

The Sunday-School.

SECOND QUARTER,
LESSON XIII.—June 28.

REVIEW.

GOLDEN TEXT.— *The Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom.*
—2 Tim. 4:18.

We have been studying the founding of the Christian church for a year, and before we leave it, it will be well to take a bird's-eye view over the whole, with the emphasis upon the period covered by the lessons of the present quarter.

The history of the Acts covers thirty-one or thirty-two years, from the resurrection of Jesus A. D. 30 till the close of Paul's two years' imprisonment in Rome, A. D. 61 or 62. It extends over all but eight or nine of the forty years between the crucifixion of Christ and the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple and the Jewish nation, A. D. 70.

If we use St. Paul's metaphor of the wild olive representing the Gentile church, grafted upon the olive tree representing the Old Testament church (Rom. 11:17-24), the period of forty years, from the beginning of the Christian church on Pentecost, A. D. 30, to the destruction of Jerusalem, A. D. 70, when the branches of the olive tree were broken off because of their unbelief, would represent the period of the grafting of the new church upon the old. This is the coming again of Christ which he promised should take place within that generation, during the lifetime of some with whom he was speaking (Matt. 16:28; 24:34; Mark 13:30; Luke 21:27,32). This coming of Christ is to be completed, when the whole world comes under his benign rule.

For the first few years the new church clustered around the city of Jerusalem. Then the gospel was spread throughout Palestine and Syria, to Cesarea, Samaria, Damascus, Antioch. From Antioch Paul and his companions went forth on their missionary tours throughout Asia Minor, Macedonia, Greece and Italy, and probably as far as Spain, so that the gospel was preached throughout the then civilized world. And if we may trust tradition, is was carried by the apostles and others to Ethiopia, Assyria, Persia and India.

The church at first consisted of Jews and proselytes who had fully accepted Judaism. They wanted all the world to become Christian, but only by becoming Jews first. The gospel reached out to Samaria, then to an occasional devout Gentile, then to the Gentile church at Antioch with certain restrictions on account of their relation to their Jewish fellow-Christians, and finally to every one, Gentile or Jew, who accepted Jesus as their Saviour and teacher.

THE FIRST CENTER. JERUSALEM (Acts 1-12). 1. The Christians were chiefly Jews.

2. The church was of a noble and beautiful character.

3. For several years it was largely confined to or gathered around the city.

4. If this had continued, the church would have become selfish and narrow.

5. Persecution compelled them to scatter abroad, and so began the era of home missions throughout the country, chiefly to the Jews.

6. Although the history of the Jerusalem church, as given in Acts, does not extend beyond this, yet we learn from other sources that probably the

apostles carried the gospel into other countries as far as Assyria, Persia, and India.

THE SECOND CENTRE. ANTIOCH (Acts 13:28). 1. This was the centre of the Gentile church.

2. It was the broadening of the church into a world-wide organization.

3. It was the center of foreign missions.

4. Paul went on three long missionary tours.

5. He evangelized the leading cities of the civilized world.

6. He wrote thirteen epistles, making permanent the great truths of the gospel.

7. The two great sources of power were the ever-living Christ and the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

THE FIRST CENTURY AND THE TWENTIETH CENTURY. 1. Both are missionary centuries, with an intense zeal in some persons.

2. The difficulties are similar — opposition, persecution, language, dangers, distances.

3. The powers are the same — the living Christ, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

4. The providential preparations are similar—the channels of commerce, the control of Christian nations over a large part of the world, the prevalence of a few languages through commerce, the unrest of the nations, the general prevalence of peace, centers of Christian civilization in nearly all the great cities.

5. The success is much the same now as then. The gospel is being preached in nearly every country.

PAUL'S LAST YEARS. The divine providence through which Paul came to Rome.

His report of his work at Ephesus. Paul's arrest at Jerusalem, and its causes.

How Paul was enabled to preach the gospel to the leading Jews and the Roman leaders.

Effect of his long imprisonment at Cesarea.

The advantages of the way Paul was taken to Rome.

