jews whom the Magi sought. He was the descendant of David and inheritor of the promises to David, and of the everlasting throne of David, and of the world-wide kingdom which grew out of David's kingdom. All the riches

and splendors of David's kingdom as developed by Solomon were poor and dim beside the blessings of the kingdom of Jesus, spiritual riches beyond measure, comforts, joys, peace, education, character, love, and all outward blessings that flow from them.

The Seekers. As the queen of Sheba came from afar to hear the wisdom and see the glories of the kingdom of the Jews, the story of which had reached her ears, so the wise men from the East came to find the new-born king at Bethlehem.

The queen had a large kingdom, gold and spices, but there was something more she wanted. The wise men had wisdom and knowledge, but they had heard of diviner wisdom and higher knowledge for which their souls longed.

The Finding. Both found the object of their search, and to both "not half had been told."

Royal Gifts. The queen brought royal gifts to Solomon, and the wise men brought gifts to the infant Jesus—"myrrh to a mortal, gold to a king, frankincense to God." And both received more than they gave.

Possibilities. There was no limit to the blessings which David's kingdom might inherit for itself and for the world if only the rulers of the people would be filled with the right spirit, obey God from their hearts, and keep all his commandments. Where they failed the failure was due to refusing the necessary conditions. The development was slow, there were many failures and some disasters, but there was a gradual progress through great David's Greater Son.

In something the same way and for the same reasons the kingdom of Christ has not yet realized its possibilities, but the progress is becoming more rapid, and soon

"Jesus shall reign where'er the sun Doth his successful journeys run."

HE KISSED HIS MOTHER.

Sum up all there is in the world and among it can be found nothing that speaks better for a boy than the kiss he gives his mother. A Chicago judge is somewhat of the same opinion. He judged two boys less from evidence given by witnesses than from the evidence presented by themselves in the treatment of their mothers in court.

One boy, whom the judge decided must go to the reformatory, tenderly kissed his mother good-by, sinking his own misfortune in sympathy with the sorrow of his mother. The judge looked on, and instantly decided that there was enough in that boy to enable him and his mother to work out his salvation.

At the same moment, another boy, whom the judge had announced would probably go free, glanced meaningly at his mother, who sat weeping, and started to walk out. "That boy will go to the reformatory."

The judge had only applied common-sense in interpretation of the law. Perhaps few judges take the trouble to do it, but it is worth while.

The boy against whom the evidence seemed conclusive, but in his extremity thought first of his mother's sorrow, had good stuff in him. In sending him back home with his mother, the judge sent him to the best reformatory in the world.

It was no chance kiss. People do not

do things by chance at crucial moments. It is then all the elements in one's character becomes stimulated to the highest tension, and the resultant act indicates the real character.

Such a boy may yield to temptations. Bad companionships may lead him into trouble. But so long as love of mother remains his strongest emotion, there must be hope for his ultimate redemption.—*Gazette.*

NEGLECTED BIBLES.

I often have people to say to me, "I wish I knew my Bible better than I do," or "I confess that I do not read my Bible as often or carefully as I ought," or sometimes, "I wish I knew my Bible as well as you do, yours." Only the other day as we journeyed together in the cars, a Christian gentleman said to me: "I fear most of us business men are comparatively ignorant of the Bible. We take our knowledge of God's will from our ministers at second-hand. We are content to let them read and study the sacred Scriptures, and give us the benefit of their thoughts." And then, turning to me, he said: "Do you read your Bible every day? Do you read it apart from study and preparation for your public ministry?" And then I told him that it was my habit daily to read the Bible altogether apart from my professional use of it, he sighed and said: "I wish I knew more of it for myself. I have often dreamed of the pleasure I might find in sitting down daily and studying the Bible, but I am too busy; the habits of my life are too fixed; I am too old to begin now, but I feel that I am very ignorant of divine things, and very unfurnished for this life because of my ignorance of the world to come."—*Dr. George F. Pentecost.*

BIBLE STUDY.

Why should not everybody, especially every church member, belong to the Sunday-school? Surely no one can lay claim to sufficient knowledge of the Bible. Even the most scholarly men of the age are constantly studying the old book, and are ever finding something new in it. In spite of the sensation produced by several recent works of fiction, the Bible is more discussed to-day than any other book, and the interest in it is of the intensest kind. Such a book ought to be studied regularly by every person. We are convinced that by joining the Sunday-school and making use of the best helps in Bible study, the best results can be secured. Good helps are cheap, for one thing. Then the study of certain portions of the Bible every week will tend to regular and systematic habits of nourishing the soul with the very food that it most needs.—*The Observer.*

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The Tetrahedral Kites of Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. GILBERT H. GROSVENOR.
Hertzian Wave Wireless Telegraphy. DR. J. A. FLEMING.
The Salmon and Salmon Streams of Alaska. President DAVID STARR JORDAN.
The Storm Center in the Balkans. DR. ALLAN McLAUGHLIN.
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