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A BIBLE YEAR
AMOS R. WELLS



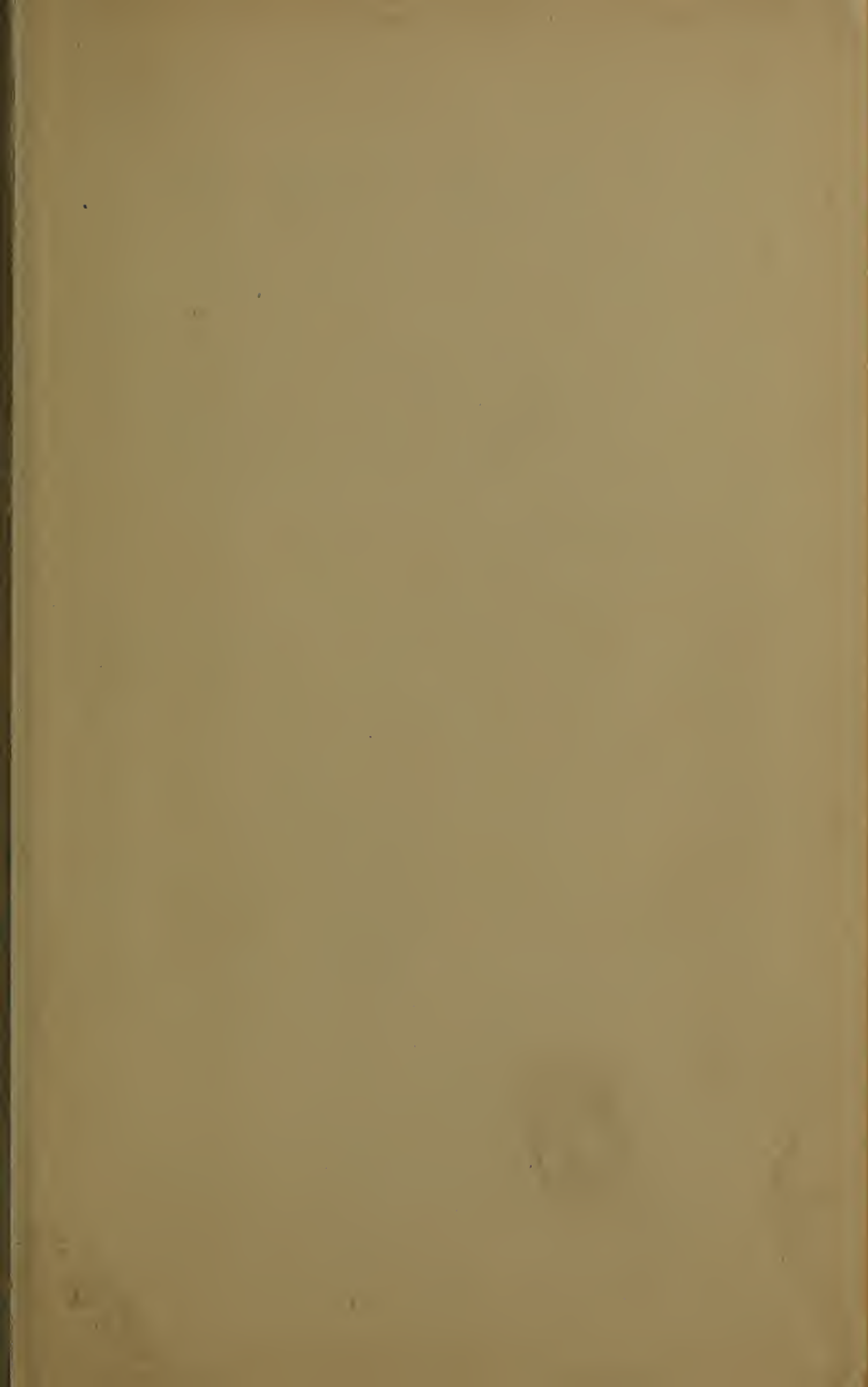
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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.





A Bible Year

A Course in Bible-Reading,
completing the entire Bible in one year;
with daily suggestions for meditation
and for further study

By Amos R. Wells



United Society of Christian Endeavor
· Boston and Chicago

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Preface.

THIS little book pretends to be nothing more than a primer of Bible-reading.

Actual experiment has proved the need and usefulness of such directions as are here given. For a year, week by week, these studies were printed in the columns of *The Christian Endeavor World*. A call was made for the names of all that would undertake to read the Bible through in accordance with this plan during the year; and without advertisement or urging, more than nine thousand sent in their names. Hundreds and even thousands of these expressed themselves as thankful for the plan, and said that, though they had often proposed reading the Bible through and had frequently set out upon the task, this plan had furnished just the stimulus and aid needed to spur them to its completion.

These Bible-readers were in all parts of America and in many foreign lands. Indeed, the course was translated into several foreign tongues.

Pastors induced their churches to take up the work. Families read the Bible thus together,

Sunday-school teachers used the plan as an incentive to their classes for regular home Bible-reading and study. Some that had never read the Bible for three days in succession, completed the entire course. Some in their eagerness got far ahead, and read the Bible through twice in the year.

The plan was found useful in prisons. Ministers of the gospel testified that even to them it had opened up fresh gospel truth. "The Bible has become a new book to me," was a frequent message.

Though it was understood that the themes for daily meditation suggested by the daily Scripture reading, as well as the hints for further study, were entirely optional, an unexpectedly large number wrote me that they were adding both to their Bible-reading, and found in both great profit.

These suggestions for further study, it will be understood, do not pretend to anything like completeness or scholarship. They are part of a primer, and merely point out a great variety of simple researches that will throw light upon the Bible, and bind its portions more closely together in the mind.

AMOS R. WELLS.

Boston, November, 1899.

A Bible Year.

The First Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- January 1.* Gen., chapters 1, 2, 3. *Creation.*
January 2. Gen., chapters 4, 5, 6, 7. *Noah.*
January 3. Gen., chapters 8, 9, 10, 11. *Babel.*
January 4. Gen., chapters 12, 13, 14, 15, 16. *Abraham.*
January 5. Gen., chapters 17, 18, 19. *Lot.*
January 6. Gen., chapters 20, 21, 22, 23. *Abraham.*
January 7. Gen., chapters 24, 25. *Isaac.*

Genesis.

The book of Genesis covers more time than all the rest of the Bible put together. "Genesis" means "beginning"; it is a book of origins. The first five books of the Bible are called the Pentateuch, a word which means "five books." If Joshua is included, the section is called the Hexateuch. The Hebrew Bible names the books of the Pentateuch from their first words. The name of this book, therefore, is in Hebrew, "In the beginning." The Pentateuch is "The Book of the Law," or Tôrah. The author of Genesis is Moses, who probably made use of earlier documents, but who, under divine inspiration, bound them all together into an authentic history.

For Meditation as You Read.

- January 1.*—How great and good is God!
January 2.—How hateful and terrible is sin!

JANUARY 1-7.

January 3.—How God rebukes human pride.
(Babel.)

January 4.—The greatness that comes from
obedience.

January 5.—The mischief of worldliness.

January 6.—How God may be testing me.

January 7.—The rewards of simple kindness.
(Rebecca at the well.)

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

January 1.—The remarkable correspondence between the Bible order of creation and that disclosed by geology.

January 2.—How the modern races are divided in descent from Noah's three sons.

January 3.—The most significant names in chapter 10. Look them up in the Bible dictionary.

January 4.—The geography of Abraham's journeys.

January 5.—References, in other parts of the Bible, to the great covenant with Abraham.

January 6.—Correspondences between the sacrifice of Isaac and that of Christ.

January 7.—Go over these twenty-five chapters, underscoring in each a significant word or two that may stand as the title of the chapter.

The Second Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- January 8.* Gen., chapters 26, 27. *Jacob and Esau.*
- January 9.* Gen., chapters 28, 29, 30. *Jacob and Laban.*
- January 10.* Gen., chapters 31, 32. *Jacob and the angel.*
- January 11.* Gen., chapters 33, 34, 35, 36. *Jacob.*
- January 12.* Gen., chapters 37, 38, 39. *Joseph sold.*
- January 13.* Gen., chapters 40, 41. *Joseph and Pharaoh.*
- January 14.* Gen., chapters 42, 43, 44. *Joseph and his brethren.*

For Meditation as You Read.

- January 8.*—How am I my brother's keeper ?
- January 9.*—God's angels are round about me.
- January 10.*—Am I opposing my will to God's ?
- January 11.*—Are there any whom I need to forgive ?
- January 12.*—How envy will make me a murderer at heart.
- January 13.*—Do I lack wisdom ? Whence it comes.
- January 14.*—God controls the fortunes of men.

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

- January 8.*—Other significant Bible names such as "Jacob, the Supplanter."
- January 9.*—Study the famous Bible dreams, making a list of them.

JANUARY 8-14.

January 10.—Other covenants in the Bible, compared with the Mizpah covenant.

January 11.—The pillars Jacob set up, and similar memorials throughout the Bible.

January 12.—Are the brothers the Bible tells about, on the whole, to be imitated or shunned as examples?

January 13.—Compare this with the dream Daniel interpreted.

January 14.—Go through the week's readings, underscoring in each a significant word or phrase that may stand as the title of the chapter.

The Third Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- January 15.* Gen., chapters 45, 46, 47. *Joseph's power.*
- January 16.* Gen., chapters 48, 49, 50. *Jacob's death.*
- January 17.* Review. Genesis deals chiefly with six men. Mark in your Bible the place where each of these six biographies begins. Go over the book of Genesis marking the passages that you will wish to refer to most often, because they are most helpful.
- January 18.* Exod., chapters 1, 2, 3, 4. *Moses.*
Read the introduction to the book, given below.
- January 19.* Exod., chapters 5, 6, 7, 8. *Plagues.*
- January 20.* Exod., chapters 9, 10, 11. *Plagues.*
- January 21.* Exod., chapters 12, 13, 14. *Passover.*

Exodus.

With this week we begin a new book. Exodus, crowded with Egyptian words and ideas and with terms taken from the wilderness journeys, could have been written by no one of a later time than Moses, its great author. Its name is taken from the Greek translation, the Septuagint, and means "the going out" (from Egypt). It is divided into three parts: (1) Chapters 1-18, history; (2) chapters 19-24, laws; (3) chapters 25-40, worship. The book paints in a masterly way the beginnings of a nation.

For Meditation as You Read.

January 15.—How am I honoring my father and mother?

JANUARY 15-21.

January 16.—What kind of death-bed am I preparing for myself ?

January 17.—How can I gain for my life Abraham's courageous faithfulness, Jacob's zeal, Joseph's wisdom ?

January 18.—God has a message for me to give. Am I proclaiming it ?

January 19.—How my troubles are caused by my sins.

January 20.—Am I persisting in any known sin, like Pharaoh ?

January 21.—Christ my Passover. Is he really this to me ?

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

January 15.—Look ahead, by means of a concordance, and note some of the influences of Egypt over the Hebrews' later history.

January 16.—The fulfilment of the prophecies contained in Jacob's last words.

January 17.—Sum up, in two or three words each, the characters of the six men of Genesis: Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph.

January 18.—Look up the localities mentioned in to-day's chapters.

January 19.—Evidences lately found (see Bible dictionary) of the actual work of the Hebrews in Egypt.

January 20.—Study (in Bible dictionary) the natural forces of which God may have made use in performing these miracles.

January 21.—Go over these fourteen chapters, marking in each a characteristic word or two that may stand as the title of the chapter.

The Fourth Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- January 22.* Exod., chapters 15, 16, 17, 18. *Manna.*
January 23. Exod., chapters 19, 20, 21. *Sinai.*
January 24. Exod., chapters 22, 23, 24. *Laws.*
January 25. Exod., chapters 25, 26, 27. *Taber-
nacle.*
January 26. Exod., chapters 28, 29. *Priesthood.*
January 27. Exod., chapters 30, 31, 32. *Idolatry.*
January 28. Exod., chapters 33, 34, 35. *Forgive-
ness.*

For Meditation as You Read.

- January 22.*—God will always provide for his children.
January 23.—Do I keep the spirit of each of the Ten Commandments?
January 24.—How I am to get up in the Mount with God.
January 25.—What is my real heart attitude toward God's sanctuary?
January 26.—How I, as God's priest, may bear the mystic sign, "HOLINESS TO THE LORD."
January 27.—The gold calves before which I worship.
January 28.—What offerings for his service does God want me to give him?