Paul in the storm.

His life at Rome.

For younger children the events of the past quarter may be suggested and reviewed by means of certain objects connected with them. These may be written on slips of paper and given to different members of the class, who are to tell the story and state the natural instruction which clusters around it. For instance:

A prison, a scourge, a temple court, a mob, a chain, a court room, a ship, a storm, a boat, a viper, a bundle of faggots, anchors, a sick man, a man asleep in church, four girls who prophesied, a man who wanted a bribe, a vision in the night, some people swimming ashore.

Some think that children should not be biased in their religious ideas, but left to choose for themselves. It is a nice, but impracticable theory. The truth is that the world and their own minds are full of the things which bias in the direction of evil, and as between a bias toward evil and a bias toward good we must decide, and decide very early. Anyhow, God seeks the opening bud, not the withering leaf.—*The Presbyterian Banner.*

STRANGE BIBLE FACTS.

The learned Prince of Granada, heir to the Spanish throne, imprisoned by order of the crown for fear he should aspire to the throne, was kept in solitary confinement in the old prison at the Palace of Skulls, Madrid. After thirty-three years in this living tomb, death came to his release, and the following remarkable researches, taken from the Bible and marked with an old nail on the rough walls of his cell, told how the brain sought employment through the weary years.

In the Bible the word "Lord" is found 1,853 times.

The word "Jehovah" 6,855 times.

The word "reverend" but once, and that in the ninth verse of Psalm III.

The eighth verse of the ninety-seventh Psalm is the middle verse of the Bible.

The ninth verse of the eighth chapter of Esther is the longest.

The thirty-fifth verse of the eleventh chapter of St. John is the shortest.

In the one hundred and seventh Psalm four verses are alike — the eighth, fifteenth, twenty-first and thirty-first.

Ezra 721 contains all the letters of the alphabet except "j."

Each verse of the one hundred and thirty-sixth Psalm ends alike.

No names or words of more than six syllables are found in the Bible.

The thirty-seventh chapter of Isaiah and nineteenth chapter of Second Kings are alike.

The word "girl" occurs but once in the Bible, and that in the third verse of the third chapter of Joel.

There are found in both books of the Bible 3,538,483 letters, 773,693 words, 31,373 verses, 1,189 chapters, and 66 books.

The twenty-sixth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles is the finest chapter to read.

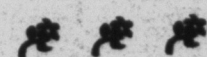
The most beautiful chapter is the twenty-third Psalm.

The four most inspiring promises are John 14:2; 6:37; Matthew 11:28; Ps. 37:4.

The first verse of the sixteenth chapter of Isaiah is the one for the new convert.

All who flatter themselves with vain boasting should read the sixth chapter of Matthew.

All humanity should learn the sixth chapter of St. Luke from the twentieth verse to the ending.—*Selected.*



The World Needs Nerve.

Needs it in business, in the study, in the household. Irritability, weakness, lack of strength—the blue feeling—why they just tell you that you lack nerve. You'll use Ferrozone? My! What an appetite you'll get. How quickly the color will return to your cheeks, how buoyant you'll feel! Work! of course you'll work, for you will enjoy it. That is, if you will use Ferrozone. It gives nerve strength, muscular endurance and invigorates the brain splendidly. Sold by all druggists and medicine dealers.

In hot countries Painkiller finds many uses. Colic, cramps, diarrhoea, and all such troubles readily give way to its use. Dose, one teaspoonful in hot water. There is but one Painkiller.

Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup is at the head of the list for all diseases of the throat and lungs. It acts like magic in breaking up a cold. A cough is soon subdued, tightness of the chest is relieved, even the worst case of consumption is relieved, while in recent cases it may be said never to fail. It is a medicine prepared from the active principles of virtues of several medicinal herbs, and can be depended upon for all pulmonary complaints.

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We must go from heated rooms to the cold outer air, and the change sets us coughing. Curing winter colds is not hard if you take Allen's Lung Balsam. A neglected cold is troublesome and dangerous.