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

- January 22.*—Read the Bible-dictionary account of manna.

JANUARY 22-28.

January 23.—Look up Christ's teachings with regard to each of the Ten Commandments.

January 24.—Consider how each of these laws was suited to the especial condition of the Hebrews at that time.

January 25.—Read the Bible-dictionary account of the construction and contents of the Tabernacle.

January 26.—Study, in the Bible dictionary, the ephod, breastplate, and Urim and Thummim.

January 27.—Investigate the question of taxes among the Hebrews.

January 28.—Go through the twenty-one chapters read this week, marking in each some characteristic word or phrase that will serve as a title for the chapter.

The Fifth Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

January 29. Exod., chapters 36, 37, 38. *Tabernacle.*

January 30. Exod., chapters 39, 40. *Dedication.*

January 31. Review. Mark in your Bibles the four divisions of the book: Slavery (chapters 1-6); Salvation (chapters 7-18); Sinai (chapters 19-34); Service (chapters 35-40). Run your eye over the book, and mark in the margin all passages that you think likely to be of especial helpfulness to you in the future.

February 1. Lev., chapters 1, 2, 3, 4. *Offerings: burnt, meal, peace, sin.* (Read the introduction to the book given below.)

February 2. Lev., chapters 5, 6, 7. *Trespass offerings.*

February 3. Lev., chapters 8, 9, 10. *Consecration and desecration.*

February 4. Lev., chapters 11, 12, 13. *Clean and unclean.*

Leviticus.

This book is so named because it is chiefly made up of directions for the Levites given by Moses, and to him by God on Mount Sinai. There are only three bits of narrative in the book: the consecration of the priests, the story of Nadab and Abihu, and the stoning of the blasphemer. The time covered is only one month. The book contains one priceless verse, the "second commandment" that Christ quoted. Its laws may seem at first without much meaning for us, but the more we study them, the more we are filled with admiration for their strong common sense; and when we go still deeper, we see in them the

JANUARY 29—FEBRUARY 4.

most wonderful and inspiring foregleams of gospel truths.

For Meditation as You Read.

January 29.—How may I adorn God's most sacred temple, my own soul?

January 30.—Have I God's actual presence in my soul? If not, why not?

January 31.—The bondage in which I am still held, and how I may get out of my Egypt.

February 1.—How great are my sins!

February 2.—Christ is my sacrifice for sin. What do I owe him in return?

February 3.—Am I offering strange fire on God's altar?

February 4.—Is my daily life so ordered as to contribute to holiness?

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

January 29.—Draw for your Bible a careful plan of the Tabernacle, putting each article in its proper place.

January 30.—In connection with the breastplate, it will be of interest to look up the Bible mention of precious stones.

January 31.—Make a list of the characteristics of that greatest of men, Moses, as disclosed in this book.

February 1.—Distinguish among these various offerings, (1) their purposes; (2) their manner.

February 2.—Draw up a table of these five kinds of offerings, reducing the matter to its simplest terms.

February 3.—Compare the case of Nadab and Abihu with other cases of desecration mentioned in the Bible.

February 4.—Consider the reasons for the Mosaic restrictions as to food, and learn their consequences in the health of the Jews.

The Sixth Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- February 5.* Lev., chapters 14, 15. *Leprosy.*
February 6. Lev., chapters 16, 17, 18. *The scape-goat.*
February 7. Lev., chapters 19, 20, 21. *Wise laws.*
February 8. Lev., chapters 22, 23, 24. *Feasts.*
February 9. Lev., chapters 25, 26. *Jubilee.*
February 10. Lev., chapter 27 and review.

Go through the book, marking plainly in your Bibles the beginning of each of the six divisions; namely, (1) Offerings (chapters 1-7); (2) Priesthood (chapters 8-10); (3) Cleanliness (chapters 11-16); (4) Holiness (chapters 17-22); (5) Feasts (chapter 23); (6) Laws (chapters 24-27). Pass rapidly over these chapters, and mark in the margin any passage likely to prove helpful to you hereafter.

- February 11.* Num., chapters 1, 2. *A census.*

Numbers.

The book takes its name from the two censuses, the one at the beginning and the other at the end of the wanderings in the wilderness. The length of time described is thirty-eight years and three months. The point of closest contact with the New Testament is the marvellously beautiful episode of the brazen serpent. The book records many fragments of ancient poetry, such as the "Song of the Well" (21:17, 18). The story of Numbers is one of sin and punishment, of murmuring and rebuke, of presumption and postponement. It is a sad book, and yet full of hope.

For Meditation as You Read.

- February 5.*—The leprosy of sin: is it growing upon me?

FEBRUARY 5-11.

February 6.—How I may lay my sins on Christ.

February 7.—Do I love my neighbor as myself ?
(Lev. 19: 18.)

February 8.—How may I make my Sabbaths genuine festivals of joy before God ?

February 9.—How many of the curses of chapter 26 do I deserve ?

February 10.—Am I giving to God as much as the tithe ? Should I ?

February 11.—What place would be assigned me in the mustering of God's true Israel ?

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

February 5.—Read the Bible-dictionary account of the various diseases comprehended in the Bible under the term, "leprosy."

February 6.—Look back over what we have read, and note how often there comes up the idea of atonement for sin through means outside the sinner.

February 7.—Review these three chapters, considering how many of these laws are still needed by the world.

February 8.—Read the Bible-dictionary account of the Jewish year.

February 9.—Write down in your Bible all the advantages you can think of that sprung from the year of jubilee.

February 10.—It would be a most valuable exercise to go over the whole of Leviticus, marking in some way every provision that has been outgrown by the changed conditions of the world. Consider the spirit of each law, of course, rather than its formal details, and you will be astonished to see how little you have had to mark.

February 11.—Get an idea of the size of the tribes by drawing squares proportioned to the numbers of each. Put this drawing on a blank page of your Bible.

The Seventh Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- February 12.* Num., chapters 3, 4. *Levites.*
February 13. Num., chapters 5, 6. *Lepers and Nazarites.*
February 14. Num., chapters 7, 8. *Princely offerings.*
February 15. Num., chapters 9, 10, 11. *The quails.*
February 16. Num., chapters 12, 13, 14. *Caleb.*
February 17. Num., chapters 15, 16. *Korah.*
February 18. Num., chapters 17, 18, 19. *Aaron's rod.*

For Meditation as You Read.

- February 12.*—May God show me some practical way in which, like the Levites, I may minister in his house !
- February 13.*—How I ought to separate myself, like the Nazarites, to the Lord.
- February 14.*—Have I really dedicated my possessions to God ? How can I do it ?
- February 15.*—How God has borne with my foolish complainings.
- February 16.*—What land has God set before me for conquest ? Am I a Caleb toward this task ?
- February 17.*—God's terrible hatred of sin ; am I provoking it ?
- February 18.*—My work is dead, like Aaron's rod ; but God can easily bring it to blossom and fruitage.

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

- February 12.*—Write in appropriate places on your plan of the Tabernacle the names of the divisions of the Levites that had charge of each

FEBRUARY 12-18.

portion. Compare this account with modern ideas of the pastorate.

February 13.—Study the famous Nazarites of the Bible, making a list of them. See Bible dictionary.

February 14.—Study the shekel, and make an estimate of the value of these gifts.

February 15.—Study the references in the rest of the Bible to the pillar of cloud and fire.

February 16.—Get from the Bible dictionary a comprehensive notion of the Holy Land at this time—the people that inhabited it and their disposition over the country. Investigate the reference to “giants.”

February 17.—Study the offences for which in Bible times the penalty of stoning was imposed.

February 18.—Study the various gifts which the people were commanded to give for the support of their representatives, the Levites. Consider how well these would support them.

The Eighth Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- February 19.* Num., chapters 20, 21, 22. *The brazen serpent.*
- February 20.* Num., chapters 23, 24, 25, 26. *Balaam.*
- February 21.* Num., chapters 27, 28, 29. *Joshua.*
- February 22.* Num., chapters 30, 31, 32. *Vows and conquest.*
- February 23.* Num., chapters 33, 34, 35. *Cities of refuge.*
- February 24.* Num., chapter 36, and review.
- February 25.* Deut.; chapters 1, 2. *Reminiscence.*
Read the account of Deuteronomy given below.

Deuteronomy.

This great book is chiefly made up of three addresses by Moses just before the entrance into the Holy Land: (1) chapters 1 to 4: 40. a rehearsal of God's goodness; (2) chapters 5 to 26, a review of the law, for the ears of this second generation; (3) chapters 27 to 30, a renewal of the covenant. It is from section 2 that the book takes its name, "the second law." Deuteronomy closes with the final scenes in the life of the great lawgiver, these portions being necessarily written by another hand than his. Note while reading the book the many striking prophecies, the passage that Christ quotes as the chief of all the commandments, and the three sentences with which Christ frustrated Satan's three temptations. Note, too, the grandeur of the style and the magnificence and force of the appeals.

For Meditation as You Read.

February 19.—A life for a look! How am I looking to Jesus?

FEBRUARY 19-25.

February 20.—Am I using to the full for Christ my power of speech?

February 21.—Moses' sin kept him from the Promised Land. Is any sin of mine keeping me from such joy?

February 22.—What vows have I taken upon myself? Am I faithful to them?

February 23.—Christ is my city of refuge. What need have I to flee to him?

February 24.—My Christian inheritance: what it is. Am I in danger of losing it?

February 25.—Before what Anakim am I cowering?

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

February 19.—Look up the references in the New Testament to the brazen serpent and the water of Meribah.

February 20.—Find the interesting references to Balaam in the rest of the Bible, both Old and New Testaments.

February 21.—Study the thought of atonement in chapters 28 and 29.

February 22.—Consider the sanitary and moral reasons for the stern provisions of chapter 31.

February 23.—Study with the aid of a map the outline of Israel's territory as given in chapter 34.

February 24.—Go through the entire book, marking the passages which have chiefly impressed you as worthy to be remembered. You might use red ink to mark those passages that point forward to Christ.

February 25.—Learn from the map the geographical position of the peoples named in these two chapters.

The Ninth Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- February 26.* Deut., chapters 3, 4. *Obey God.*
February 27. Deut., chapters 5, 6, 7. *The law of worship.*
February 28. Deut., chapters 8, 9, 10. *A record of rebellion.*
March 1. Deut., chapters 11, 12, 13. *The doom of idolaters.*
March 2. Deut., chapters 14, 15, 16. *Food. The poor.*
March 3. Deut., chapters 17, 18, 19, 20. *The coming Prophet.*
March 4. Deut., chapters 21, 22, 23. *Crimes and criminals.*

For Meditation as You Read.

- February 26.*—Am I seeking God with all my heart? (Deut. 4 : 29.)
February 27.—Is my bearing what it should be toward those that are not Christians?
February 28.—By what sins have I rebelled against God?
March 1.—How may I uproot idolatry from my life?
March 2.—My duty to those that are poorer than I: am I fulfilling it?
March 3.—Am I harkening to Christ's words? (See Deut. 18 : 19.)
March 4.—How may I become more faithful to my religious vows? (See Deut. 23 : 21-23.)

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

- February 26.*—Locate on the map Pisgah and the cities of refuge; also look up as many more of

FEBRUARY 26—MARCH 4.

the geographical references as you have time for.

February 27.—Compare the Ten Commandments as given here with those in Exodus.

February 28.—Look up some of the later references in the Bible to the table of the law.

March 1.—Read some account of the evils of idolatry in the time of Moses.

March 2.—Learn about the animals mentioned in chapter 14.

March 3.—Review the other prophetic hints of Christ that we have come across, similar to that at the close of chapter 18.

March 4.—Basing your inquiry on Deut. 23 : 19, 20, learn what the Bible has to say about the lending of money.

The Tenth Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- March 5.* Deut., chapters 24, 25, 26. *Marriage. Mercy. Tithes.*
- March 6.* Deut., chapters 27, 28. *Blessings and curses.*
- March 7.* Deut., chapters 29, 30, 31. *Keep the covenant.*
- March 8.* Deut., chapters 32, 33, 34. *Moses' song, blessing, death.*
- March 9.* Review. Pass rapidly over the book, marking in the margin the most striking passages, and indicating with red those in any way connected with Christ.
- March 10.* Josh., chapters 1, 2, 3. *Joshua at the Jordan.* Read the introduction to the book, given below.
- March 11.* Josh., chapters 4, 5, 6. *The fall of Jericho.*

Joshua.

The book was chiefly written by Joshua, with additions by later historians. It introduces the second division of the Bible, the Historical Books. It describes the conquest and division of Canaan, the renewal of the covenant, the death of Joshua. Part of the book is the spirited recital of heroic deeds; part is occupied with most valuable geographical information.

For Meditation as You Read.

- March 5.*—I have chosen God, and He me. (Deut. 26: 17-19.)
- March 6.*—My final lot, will be blessing or cursing, as I deserve.

MARCH 5-11.

March 7.—Sins of which I need to repent.

March 8.—God's goodness; my ingratitude.

March 9.—The majesty of God's law. What is my attitude toward it?

March 10.—God's power can overcome all obstacles for His children.

March 11.—My power lies not in my might, but in my obedience.

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

March 5.—Make a study of the Bible precepts enjoining care of the poor.

March 6.—Find Ebal and Gerizim on the map. Learn what other great events occurred in that region.

March 7.—Look up other references in the Old Testament to this "Book of the Law." (Deut. 31: 9.)

March 8.—Analyze the structure of this beautiful poem, and find its central purpose.

March 9.—Consider what portions of Deuteronomy are commentaries and repetitions, and what are original additions to the law.

March 10.—Compare this account with that of the passage of the Red Sea.

March 11.—Study the position of Jericho, and the New Testament references to Rahab and to the fall of Jericho.

The Eleventh Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- March 12.* Josh., chapters 7, 8, 9. *The capture of Ai.*
- March 13.* Josh., chapters 10, 11, 12. *The conquest of kings.*
- March 14.* Josh., chapters 13, 14, 15. *Caleb honored.*
- March 15.* Josh., chapters 16, 17, 18, 19. *The land apportioned.*
- March 16.* Josh., chapters 20, 21, 22. *The altar of testimony.*
- March 17.* Josh., chapters 23, 24. *Joshua's last words.*
- March 18.* Review rapidly the entire book, marking in the margin the most striking passages. It will be well to give a title to each chapter.

For Meditation as You Read.

- March 12.*—My disobedience to God will defeat my life.
- March 13.*—No power is too great for me to overcome with God's help.
- March 14.*—God will prolong my strength only as I, like Caleb, use it for Him.
- March 15.*—God has some rich inheritance set apart and waiting for me.
- March 16.*—No good thing (Josh. 21 : 45) that God promises will ever fail.
- March 17.*—How little of my blessings are to be credited to myself ! (Josh. 24 : 13.)

MARCH 12-18.

March 18.—If I am on God's side, I cannot be defeated.

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

March 12.—Study the other instances given in the Bible where defeat followed disobedience, and victory followed obedience.

March 13.—Become familiar with the proper names of this chapter.

March 14.—Review the story of Caleb, marking with one color all passages referring to him.

March 15.—Fix in your mind by means of the map the location of each of the tribes.

March 16.—Mark plainly on the map the Levitical cities and the cities of refuge.

March 17.—Make a study of the farewell addresses given in the Bible.

March 18.—Study the character of Joshua as disclosed in this book, and sum it up, in as few words as possible, in the margin of your Bible.

The Twelfth Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

March 19. Judg., chapters 1, 2, 3. *Othniel and Ehud.* Read the introduction to the book given below.

March 20. Judg., chapters 4, 5, 6. *Deborah and Barak.*

March 21. Judg., chapters 7, 8. *Gideon.*

March 22. Judg., chapters 9, 10. *Abimelech.*

March 23. Judg., chapters 11, 12, 13. *Jephthah and Manoah.*

March 24. Judg., chapters 14, 15, 16. *Samson.*

March 25. Judg., chapters 17, 18, 19. *Micah.*

Judges.

This book covers a little more than three centuries of Jewish history. Its authorship is uncertain; Jewish tradition ascribes it to Samuel, although portions belong to earlier times, and a few references must have been incorporated later. The book, with its repeated accounts of idolatry, punishment, and deliverance by men raised up by God, is full of solemn warnings. The story is told of thirteen of these deliverers, reaching from the time of Joshua to that of Samuel.

For Meditation as You Read.

March 19.—Is any stubbornness of mine (2:19) provoking God's wrath?

March 20.—God will deliver my Siseras into my hand.

March 21.—Would I be one of Gideon's three hundred?

MARCH 19-25.

March 22.—Have I chosen (9: 8-15) the bramble to be my king?

March 23.—How does my regard for my word compare with Jephthah's?

March 24.—The enticements Satan weaves around me. My attitude toward them.

March 25.—While so many are in darkness seeking the light, how am I using the full light I have?

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

March 19.—Read what the Bible dictionary says about the judges.

March 20.—Make a list of the women of the Bible who, like Deborah, were at the head of affairs.

March 21.—Study the Bible references to the Midianites.

March 22.—Make a collection of Old Testament parables, such as 9: 8-15.

March 23.—Study the various occasions in the Bible when angelic announcement has been made of the birth of a child.

March 24.—Make a special study of the Philistines.

March 25.—Study the references throughout the Bible to the tribe and the city of Dan.

The Thirteenth Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- March 26.* Judg., chapters 20, 21. *The desolation of Benjamin.* Review rapidly the entire book, marking the most helpful passages, if you have time, and giving a title to each chapter.
- March 27.* The book of Ruth. *Fidelity and reward.* Read the introduction to the book, given below.
- March 28.* 1 Sam., chapters 1, 2, 3. *A young prophet.* Read the introduction to the book, given below.
- March 29.* 1 Sam., chapters 4, 5, 6, 7. *God's power attested.*
- March 30.* 1 Sam., chapters 8, 9, 10. *Saul anointed.*
- March 31.* 1 Sam., chapters 11, 12, 13. *Saul's sacrifice.*
- April 1.* 1 Sam., chapters 14, 15. *Saul's sin.*

Ruth.

This book is the natural connecting link between the story of the judges and that of the kings. It covers ten years at the close of the judgeship of Eli or the beginning of that of Samuel. The concluding verses would imply that the book was written after the time of David, but probably not long after. Several curious and valuable pieces of information concerning Hebrew customs are given us in this book, but its chief importance is in its picture of David's great-grandmother, the gentle, noble ancestress of our Lord.

First and Second Samuel.

These books are really one, and they received their name manifestly not from their author, but

MARCH 26—APRIL 1.

because he is the principal character of the first portion. The work consists of three biographies—Samuel's, Saul's, and David's. It is not known when or by whom it was compiled, but the compiler doubtless had access to the books of Samuel, Nathan, and Gad (1 Chron. 29:29), the official records of the kingdom, and David's personal memoirs.

For Meditation as You Read.

March 26.—I cannot sin without involving many others in my sorrow.

March 27.—Am I true to those that have the closest claim upon me?

March 28.—Let me make my heart so innocent and obedient that God can commune with me.

March 29.—God is a holy and jealous God.

March 30.—Is God, or some human being or influence, the supreme ruler of my life?

March 31.—Whole-hearted service (chapter 12:24).

April 1.—Am I offering to God any empty excuses for disobedience?

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

March 26.—Go over the book of Judges, marking in some conspicuous way the beginning of the account of each judge, and placing in connection with it a word or two indicative of his or her character.

March 27.—Study the rights and duties of kinsmen among the Hebrews, especially with regard to marriage.

March 28.—Study what is known about the organized worship of the Hebrews at this time.

March 29.—Study the various Bible references to the ark of the covenant, especially those concerning its miraculous power.

MARCH 26—APRIL 1.

March 30.—Study the significance of anointing in the Bible, and its manner.

March 31.—Study the accounts throughout the Old Testament of the interference of the royal families with the priests.

April 1.—Find the conspicuous examples in the Bible of the casting of lots.

APRIL 2-8.

The Fourteenth Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- April 2.* 1 Sam., chapters 16, 17. *David anointed. Goliath.*
- April 3.* 1 Sam., chapters 18, 19, 20. *David and Jonathan.*
- April 4.* 1 Sam., chapters 21, 22, 23, 24. *David in exile.*
- April 5.* 1 Sam., chapters 25, 26. *Abigail.*
- April 6.* 1 Sam., chapters 27, 28, 29, 30. *The witch of En-dor.*
- April 7.* 1 Sam., chapter 31. 2 Sam., chapters 1, 2. *Saul's death. David king.*
- April 8.* 2 Sam., chapters 3, 4, 5. *Jerusalem captured.*

For Meditation as You Read.

- April 2.*—Have I yielded my weakness to God, that he may do with it what he will?
- April 3.*—What more should I do for my friends than I am doing?
- April 4.*—Am I showing a Christian spirit to my enemies?
- April 5.*—Do I cherish toward any one such jealousy as Saul showed?
- April 6.*—Let me seek God instinctively in all trouble, and not seek such guidance as Saul sought.
- April 7.*—God always rewards his faithful servants.
- April 8.*—I can never get real advantage from the evil deed of another man.

For Further Study if You Have Time.

- April 2.*—Study what the Bible has to say about giants.

APRIL 2-8.

April 3.—Make a list of the conspicuous friendships of which the Bible gives accounts.

April 4.—Draw an outline map showing, as nearly as you can, where David lived during those years of exile.

April 5.—Compare the story of David and Abigail with the love stories of other great men whose lives we have already studied.

April 6.—Make a study of the Bible references to sorcery, witchery, magic.

April 7.—Suicide in the Bible, and the Bible view of the crime.

April 8.—Study the history of the Jebusites and of Jerusalem up to this time.

APRIL 9-15.

The Fifteenth Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- April 9.* 2 Sam., chapters 6, 7, 8, 9. *The ark restored.*
- April 10.* 2 Sam., chapters 10, 11, 12. *David's great sin.*
- April 11.* 2 Sam., chapters 13, 14. *Absalom's exile.*
- April 12.* 2 Sam., chapters 15, 16, 17. *Absalom's conspiracy.*
- April 13.* 2 Sam., chapters 18, 19. *Absalom's death.*
- April 14.* 2 Sam., chapters 20, 21, 22. *Thanksgiving.*
- April 15.* 2 Sam., chapters 23, 24. *David's deeds.*

For Meditation as You Read.

- April 9.*—Not all good deeds are good for me to do. Let God direct me.
- April 10.*—Is my heart pure?
- April 11.*—My duty toward those that are estranged from each other.
- April 12.*—My desire for men's good opinion: is it an unselfish desire?
- April 13.*—Selfishness is never safe.
- April 14.*—God is the cause and source of all my blessings.
- April 15.*—God is my everlasting covenant (chapter 23: 5).

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

- April 9.*—Write in a few sentences the history of the ark up to this time.

APRIL 9-15.

- April 10.*—Compare the morality of Hebrew rulers with that of the rulers of other ancient nations.
- April 11.*—Bring together other instances in which rulers have been persuaded by such interviews as the woman of Tekoah's.
- April 12.*—Study ancient Hebrew methods of administering justice.
- April 13.*—Make a study of the bad sons of whom the Bible gives an account.
- April 14.*—Investigate the officers mentioned in chapter 20: 23-26. What were their duties?
- April 15.*—The census among the Hebrews: what it meant, and why David was punished for his.

APRIL 16-22.

The Sixteenth Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- April 16.* Review. Pass rapidly over the books of Samuel, giving titles to the various chapters, and marking the passages you have found most helpful.
- April 17.* 1 Kings, chapters 1, 2. *Adonijah and Solomon.* Read the introduction to the book, given below.
- April 18.* 1 Kings, chapters 3, 4, 5. *Solomon's choice.*
- April 19.* 1 Kings, chapters 6, 7. *Solomon's temple.*
- April 20.* 1 Kings, chapter 8. *The dedication.*
- April 21.* 1 Kings, chapters 9, 10, 11. *The Queen of Sheba.*
- April 22.* 1 Kings, chapters 12, 13. *The Great Division.*

The Two Books of Kings.

The Hebrews originally treated these two books as one, and it was not until the Greek translation, called the Septuagint, was made, that it was broken up into two books. The author refers to "The Acts of Solomon," and often to two other works, the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah and of Israel. None of these sources of information have survived. The tradition of the Jews is that the books of Kings were written by Jeremiah, and certain portions bear remarkable resemblance to his writings; but much of the books is so vivid that Jeremiah, if he was indeed the compiler, must have used accounts contemporary with the events.

For Meditation as You Read.

- April 16.*—How happy would David's life have been, but for his sin! Is it not so with mine?

APRIL 16-22.

April 17.—Self-pushing always comes to grief.

Am I guilty of it, in thought or act?

April 18.—The choices God has offered me, and my selection.

April 19.—Am I contributing as I should to the building of the temple in which God now dwells—his church?

April 20.—Have I the feeling with regard to prayer expressed by Solomon in his great prayer?

April 21.—Have I such earnestness in the pursuit of wisdom as the Queen of Sheba showed?

April 22.—The infinite consequences that will follow any sinful deed of mine.

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

April 16.—Study David's character, and discover why Christ is so often spoken of as "the Son of David," rather than "of Abraham."

April 17.—Make a study of Zadok, as an indication of the position held by the priesthood in those days.

April 18.—Find out from the Bible dictionary what is known about Solomon from other sources than the Bible.

April 19.—Read in the Bible dictionary the account of the successive temples, and the comparison between them.

April 20.—Compare for an instructive contrast this prayer of Solomon's with Christ's in John 17.

April 21.—Find out what you can about the region from which the Queen of Sheba came.

April 22.—Prepare an outline map of the divided kingdom. Place in the lower portion, as we come to them, the names of the successive kings of Judah, and in the upper portion the names of Israel's kings.

APRIL 23-29.

The Seventeenth Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- April 23.* 1 Kings, chapters 14, 15, 16. *Jeroboam. Asa. Ahab.*
- April 24.* 1 Kings, chapters 17, 18. *Elijah on Carmel.*
- April 25.* 1 Kings, chapters 19, 20, 21. *Elijah at Horeb. Naboth.*
- April 26.* 1 Kings, chapter 22. 2 Kings, chapter 1. *Elijah and Ahaziah.*
- April 27.* 2 Kings, chapters 2, 3, 4. *Elijah's translation. Elisha.*
- April 28.* 2 Kings, chapters 5, 6, 7. *Elisha's deeds.*
- April 29.* 2 Kings, chapters 8, 9. *Jehu and Jezebel.*

For Meditation as You Read.

- April 23.*—Perfect heart, imperfect action (chapter 15: 14).
- April 24.*—Let me fear nothing, if only God is on my side.
- April 25.*—How great a revelation of God may I hope to receive?
- April 26.*—Am I seeking, like Ahaziah, to resist God's providences?
- April 27.*—Am I in the line of succession of any prophet? If not, why not?
- April 28.*—How I can get rid of the leprosy of sin.
- April 29.*—No kindness, such as the Shunammite's, ever goes unrewarded.

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

- April 23.*—Study what is meant by "the high places." Learn what you can about the city of Samaria.

APRIL 23-29.

April 24.—Learn what you can about the topography of Mount Carmel.

April 25.—Study in connection with the story of Naboth the tenure of land among the Hebrews.

April 26.—Study the Bible references to Tarshish (1 Kings 22: 48) and all that region.

April 27.—Learn what you can about the schools of the prophets.

April 28.—Compare the account of the wonders wrought by Elisha with those wrought by Elijah.

April 29.—Gather together into one mental picture the scattered hints of Jezebel's character.

APRIL 30—MAY 6.

Eighteenth Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- April 30.* 2 Kings, chapters 10, 11, 12. *Joash.*
May 1. 2 Kings, chapters 13, 14, 15. *Joash and Elisha.*
May 2. 2 Kings, chapters 16, 17. *Ahaz. Samaria falls.*
May 3. 2 Kings, chapters 18, 19. *Hezekiah and Isaiah.*
May 4. 2 Kings, chapters 20, 21, 22. *Manasseh. Josiah.*
May 5. 2 Kings, chapters 23, 24, 25. *Jerusalem falls.*
May 6. Review First and Second Kings, passing rapidly over the chapters, giving titles to them, or marking the passages that seem most helpful, or both.

For Meditation as You Read.

- April 30.*—I should have the same care for God's house that Joash had.
May 1.—Lack of earnestness was the ruin of Joash, king of Israel. It may be mine.
May 2.—Am I like Ahaz, using the things of God for my own self-willed pleasures?
May 3.—Such trust as Hezekiah's will always meet a reward as great.
May 4.—How thankful I should be that I have the Bible!
May 5.—Jerusalem fell because of disobedience. Such may be my fate.
May 6.—How surely God has proved himself the Punisher of the wrongdoer and the Rewarder of the righteous!

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

April 30.—Investigate the Bible examples of the right way to raise money for sacred causes.

May 1.—Study the history of Syria during the time of the kings.

May 2.—Study the history of Assyria during the time of the kings.

May 3.—Compare with the deliverance from Sennacherib other similar deliverances recorded in the Bible.

May 4.—Study in connection with Josiah's life the hints given in the Old Testament of the position of the Bible among the Hebrews.

May 5.—Study the way captives were treated in ancient times.

May 6.—Draw in your Bible two parallel uprights, one for the northern and the other for the southern kingdom. Set off upon each, spaces proportioned to the length of the reign of each king.

MAY 7-13.

Nineteenth Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- May 7.* 1 Chron., chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. *Genealogy.* Read the introduction to the book, given below.
- May 8.* 1 Chron., chapters 7, 8, 9, 10. *Saul's death.*
- May 9.* 1 Chron., chapters 11, 12, 13. *David. The ark.*
- May 10.* 1 Chron., chapters 14, 15, 16, 17. *David and the temple.*
- May 11.* 1 Chron., chapters 18, 19, 20, 21. *David's wars.*
- May 12.* 1 Chron., chapters 22, 23, 24, 25. *The service of God.*
- May 13.* 1 Chron., chapters 26, 27, 28, 29. *David's last words.*

The Books of the Chronicles.

The title of the books is taken from the Hebrew, the title in the Septuagint being "The Things Omitted," implying that the books are intended to supply what was left out of the books of Samuel and the Kings. In the course of the books twelve other histories are named as the author's sources of information. This author may have been Ezra—a supposition made probable by the fact that the closing passage of 2 Chronicles is identical with the opening passage of Ezra. There are four divisions of the books: genealogies, and the histories of David, Solomon, and the remaining kings of Judah. Everywhere a knowledge of the preceding books of the Bible is taken for granted, and many new and important facts are given. Scarcely anything is said about the northern kingdom, or about the sinful acts of David and Solomon. The great number of genealogies is accounted for by the need of such records that

would be felt after the exile, when the land came to be assigned to its hereditary owners, and the temple service to be taken up by those whose hereditary duty it was.

For Meditation as You Read.

May 7.—Is my name in the great muster-roll of the children of the promise?

May 8.—Saul “died for his transgression”; what fate do I deserve?

May 9.—Have I any presumptuous fear for the cause of God?

May 10.—How much of David’s psalm of thanksgiving (16: 7-36) can I make my own?

May 11.—I have sinned; let me imitate David’s repentance.

May 12.—My duty to provide in advance for the needs of God’s cause.

May 13.—Let me imitate David’s humility, shown by his willingness that another should build the temple.

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

May 7.—Indicate by marking where the various genealogies begin, and underscore the names of all persons you know about already.

May 8.—Compare chapter 10 with the last chapter of 1 Samuel.

May 9.—Compare with the corresponding portions of Samuel; especially compare chapter 13 with 2 Sam. 6.

May 10.—Compare chapters 15, 16, with 2 Sam. 6, and chapter 17 with 2 Sam. 7.

May 11.—Compare these chapters with 2 Sam. 8, 10, 11, 24.

May 12.—Compare David’s last words to Solomon as given here and in 1 Kings 2.

May 13.—Read in the Bible dictionary the account of the organization of the temple service in the days of David.

MAY 14-20.

The Twentieth Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- May 14.* 2 Chron., chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. *Solomon's choice. The temple.*
- May 15.* 2 Chron., chapters 6, 7, 8. *The temple dedicated.*
- May 16.* 2 Chron., chapters 9, 10, 11, 12. *The great schism.*
- May 17.* 2 Chron., chapters 13, 14, 15, 16, 17. *Asa's good reign.*
- May 18.* 2 Chron., chapters 18, 19, 20. *Jehoshaphat.*
- May 19.* 2 Chron., chapters 21, 22, 23, 24. *Jehu. Joash.*
- May 20.* 2 Chron., chapters 25, 26, 27, 28. *Uzziah. Ahaz.*

For Meditation as You Read.

- May 14.*—What is the real choice of my heart ?
- May 15.*—What is God's house to me ?
- May 16.*—How can I be sure always to act for the best ?
- May 17.*—Can I stand the test of 2 Chron. 14:2 ?
- May 18.*—What are the enemies that God will overthrow before me as he overthrew Jehoshaphat's before him ?
- May 19.*—Do not my sins deserve such condemnation as came to Jehoram (chapter 21) ?
- May 20.*—The "lifting up of heart" which is "to destruction" (2 Chron. 26:16) ; what is it ?

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

- May 14.*—Compare these chapters with 1 Kings, chapters 3, 5, 6, 7.

MAY 14-20.

May 15.—Compare this account of the dedication with that in 1 Kings 8, and compare chapter 7 with 1 Kings 9.

May 16.—Compare these chapters with 1 Kings, chapters 10-14.

May 17.—Compare the account of Asa's reign in 1 Kings 15.

May 18.—Compare the account of the reign of Jehoshaphat found in 1 Kings 15 and 22.

May 19.—Compare the account of the reign of Joash in 2 Kings 11, 12.

May 20.—Compare the parallel passages: 2 Kings 14, 15, 16.

MAY 21-27.

The Twenty-first Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- May 21. 2 Chron., chapters 29, 30, 31. *Hezekiah the good.*
- May 22. 2 Chron., chapters 32, 33, 34. *Sennacherib. Manasseh.*
- May 23. 2 Chron., chapters 35, 36. *Josiah. The fall of Jerusalem.* Review First and Second Chronicles, giving titles to the chapters, and marking the most important passages.
- May 24. Ezra, chapters 1, 2, 3, 4. *The return.* Read the introduction to the book, given below.
- May 25. Ezra, chapters 5, 6, 7. *The temple. Ezra.*
- May 26. Ezra, chapters 8, 9, 10. *Ezra's reform.*
- May 27. Neh., chapters 1, 2, 3, 4. *Nehemiah's return.* Read the introduction to the book, given below.

Ezra and Nehemiah.

From the fact that part of the book of Ezra is written in the first person, it is thought that Ezra himself wrote it. Others think that both this book and Nehemiah were written by others, but contain extracts from the first-hand accounts of the two leaders. In ancient times the two books were united, and in the Vulgate they are called First and Second Esdras. They are written in Hebrew, with the exception of certain letters and other quoted documents in Ezra, which are kept in the original Aramaic, or Chaldee. Ezra covers seventy-nine years, and Nehemiah, after an interval of about twelve years, continues the story.

For Meditation as You Read.

- May 21.*—"Rose early" (2 Chron. 29:20): has this oft-recurring phrase a lesson for me?
- May 22.*—How far is Manasseh's life a warning to me?
- May 23.*—How am I to get the most good from the Bible?
- May 24.*—The evil effects of sin, even after forgiveness and a return to God.
- May 25.*—The secret of Ezra's success. (Ezra 7:10.)
- May 26.*—Am I caring enough for the honor of my Christian confession (Ezra 8:22)?
- May 27.*—Is my religion sturdy and aggressive?

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

- May 21.*—Study the Passovers that are noted in Hebrew history.
- May 22.*—Study the conspicuous instances of repentance found in the Bible.
- May 23.*—Compare Chronicles with Kings, and obtain a clear idea of the characteristic differences of the books.
- May 24.*—Learn what you can about this temple of Zerubbabel's.
- May 25.*—Study the account in secular history of the reign of Artaxerxes.
- May 26.*—Study the accounts of evils that came to the Jews throughout their history on account of intermarriage with the heathen around them.
- May 27.*—Locate, as far as you can, the various portions of the wall here named.

The Twenty-second Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- May 28.* Neh., chapters 5, 6, 7, 8. *The wall rebuilt.*
- May 29.* Neh., chapters 9, 10, 11. *The solemn fast.*
- May 30.* Neh., chapters 12, 13. Esther, chapter 1. *Vashti.* Read the introduction to the book, given below.
- May 31.* Esther, chapters 2, 3, 4, 5. *Haman's revenge.*
- June 1.* Esther, chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. *Haman's downfall.* Review. Pass rapidly over the books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther, marking the most helpful passages.
- June 2.* Job, chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. *Job tested.* Read the introduction to the book, given below.
- June 3.* Job, chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. *Bildad and Job.*

Esther.

It is not known who wrote this book. Some think it was Ezra; others, Mordecai. The language is Hebrew. It is one of the few books of the Bible that does not contain the name of God; possibly, as has been suggested, because it was intended for reading in Jewish houses on feast days, and the omission of the divine name on such occasions was thought more seemly. Ahasuerus is believed to have been Xerxes, and the feasts mentioned in the opening of the book may have been preliminary to his great expedition into Greece.

Job.

Here we enter upon the poetical books, the

MAY 28—JUNE 3.

Hebrew books of devotion. It is not known when Job was written, or by whom. Some say Moses. Others conjecture Solomon, Job himself, one of the prophets. The customs portrayed and the absence of references to later history point to the time of the patriarchs as the date of the book. Some identify Job with the Jobab of Gen. 10:29; others with the Jobab of Gen. 36:33. The language is Hebrew, with many approaches to the Arabic. The land of Uz is probably the northeast of Arabia. Ezekiel and St. James speak of Job as a historical personage. The poem itself is a noble discussion of the reasons for suffering. In speeches regularly recurring, each answered in turn by Job, the three friends of the patriarch urge that the cause of all suffering is sin. Elihu argues that all sorrow is certainly for the good of the sufferer, and at length God himself speaks, and Job becomes submissive and repentant.

For Meditation as You Read.

May 28.—How noble it is to persevere in work undertaken for God!

May 29.—What gain have I from taking part in the assemblies of God's people?

May 30.—Am I keeping the Sabbath in the way God approves?

May 31.—What great evils may spring from the sin of envy!

June 1.—God always brings about the final downfall of evil.

June 2.—All my sorrows are permitted for a purpose.

June 3.—The speedy approach of death (chapter 7).

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

May 28.—The Bible view of usury and the taking of interest.

MAY 28—JUNE 3.

May 29.—Public reading of the law, and the part it plays throughout the Bible.

May 30.—Evidences throughout the Scriptures of the value of the Sabbath in national life.

May 31.—Make a study of the customs of Oriental courts in those days.

June 1.—Review Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, and discover what is the most prominent addition each makes to the truths taught by the Bible.

June 2.—Compare the style of this prose introduction with the style of the Pentateuch.

June 3.—Analyze briefly in the margin the argument of Eliphaz, the response of Job, and so on throughout the poem.

The Twenty-third Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- June 4.* Job, chapters 11, 12, 13, 14, 15. *Zophar and Eliphaz.*
- June 5.* Job, chapters 16, 17, 18, 19, 20. *Bildad and Zophar.*
- June 6.* Job, chapters 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26. *Eliphaz and Bildad.*
- June 7.* Job, chapters 27, 28, 29, 30, 31. *Job's defence.*
- June 8.* Job, chapters 32, 33, 34, 35, 36. *Elihu's argument.*
- June 9.* Job, chapters 37, 38, 39, 40. *Jehovah in the whirlwind.*
- June 10.* Job, chapters 41, 42. *The conclusion of the drama.* Review. Try to summarize, in as few words as possible, the teachings of the book.

For Meditation as You Read.

- June 4.*—How great is God! (11:7-9.)
- June 5.*—Is Job's confidence mine? (19:25-27.)
- June 6.*—Oh, to find God! (23:3-10.)
- June 7.*—Have I truly sought wisdom? (28:28.)
- June 8.*—God always does right. (34:10.)
- June 9.*—What am I, to question God's judgment?
- June 10.*—O God, show me thyself, and show me myself in the light of thy purity! (42:1-6.)

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

- June 4.*—Go over the first fourteen chapters and underscore the sentences that have become proverbial.

JUNE 4-10.

June 5.—What thought of the hereafter is contained in these first twenty chapters of Job?

June 6.—The tokens in the first half of Job that the book was written in patriarchal days.

June 7.—Go over the second fourteen chapters and underscore the sentences that have become proverbial.

June 8.—Make a study of the character of Elihu, as distinguished from the other three friends of Job.

June 9.—Seek out in the last half of the book the evidences that it was written during patriarchal times.

June 10.—Go over the third fourteen chapters and underscore the sentences that have become proverbial.

The Twenty-fourth Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- June 11.* Psalms 1-9. *The blessings of godliness*, etc. (Titles are given for only the first psalm read each day.) Read the introduction to the book, given below.
- June 12.* Psalms 10-17. *The wicked punished*, etc.
- June 13.* Psalms 18-22. *God the preserver*, etc.
- June 14.* Psalms 23-30. *The shepherd psalm*, etc.
- June 15.* Psalms 31-35. *God my trust*, etc.
- June 16.* Psalms 36-41. *God's loving kindness*, etc.
- June 17.* Psalms 42-49. *The hart psalm*, etc.

The Psalms.

The Psalms were written at different dates, from Moses to the close of the captivity—a thousand years. One psalm is attributed to Moses, seventy-three to David, two to Solomon, twelve to Asaph (one of David's musicians), eleven to the sons of Korah, and one each to Heman and Ethan. Thirteen titles tell on what occasion the psalm was written. Many titles contain musical terms and directions. A number of most precious psalms are prophetic of Christ, and are so used in the New Testament.

For Meditation as You Read.

- June 11.*—The Lord sustains me (Ps. 3:5).
- June 12.*—God sees all my doings (Ps. 11:4).
- June 13.*—No danger is strong against God (Ps. 18:2).
- June 14.*—Is my heart pure? (Ps. 24:3-6.)
- June 15.*—Is there a sin that I should confess? (Ps. 32:1-6.)

JUNE 11-17.

June 16.—The joy of patient waiting (Ps. 40: 1).

June 17.—My foolish fears (Ps. 46: 1-3).

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

June 11.—Review the life of David in first and second Samuel and first Chronicles, and endeavor to fix upon some occasion in his life when each psalm attributed to him might have been written, as you come to it.

June 12.—Learn the meaning of the musical terms used in the titles of the psalms (see Revised Version).

June 13.—Study in connection with Psalms 18 and 20 the other "royal psalms": 2, 45, 61, 72, 110.

June 14.—Read the account of the dedication of the Temple to get the setting of Psalm 30.

June 15.—Compare with Psalm 35 the other "imprecatory psalms": 7, 69, and 109. How do you explain their presence in the Bible?

June 16.—Compare with Psalm 41 the other "passion psalms": 22, 35, 55, 69, 109.

June 17.—Review these forty-nine psalms, and give each a distinctive title.

The Twenty-fifth Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- June 18.* Psalms 50-57. *The majesty of God*, etc.
June 19. Psalms 58-66. *A psalm of rewards*, etc.
June 20. Psalms 67-71. *The psalm of shining*, etc.
June 21. Psalms 72-77. *The coming Messiah*, etc.
June 22. Psalms 78-80. *God in history*, etc.
June 23. Psalms 81-88. *The trumpet psalm*, etc.
June 24. Psalms 89-92. *A psalm of mercy*, etc.

For Meditation as You Read.

- June 18.* — Let me keep watch over my tongue
(Ps. 52:1-5).
June 19. — Am I in the shelter? (Ps. 61:1-4.)
June 20. — How far is my mouth "filled with thy
praise"? (Ps. 71:8.)
June 21. — Have I any foolish envy of evil men
when they prosper? (Ps. 73.)
June 22. — What is my only safety? (Ps. 80:7.)
June 23. — Do I long for God's house? (Ps. 84.)
June 24. — My life should be one of constant
thanksgiving (Ps. 92).

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

- June 18.* — Especially in connection with these
psalms, study the portions of David's life to
which they apply.
June 19. — "The chief musician"—study what is
known about the way in which these psalms
were probably sung.
June 20. — Read in connection with Psalm 68 the
account of the removal of the ark.

JUNE 18-24.

June 21.—Consider how Psalm 72 applies to Christ.

June 22.—Study Asaph, and the sons of Korah.

June 23.—Compare with Psalm 84 the psalms of similar theme: 42, 43, 63.

June 24.—Compare with Psalm 90 the other psalms on the brevity of human life: 39, 49. Give titles to the psalms read this week.

The Twenty-sixth Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- June 25.* Psalms 93-101. *The throne psalm*, etc.
June 26. Psalms 102-105. *God hears prayer*, etc.
June 27. Psalms 106-109. *Apsalm of rebellion*, etc.
June 28. Psalms 110-118. *The Melchizedek psalm*,
etc.
June 29. Psalm 119. *The psalm of the law*.
June 30. Psalms 120-134. *Psalms of ascent*.
July 1. Psalms 135-141. *Empty idols*, etc.

For Meditation as You Read.

- June 25.*—How kind is God's chastisement! (Ps. 94 : 12.)
June 26.—How may I bear in mind God's kindness? (Ps. 103 : 2.)
June 27.—The great advantage of a heart fixed upon divine things (Ps. 108 : 1).
June 28.—How to get light on dark problems (Ps. 112 : 4).
June 29.—The duty of testifying (Ps. 119 : 27).
June 30.—My false help and the true (Ps. 121).
July 1.—What is it to praise "with the whole heart"? (Ps. 138 : 1.)

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

- June 25.*—In connection with Psalm 100 (possibly used when the thank-offerings were received) study the use of the psalms in temple worship.
June 26.—Compare with Psalm 105 the other historical psalms, 78 and 106.

JUNE 25—JULY 1.

June 27.—Study the five Hebrew divisions of the psalms, ending, each of them, with a doxology. (Psalms 41, 72, 89, 106, 150.)

June 28.—Psalms 110 and 118 are the last of the Messianic psalms; study them.

June 29.—Read the account of the return from the captivity, on which occasion this was sung. Study the alphabetic character of the psalm, and learn about the other acrostic psalms.

June 30.—Find out the meaning of the term “song of ascents,” or “of degrees.”

July 1.—Give titles to the psalms read this week.

The Twenty-seventh Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- July 2.* Psalms 142-150. *The cave psalm*, etc.
- July 3.* Review the psalms, marking in some way those that seem most helpful.
- July 4.* Prov., chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. *The beauty of wisdom*. Read the introduction to the book, given below.
- July 5.* Prov., chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. *Seven hateful things*, etc.
- July 6.* Prov., chapters 11, 12, 13, 14. *A false balance*, etc.
- July 7.* Prov., chapters 15, 16, 17, 18. *A soft answer*, etc.
- July 8.* Prov., chapters 19, 20, 21, 22, 23. *Rich and poor*, etc.

The Proverbs.

This collection of rules for the conduct of life is said to be Solomon's because he wrote most of them, just as the Psalms are said to be David's. The portions most certainly Solomon's are chapters 10-22. Chapters 25-29 are said to be his, but copied out by Hezekiah's wise men. Others are attributed to Agur and King Lemuel. The first six chapters form a connected discourse on wisdom, and the last chapter, vs. 10-31, is an acrostic poem.

For Meditation as You Read.

- July 2.*—I should fill my whole life with thanksgiving.
- July 3.*—How I may make myself fit to join in the psalms of heaven.

JULY 2-8.

July 4.—Have I made “the beginning of wisdom?” (Prov. 1: 17.)

July 5.—Do I possess any of the things that the Lord hates (Prov. 6: 16-19)?

July 6.—Have I the pride that brings shame (Prov. 11: 2)?

July 7.—How can I overcome the habit of worrying? (Prov. 15: 13.)

July 8.—How can I answer the question of Prov. 20: 9?

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

July 2.—Study in connection with Psalm 142 the other psalms that refer to Saul’s persecution of David, 7, 34, 52, 54, 56, 57, 59.

July 3.—Make a classification of the psalms, grouping them under these heads: instruction; devotional (sub-classes: prayer, praise, thanksgiving); prophetic; historical.

July 4.—Analyze in as few words as possible this description of wisdom.

July 5.—Mark in the chapters already read, and in the following chapters as we come to them, all the proverbs that have to do with poverty or riches, using “W” (wealth).

July 6.—Mark in the same way the proverbs of honesty with an “H.”

July 7.—Mark with an “S” the proverbs that relate to speech.

July 8.—Mark with an “I” the proverbs that teach industry.

The Twenty-eighth Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- July 9.* Prov., chapters 24, 25, 26, 27. *Envy, etc.*
- July 10.* Prov., chapters 28, 29, 30, 31. *The wicked flee, etc.*
- July 11.* Eccl., chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. *The trial of the world.* Read the introduction to the book, given below.
- July 12.* Eccl., chapters 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12. *The verdict on the world.*
- July 13.* Solomon's Song. Read the introduction to the book, given below.
- July 14.* Review Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Solomon's Song. Mark in each book the passages that you think most beautiful.
- July 15.* Isa., chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. *The Jerusalem vision.* Read the introduction to the book, given below.

Ecclesiastes.

It was formerly thought that Solomon wrote this book in his old age, and to express his penitence. Many scholars now hold that the language, style, and contents of the book point rather to a period after the return from captivity. The book is a review of the principal employments in which men are likely to engage, with the conclusion that a godly life is vastly preferable to them all.

The Song of Songs.

Some hold this poem to have been written by Solomon as a marriage ode, and think its language typifies the union of Christ to his bride, the

JULY 9-15.

Church. Others think that the poem is an expression of the desire for national unity between Judah, represented by Shelomoh, the groom, and the ten tribes, represented by the bride Shulamith (the feminine form of Solomon). Read the poem in the Revised Version, which marks by paragraphs the alternation of the dialogue between the man and his lover.

Isaiah.

This, the first of the prophetic books, is one of the most marvellous books ever written. Isaiah prophesied in Judea during four reigns, from B. C. 750 to B. C. 695—about 55 years. His times were times of great spiritual laxity, dark with threatened dangers. Nevertheless, he is called “the evangelical prophet,” because he foretold so grandly the coming of better days. A rough outline of the prophecies will be helpful: chapters 1-6, Israel’s sins; 7-12, “the book of Immanuel”; 13-23, prophecies against the nations; 24-35, the coming overthrow of evil; 36-39, Hezekiah’s triumph; 40-48, God and idols; 49-58, the coming Messiah; 59-66, a new heaven and a new earth.

For Meditation as You Read.

July 9.—What is my feeling toward my enemies?
(Prov. 24: 17.)

July 10.—Do I need to confess before men any sin? (Prov. 28: 13.)

July 11.—The life that is vanity of vanities: have I chosen it?

July 12.—The coming judgment (Ecc. 12: 14).

July 13.—My love to Christ: how does it compare with my human affections?

July 14.—The secret of Solomon’s wisdom.

JULY 9-15.

July 15.—Is the prophecy of chapter 1:18 true of me?

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

July 9.—Mark with an F the paragraphs that deal with friendship.

July 10.—Mark with a T the paragraphs throughout the book that teach temperance.

July 11.—Mark in the various chapters throughout the book the places where each new occupation is taken up and discussed.

July 12.—Go through the book trying to distinguish the references that would seem appropriate for Solomon from those that would seem inappropriate.

July 13.—With the help of a commentary divide the poem, assigning the various passages to the proper speakers.

July 14.—Classify the remaining proverbs that have not come under the six heads already given.

July 15.—Read in Kings and Chronicles the accounts of the reigns of the four kings under whom Isaiah lived.

JULY 16-22.

The Twenty-ninth Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- July 16.* Isa., chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. *Isaiah and Ahaz.*
- July 17.* Isa., chapters 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16. *The Branch. Babylon. Moab.*
- July 18.* Isa., chapters 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22. *Damascus. Ethiopia. Egypt. Edom.*
- July 19.* Isa., chapters 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28. *Tyre. Samaria.*
- July 20.* Isa., chapters 29, 30, 31, 32, 33. *Woes.*
- July 21.* Isa., chapters 34, 35, 36, 37, 38. *Sennacherib's invasion.*
- July 22.* Isa., chapters 39, 40, 41, 42, 43. *Comfort ye, my people.*

For Meditation as You Read.

- July 16.*—"Here am I; send me" (6:8).
- July 17.*—What Christ has done for the world (chapter 11).
- July 18.*—God is my confidence (22:23).
- July 19.*—What God's Word should be to me (28:10).
- July 20.*—God's joyful people (29:19).
- July 21.*—The future God wants me to have (chapter 35).
- July 22.*—What may become of my sins (38:17).

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

- July 16.*—Read in 2 Kings 16 the account of the reign of Ahaz.

JULY 16-22.

July 17.—Learn the condition of Babylon at this time. Trace the referencés to Moab in the Bible.

July 18.—Study the history of Damascus in its relations with the Hebrews.

July 19.—Study the Bible references to Tyre and Samaria.

July 20.—In connection with chapter 31 study the political relations between Egypt and the Hebrews.

July 21.—Read in 2 Kings 18, 19, and 20, and in 2 Chron. 29, 30, 31, and 32, the accounts of the reign of Hezekiah.

July 22.—Mark in your Bible all Isaiah's Messianic prophecies up to this point.

JULY 23-29.

The Thirtieth Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- July 23.* Isa., chapters 44, 45, 46, 47, 48. *The prophecy of Cyrus.*
- July 24.* Isa., chapters 49, 50, 51, 52, 53. *Prophecies of Christ.*
- July 25.* Isa., chapters 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59. *The sure mercies of David.*
- July 26.* Isa., chapters 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66. *Thy light is come.*
- July 27.* Review Isaiah, giving titles to the chapters, and marking the parts that have most impressed you.
- July 28.* Jer., chapters 1, 2, 3, 4. *The prophet's call.* Read the introduction to the book, given below.
- July 29.* Jer., chapters 5, 6, 7. *Repent!*

Jeremiah.

He was a priest, and he prophesied in Judea for forty years,—until Jerusalem was captured. In spite of his protests and warnings, the Jews, it is said, carried him to Egypt with them, and it is also said that he was stoned to death there because he opposed idolatry. He is the “weeping prophet,” the prophet of stern warnings. Chapter 1 is an introduction; chapters 2-11 may be the prophecies written by Baruch after Jehoiakim had burned the first roll; chapters 21-25 are brief notes of warning; 25-28 foretell the fall of Jerusalem; 29-31 relate to the Babylonian exile; 32-45 refer to the history of the two years before the fall of Jerusalem; 46-51 are prophecies against foreign nations, especially Babylon; 52, the conclusion, which some think was added by Ezra.

For Meditation as You Read.

- July 23.*—Am I striving with God? (Chapter 45:9.)
July 24.—My eternal confidence (51:6).
July 25.—The secret of peace (54:13).
July 26.—Whence do I seek my happiness?
(61:10.)
July 27.—If Isaiah was so ennobled by the mere hope of the Messiah, how should I be ennobled who have the realization of the vision!
July 28.—I can do all things through Him that strengtheneth me. (See chapter 1.)
July 29.—How nature should inspire awe of God (5:24).

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

- July 23.*—Investigate the references to the Sabeans (45:14) and to Bel and Nebo (46:1).
July 24.—Study the references in 49:12 to “the land of Sinim,” and the other references in the Scriptures to the far East.
July 25.—Study the New Testament passages in which Isaiah is quoted.
July 26.—Study the geographical terms used in chapter 60.
July 27.—Study the exalted style of Isaiah, and characterize it in a few brief sentences.
July 28.—Compare the hesitancy of Moses and Isaiah at the beginning of their work.
July 29.—In connection with 6:6 study the weapons and methods of warfare of the times.

JULY 30—AUGUST 5.

The Thirty-first Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- July 30.* Jer., chapters 8, 9, 10, 11. *Tears for Jerusalem.*
- July 31.* Jer., chapters 12, 13, 14, 15, 16. *The girdle.*
- August 1.* Jer., chapters 17, 18, 19, 20, 21. *The potter.*
- August 2.* Jer., chapters 22, 23, 24, 25. *The seventy years.*
- August 3.* Jer., chapters 26, 27, 28, 29. *Jeremiah's trial.*
- August 4.* Jer., chapters 30, 31, 32. *Jeremiah's field.*
- August 5.* Jer., chapters 33, 34, 35. *The Rechabites.*

For Meditation as You Read.

- July 30.*—The only true reason for self-congratulation (9: 23, 24).
- July 31.*—Jeremiah's confidence and ours (15: 19-21).
- August 1.*—If God fought against me— (21: 5).
- August 2.*—Thou God seest me (23: 23, 24).
- August 3.*—How to find God (29: 12, 13).
- August 4.*—My right among God's people (30: 22).
- August 5.*—How nature confirms revelation (33: 20-22).

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

- July 30.*—Make a study of the great Covenant, from the days of Abraham down. (11: 1-5.)

JULY 30—AUGUST 5.

July 31.—Study the picturesque ways of teaching used by the prophets, as in chapter 13.

August 1.—Study in connection with chapter 19 the topography of Jerusalem and its environs.

August 2.—Make a study of the prophecies directly concerning the captivity.

August 3.—Gather up, in connection with Jeremiah's trial, the other great trials of the Bible.

August 4.—In connection with 31:15, study the other passages in Jeremiah quoted in the New Testament.

August 5.—Slavery in the Old Testament (chapter 34).

AUGUST 6-12.

The Thirty-second Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- August 6.* Jer., chapters 36, 37, 38, 39. *Prison and captivity.*
- August 7.* Jer., chapters 40, 41, 42, 43, 44. *Shun Egypt.*
- August 8.* Jer., chapters 45, 46, 47, 48. *Egypt, Philistia, and Moab.*
- August 9.* Jer., chapters 49, 50. *Judgments.*
- August 10.* Jer., chapters 51, 52. *The end of the tragedy.*
- August 11.* Lamentations. Read the introduction to the book, given below.
- August 12.* Review Jeremiah and Lamentations, giving titles to the chapters, and marking in the margin the passages most likely to be helpful in the future.

Lamentations.

Jeremiah has always been set down as the author of this book, and indeed it must have been written by some one as familiar as Jeremiah was with all the details of the terrible siege of Jerusalem which it describes. The book consists of five separate dirges deploring the event. Chapters 1, 2, and 4 contain each of them 22 verses beginning with the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Chapter 5 also has 22 verses, but without the acrostical arrangement. Chapter 3 has 66 verses arranged in threes, each group beginning with a letter of the alphabet.

For Meditation as You Read.

- August 6.*—Am I in my life following the entire law, or do I, like Jehoiakim, mutilate it?

AUGUST 6-12.

August 7.—God is pleading faithfully with me in many ways, even as Jeremiah pleaded with his people.

August 8.—Shall Moab's destruction be mine? (48: 42.)

August 9.—The perils of pride (49: 16).

August 10.—The power of our God (51: 15-22).

August 11.—The way of the transgressor is hard.

August 12. How many opportunities for repentance God gives his erring children!

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

August 6.—Read in 2 Kings 25 and 2 Chron. 36 the parallel accounts.

August 7.—Study the history of Egypt during this time.

August 8.—Make a study of the proper names of these chapters.

August 9.—Explain the historical references in these chapters.

August 10.—Learn what additional facts regarding the captivity are here given.

August 11.—Read in the Bible dictionary the account of this siege and capture of Jerusalem.

August 12.—Write in the margin of your Bible a list of the known facts of the life of Jeremiah.

AUGUST 13-19.

The Thirty-third Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- August 13.* Ezek., chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. *The prophet's commission.* Read the introduction to the book, given below.
- August 14.* Ezek., chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. *In the chambers of imagery.*
- August 15.* Ezek., chapters 11, 12, 13, 14. *The lying prophets.*
- August 16.* Ezek., chapters 15, 16, 17. *The worthless vine.*
- August 17.* Ezek., chapters 18, 19, 20. *Sour grapes.*
- August 18.* Ezek., chapters 21, 22, 23. *A sword, a sword!*
- August 19.* Ezek., chapters 24, 25, 26, 27. *God's enemies punished.*

Ezekiel.

Ezekiel, a priest, was carried away by Nebuchadnezzar after his second inroad into Judea, and prophesied for twenty-two years in a place about two hundred miles north of Babylon. It is said that he and Jeremiah exchanged manuscripts, for the edification respectively of the Jews in Jerusalem and in the captivity. Ezekiel's prophecies abound in visions and parables, and there are many touches of poetry. There are three divisions of the work: (1) chapters 1-24 consist of prophecies uttered before the fall of Jerusalem; (2) chapters 25-32, judgments upon seven heathen nations; (3) chapters 33-48, prophecies of the restoration.

For Meditation as You Read.

August 13.—A lesson in bold speaking (chapter 2: 6-8).

AUGUST 13-19.

August 14.—The punishment of sin is swift and sure.

August 15.—Have I the new heart? (chapter 11: 19.)

August 16.—My life is in God's hands (chapter 17: 24).

August 17.—"The soul that sinneth, it shall die."

August 18.—Who has the right to my life? And who really has it? (chapter 21: 27.)

August 19.—What a trifle is worldly prosperity compared with righteousness!

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

August 13.—Study the many striking accounts throughout the Bible of the commissions given the prophets and great teachers, and how they received them.

August 14.—Study the Bible conception of cherubim.

August 15.—Starting from chapter 11:19, study the Old Testament teachings regarding conversion.

August 16.—Study the use of the vine as furnishing illustrations throughout the Bible.

August 17.—Starting with chapter 20, study the references throughout Israel's history to God's original choice of the nation.

August 18.—Study chapter 22 to form a picture of the condition of Jerusalem just before the capture.

August 19.—Study this picture of Tyre, and compare it with secular history and with its later history.

AUGUST 20-26.

The Thirty-fourth Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- August 20.* Ezek., chapters 28, 29, 30. *Egypt's doom.*
- August 21.* Ezek., chapters 31, 32, 33. *Assyria's doom. Ezekiel's orders.*
- August 22.* Ezek., chapters 34, 35, 36. *Unfaithful shepherds.*
- August 23.* Ezek., chapters 37, 38, 39. *The valley of dry bones.*
- August 24.* Ezek., chapters 40, 41, 42. *The restored temple.*
- August 25.* Ezek., chapters 43, 44, 45. *The restored people.*
- August 26.* Ezek., chapters 46, 47, 48. *The wonderful river.]*

For Meditation as You Read.

- August 20.*—How I may cultivate humility.
- August 21.*—What true greatness is.
- August 22.*—The Lord is my Shepherd.
- August 23.*—My life is dead without the Spirit of God in it.
- August 24.*—God's love for His house.
- August 25.*—If I do not see the glory of God, it is because I need to repent of my sins.
- August 26.*—The sure triumph of God's kingdom. What share shall I have in it?

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

- August 20.*—Study the history of Egypt during the time of the captivity.

AUGUST 20-26.

- August 21.*—Study the history of Assyria and Babylon during the lifetime of Ezekiel.
- August 22.*—Study the use throughout the Bible of the shepherd metaphor.
- August 23.*—In connection with the vision of the valley of dry bones, study the intimations throughout the Old Testament of the doctrine of the Holy Spirit.
- August 24.*—Compare this temple of Ezekiel's vision with the actual temples of Solomon and of the restoration.
- August 25.*—Compare Ezekiel's laws for the Levites with those in the Pentateuch.
- August 26.*—Study with the map Ezekiel's division of the land among the tribes.

The Thirty-fifth Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

August 27. Dan., chapters 1, 2, 3. *Temperance. The dream. The furnace.* Read the introduction to the book, given below.

August 28. Dan., chapters 4, 5, 6. *The writing. The lions.*

August 29. Dan., chapters 7, 8, 9. *Visions of beasts.*

August 30. Dan., chapters 10, 11, 12. *Visions of kings.*

August 31. Review Daniel and Ezekiel, giving titles to the chapters, and marking the passages you are most anxious to remember.

September 1. Hos., chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. *The evil wife.* Read the introduction to the book, given below.

September 2. Hos., chapters 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14. *Repent! Return!*

Daniel.

The mention of Daniel by Ezekiel, together with other considerations, would seem to prove that he was an actual historical personage, in spite of all that has been said by the students of the book. He was carried away in the first captivity, and spent in Babylon a long and most remarkable life. In the Hebrew Bible his book is classed not with the prophets, but with Ezra, Nehemiah, and the Chronicles. Roughly speaking, the first six chapters, the historical portion, are written in the Aramaic language and in the first person, and the last six chapters, the prophetic, in Hebrew and

AUGUST 27—SEPTEMBER 2.

in the third person. The prophecies give the outlines of history from the time of Daniel to the time of Christ, with a most remarkable vision of the reign of the Messiah. There is close resemblance between this book and the Revelation of St. John.

Hosea.

This is a prophet of the northern kingdom. His work extended through sixty years,—the reigns of the last six kings of Israel. It was a time of great vices, against which Hosea fearlessly inveighs. The book is quoted quite largely in the New Testament. Its vivid pages are full of images taken from the country and the home. Indeed, the central thought of all is the picture of his wife's unfaithfulness, as typifying the unfaithfulness of his nation.

For Meditation as You Read.

August 27.—God's protection is sure, if we are on His side.

August 28.—There is no insight such as that which comes from a godlike life.

August 29.—Nothing will convince men of the truth of the gospel better than trials nobly borne.

August 30.—God knows all the future, and discloses to us only what is best for us to know.

August 31.—How tender and constant is God's care for His people!

September 1.—Unfaithfulness to God is the seed of all kinds of sin.

September 2.—God will surely punish sin.

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

August 27.—Learn all you can about Babylon.

August 28.—Review the history of Assyria.

AUGUST 27—SEPTEMBER 2.

August 29.—Study the history of the Medo-Persian empire.

August 30.—Study the history of the Holy Land during the two centuries preceding the birth of Christ, and compare it with the predictions of these chapters.

August 31.—Compare the “major prophets” with one another, and describe each of them in a few words.

September 1.—Hunt up the New Testament references to Hosea.

September 2.—Go through Hosea, marking the images derived from out-of-door life.

The Thirty=sixth Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

September 3. Joel. The locust prophecy. Read the introduction to each book as it is studied.

September 4. Amos, chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Transgression and penalty.

September 5. Amos, chapters 6, 7, 8, 9. Visions and warnings.

September 6. Obadiah. The doom of Edom.

September 7. Jonah. The fruits of obedience.

September 8. Micah. Woes and promises.

September 9. Nahum. The doom of Nineveh.

Joel.

He was a prophet of Judah, though of the tribe of Reuben. Scholars differ widely as to his date,—in the time of Uzziah, in the time of Hezekiah, Manasseh, Josiah. Under the figure of the coming of locusts, he predicts the threatened invasion from Assyria, and in the last half of the book comforts the people with promise of final joy and triumph. Peter and Paul both quote from Joel.

Amos.

A striking figure is this “herdsman and dresser of sycamore-trees.” A citizen of Judea, he dared to prophesy in the northern kingdom, at Bethel, the centre of calf-worship, and at Samaria, foretelling the evils that their sin would bring upon the people, and meeting courageously the opposition of the chief priest, Amaziah. His prophecy is full of images taken from the fields. It opens

SEPTEMBER 3-9.

with denunciations of the neighboring countries and of his own, especially of Samaria, passes to a series of remarkable visions, and closes with a message of hope.

Obadiah.

Nothing is known of the personal story of this prophet, nor is it definitely known when he prophesied, some thinking that he taught before Jeremiah and gave him the key for his prophecies regarding Edom, and others that he prophesied after the fall of Jerusalem. On that occasion the Edomites, hereditary foes of the Jews, rejoiced in the capture of their capital, and joined with the Assyrians to prevent their escape. Obadiah predicts their ruin, and that his nation would come to possess their kingdom,—a prophecy largely fulfilled not many decades afterward.

Jonah.

This prophet was born in the northern kingdom. The legends connect him with Elijah and Elisha, and he was the prophet who (2 Kings 14: 25) gave Jeroboam II. his encouraging predictions. All that is known about him in addition is told in this account of his disobedience, his final faithfulness, the preaching at Nineveh, and the repentance of the great city. Christ refers thrice to this book.

Micah.

He was born in Philistia, and prophesied for some half a century, during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, boldly condemning the sins of Judah. Jeremiah makes reference to him, and so do several books of the New Testament. Each of the three divisions of his prophecies begins with "Hear ye," and with threatenings, and ends with comforting promises.

Nahum.

Some think that he was an inhabitant of Galilee, and others that he was the son of one of the captives in Assyria. Some think that he prophesied in the time of Hezekiah, and others that he belongs to the time of Manasseh and Amon and Josiah. The burden of his prophecy is that Assyria is to be overthrown, and of this he makes three distinct predictions.

For Meditation as You Read.

September 3.—Have I received the Spirit? (Joel 2: 28.)

September 4.—Am I prepared to meet God? (Amos 4: 12.)

September 5.—“At ease in Zion” (Amos 6: 1)—does that describe my condition?

September 6.—“The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee” (Obad. 3).

September 7.—“I will pay that which I have vowed” (Jonah 2: 9).

September 8.—The terrible hiding of God’s face (Mic. 3: 4).

September. 9.—My stronghold (Nah. 1: 7).

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

September 3.—Note how great a share of this and the other books of the minor prophets is taken up with thought of an invasion.

September 4.—Draw a map of the nations against which Amos prophesies, and pass a red line spirally over them in the order of the prophecy, ever drawing nearer to Samaria.

September 5.—Underscore the passages in Amos that were suggested by his outdoor life.

SEPTEMBER 3-9.

September 6.—Compare Obad. 1-9 with Jer. 49: 7-22.

September 7.—Review the Bible-dictionary account of Nineveh.

September 8.—Investigate the references to this book in the New Testament.

September 9.—Compare this prophecy with Jonah.

The Thirty-seventh Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- September 10.* Habakkuk. *A talk with God.*
Read the introductions to these books
as you study them.
- September 11.* Zephaniah. *The day of the Lord
is near.*
- September 12.* Haggai. *Build the house!*
- September 13.* Zech., chapters 1, 2, 3, 4. *Visions
of the night.*
- September 14.* Zech., chapters 5, 6, 7, 8, 9. *The
true fast.*
- September 15.* Zech., chapters 10, 11, 12, 13, 14.
The Lord shall be King.
- September 16.* Malachi. *The day cometh.*

Habakkuk.

Nothing is known of him, but from indications in his writings it is guessed that he was a Levite, that he prophesied in the reigns of Josiah and Jehoahaz, and that when Jerusalem fell he remained behind in his ruined country. The book is largely in the shape of an appeal to God for help against the threatened invasion of the Assyrians, together with God's reply. Paul received from this book his great watchword, "The just shall live by faith."

Zephaniah.

He was a great-grandson of Hezekiah, and prophesied in the days of Josiah. Judea had partly turned to the true God, but idolatry still poisoned everything. Against this the prophet protests, adding strong appeals to the neighboring nations, and closing, as so many other

SEPTEMBER 10-16.

prophets, with a word of hope, a prophecy of final victory.

Haggai.

He was the first prophet after the exile, and when the rebuilding of the temple had been postponed for fourteen years through the machinations of the Samaritans, it was he who, in the three public addresses here recorded, spurred the people to complete their task. It is thought that he was older than Zechariah, who prophesied at the same time, and that he had seen the first temple.

Zechariah.

Iddo, the priest, his grandfather, came with him from the exile, so that Zechariah must have been a young man when he prophesied. He began two months later than Haggai, and his prophecies cover two years, during which time he also was encouraging the people to complete the temple. The first portion of the book is occupied with visions colored with Persian imagery; the second part is a discussion of the nature of a true fast; and the third portion, which some think may have been written much earlier than the rest of the book, pictures the coming glory of the nation and the reign of the Messiah. Naturally there are many references to this book in the New Testament.

Malachi.

He is called "the seal" of the prophets, being the last of the great series. Nothing is known of his history, though it is thought that he was a priest. He must have written after the second return, and probably he prophesied during the time when Nehemiah had returned to the Persian court and many abuses broke out. These abuses Malachi rebukes, especially the priestly corruption and the marriages with the heathen, and

SEPTEMBER 10-16.

closes his prophecy and the Old Testament with a glorious anticipation of the coming Messiah.

For Meditation as You Read.

September 10.—Be silent before God (Hab. 2:20).

September 11.—God is just (Zeph. 3:5).

September 12.—I am with you (Hag. 2:4).

September 13.—Not by might, nor by power (Zech. 4:6).

September 14.—Can I stand the test of Zech. 8:16, 17?

September 15.—Let everything be holy (Zech 14:20).

September 16.—Is my name in the book of remembrance? (Mal. 3:16.)

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

September 10.—Study the important New Testament references to Habakkuk.

September 11.—Review the reign of Josiah in 2 Kings 22 and 23, and 2 Chron. 34 and 35.

September 12.—Review Ezra.

September 13.—Make a study and a comparison of the visions of the prophets thus far read.

September 14.—Make a study of fasting as it is enjoined by the Old Testament.

September 15.—Gather up the most important references to the Messiah in the minor prophets.

September 16.—Study the Old Testament utterances on tithing.

The Thirty=eighth Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- September 17.* Review the minor prophets hastily, seeking to mark in each book the passage that seems to you most helpful.
- September 18.* Review rapidly the entire Old Testament, giving a name to each book. Find, if possible, a one-word name, such as "Genesis, Beginnings"; "Ruth, Fidelity"; "Daniel, Steadfastness."
- September 19.* Matt., chapters 1, 2, 3, 4. *Birth, Baptism, Temptation.* Read the introduction to the book, given below.
- September 20.* Matt., chapters 5, 6, 7. *The great discourse.*
- September 21.* Matt., chapters 8, 9. *Wonderful miracles.*
- September 22.* Matt., chapters 10, 11. *The disciples sent forth.*
- September 23.* Matt., chapters 12, 13. *Precious parables.*

Matthew.

Of the four Gospels, written by the four evangelists, the first three are called the "synoptical" Gospels, because they present a view of Christ's life more or less connected. John's supplements them. We know nothing of Matthew except that he was a Hebrew tax-collector, the circumstances of his call by Christ, and the story of his feast. It is said that he wrote first in Aramaic, but we have only the translation into Greek, which was made not long after the middle of the first century. The main purpose of the Gospel is to show his fellow Jews that Christ sums up in himself all they had expected and the prophets had foretold

SEPTEMBER 17-23.

of the promised Messiah. Naturally, there are many quotations from the Old Testament—as many as 65.

For Meditation as You Read.

September 17.—Let me be bold in speaking for God.

September 18.—How may I gain more from the Word of God?

September 19.—Ways in which I can “prepare the way of the Lord.”

September 20.—How many of the Beatitudes can I claim for myself?

September 21.—The touch of faith will make me whole.

September 22.—The fearful consequences of denying Christ.

September 23.—What kind of soil for the truth does my heart afford?

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

September 17.—Write at the head of each of these twelve books a brief description of the prophet, such as, “Amos, the Herdman Prophet.”

September 18.—Make in your Bible a chronological table of the books of the Old Testament.

September 19.—Review what the Old Testament says about the various ancestors of Christ.

September 20.—Find in the Old Testament verses that are parallel to each portion of the Sermon on the Mount, or contrasted with it.

September 21.—Study the matter of demon possession.

September 22.—Review in the Bible dictionary the entire story of John the Baptist.

September 23.—Obtain from chapter 13 a clear conception of what Christ meant by “the kingdom of heaven.”

The Thirty-ninth Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- September 24.* Matt., chapters 14, 15, 16. *Feeding the five thousand*, etc.
- September 25.* Matt., chapters 17, 18, 19. *The transfiguration*, etc.
- September 26.* Matt., chapters 20, 21, 22. *The entrance into Jerusalem*, etc.
- September 27.* Matt., chapters 23, 24. *Teachings in the temple*.
- September 28.* Matt., chapters 25, 26. *Gethsemane. The betrayal*.
- September 29.* Matt., chapters 27, 28. *Death and resurrection*.
- September 30.* Review Matthew, marking in the margin the passages you especially wish to remember.

For Meditation as You Read.

- September 24.*—Christ can use my little abilities to accomplish great things.
- September 25.*—Let me humble myself and become as a little child.
- September 26.*—Have I put on “the wedding garment”?
- September 27.*—Do I in any way come under the condemnation of the Pharisees?
- September 28.*—The use I am making of the talents given me by God.
- September 29.*—Christ died for me.
- September 30.*—Let me consider whether I am

SEPTEMBER 24-30.

giving my life to Christ as his sacrifices for me demand.

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

September 24. Study the geography of the Sea of Galilee and the surrounding country.

September 25.—Besides the transfiguration, what light does the Bible shed on the appearance of the spiritual body?

September 26.—Learn what you can about the temple and its services in the time of Christ.

September 27.—Learn all you can about the Pharisees.

September 28.—Study the system of trials in vogue among the Jews.

September 29.—Make a list giving in their probable order the events of Christ's life the week before his crucifixion.

September 30.—Study the passages in Matthew in which the evangelist makes reference to the Old Testament.

OCTOBER 1-7.

The Fortieth Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- October 1.* Mark, chapters 1, 2. *John the Baptist*, etc. Read the introduction to the book, given below.
- October 2.* Mark, chapters 3, 4, 5. *The apostles chosen*, etc.
- October 3.* Mark, chapters 6, 7. *The Baptist beheaded*, etc.
- October 4.* Mark, chapters 8, 9. *The miraculous meal*, etc.
- October 5.* Mark, chapters 10, 11. *The entrance to Jerusalem*, etc.
- October 6.* Mark, chapters 12, 13. *Last teachings*.
- October 7.* Mark, chapters 14, 15, 16. *The closing scenes*.

Mark.

John Mark was the nephew or cousin of Barnabas, and though estranged from Paul at one time, he became his beloved friend. Peter is thought to have superintended the writing of this Gospel. The frequent explanations of Jewish terms, the omission of reference to Jewish law and of Christ's genealogy, and the use of several Latin words, all point to the purpose of the book to aid the Gentiles, and favor the tradition that it was written at Rome and for the Romans. It must have been written before the destruction of Jerusalem. Mark's great word is "immediately," which he uses forty-one times, and his Gospel is one of rapid movement and many graphic touches, impetuous as Peter himself.

For Meditation as You Read.

- October 1.*—The baptism of the Holy Ghost is meant for me. Have I received it?

OCTOBER 1-7.

October 2.—Is the house of my soul divided against itself?

October 3.—Am I defiled by the thoughts of my heart?

October 4.—What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

October 5.—How hard to trust in riches and be saved!

October 6.—"Ye know not when the time is."

October 7.—Christ died for my sins.

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

October 1.—Read the Bible-dictionary accounts of the smaller towns closely associated with Christ: Nazareth, Capernaum, Jericho, Bethany.

October 2.—Study the list of the twelve Apostles, tracing each one of them through the New Testament, with the exception of John and Peter.

October 3.—Get from the Bible dictionary a clear idea of the different Herods of the New Testament.

October 4.—Gather up the various accounts of healing of the blind and compare them.

October 5.—Study the relation between Christ and the temple as shown in all the Gospels.

October 6.—Gather up the events of Christ's life associated with the Mount of Olives.

October 7.—Bring together in a single orderly list all of Christ's sayings upon the cross.

OCTOBER 8-14.

The Forty-first Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- October 8. Review Mark, marking in the margin the passages you most desire to remember.
- October 9. Luke, chapters 1, 2. *The Bethlehem story.* Read the introduction to the book, given below.
- October 10. Luke, chapters 3, 4. *John's preaching,* etc.
- October 11. Luke, chapters 5, 6. *The wonderful draught,* etc.
- October 12. Luke, chapters 7, 8. *The centurion's servant,* etc.
- October 13. Luke, chapters 9, 10. *The Twelve sent forth,* etc.
- October 14. Luke, chapters 11, 12. *Parables.*

Luke.

Luke, the physican, the friend of Paul and sharer in his imprisonments, may have been a manumitted slave and a Syrian of Antioch. His writings—the Gospel and the Acts—are the best history of the church we possess. The Gospel was probably written between A. D. 60 and A. D. 70. He used many sources of information, and doubtless he was more or less dominated by the spirit of Paul. The Gospel is intended for all, but especially for the Greeks. This is the most complete Gospel. In this Gospel women appear most often. It preserves for us a number of most beautiful hymns. It uses many words peculiar to Luke, which serve to bind together the Gospel and the Acts, and prove them to be by one author.

For Meditation as You Read.

- October 8.*—How earnestly am I trying to pattern my life after Christ's?
- October 9.*—"No word of God shall be void of power."
- October 10.*—I can conquer my temptations by the same means Christ used.
- October 11.*—How much Christ evidently gained from secret prayer! (5: 16, etc.)
- October 12.*—Why cannot I have the centurion's faith?
- October 13.*—"He that is least among you all, the same is great."
- October 14.*—Can I honestly pray the Lord's Prayer?

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

- October 8.*—Mark and study the passages in which Mark uses "straightway."
- October 9.*—Study the Jewish temple ceremonies concerning young children.
- October 10.*—Compare Luke's and Matthew's genealogy of Christ.
- October 11.*—Gather up the Gospel references to the Publicans.
- October 12.*—Make a study of the instances in which Christ raised persons from the dead.
- October 13.*—Study and compare the three accounts of the transfiguration.
- October 14.*—Gather up Christ's sayings concerning the Pharisees.

OCTOBER 15-21.

The Forty-second Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- October 15.* Luke, chapters 13, 14. *Healing on the Sabbath*, etc.
- October 16.* Luke, chapters 15, 16. *The prodigal son*, etc.
- October 17.* Luke, chapters 17, 18. *Forgiveness*, etc.
- October 18.* Luke, chapters 19, 20. *Zacchæus*, etc.
- October 19.* Luke, chapters 21, 22. *The betrayal*.
- October 20.* Luke, chapters 23, 24. *Death and resurrection*.
- October 21.* Review Luke hastily, marking the passages that you most wish to remember.

For Meditation as You Read.

- October 15.*—Am I seeking the narrow door?
- October 16.*—Am I “faithful in the unrighteous mammon”?
- October 17.*—“Lord, increase my faith.”
- October 18.*—Render unto God the things that are God’s.
- October 19.*—“In your patience ye shall win your souls.”
- October 20.*—How my life denies Christ.
- October 21.*—“Socrates died like a man; Jesus Christ died like a God.”

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

- October 15.*—Make a brief summary of Christ’s teachings regarding the Sabbath.

OCTOBER 15-21.

October 16.—Gather together Christ's sayings concerning riches.

October 17.—What were Christ's teachings regarding little children?

October 18.—Compare the parable of the pounds with the parable of the talents.

October 19.—Compare the different accounts of the Lord's Supper in the New Testament.

October 20.—Study the history of Pilate.

October 21.—Note in a Gospel harmony how many incidents are related by Luke alone.

The Forty-third Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- October 22.* John, chapters 1, 2. *The Word.*
Read the introduction to the book, given below.
- October 23.* John, chapters 3, 4. *The second birth.*
- October 24.* John, chapters 5, 6. *Bethesda.*
- October 25.* John, chapters 7, 8. *The Sabbath question.*
- October 26.* John, chapters 9, 10, 11, *The blind man. Lazarus.*
- October 27.* John, chapters 12, 13, 14. *Hosanna!*
- October 28.* John, chapters 15, 16. *The last discourse.*

John.

This Gospel was certainly written by the Beloved Disciple, and probably between A. D. 80 and A. D. 90. The place where he wrote was doubtless Ephesus. The book duplicates comparatively little of the material of the other Gospels, and where it does so, it adds many interesting details. John gives no parables, omits the accounts of the birth, baptism, temptation, transfiguration, and ascension. On the other hand, his Gospel is rich in noble discourses, and above all, in the wonderful final discourse of the Master. If it were not for John, we should know little about any but a single year of Christ's ministry, and the scenes in Galilee. John's is the great spiritual and doctrinal Gospel.

For Meditation as You Read.

- October 22.*—Behold, the Lamb of God!
- October 23.*—Ye must be born anew.

OCTOBER 22-28.

October 24.—I am the Bread of Life.

October 25.—The sinner is the bond-servant of sin.

October 26.—I am the Good Shepherd.

October 27.—What ointment am I pouring upon the feet of Jesus?

October 28.—"Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

October 22.—Group together and study Christ's miracles over nature.

October 23.—Make a study of Christ's conversations.

October 24.—Make a list of the things to which Christ compared himself.

October 25.—Study Christ's statements of his own divinity.

October 26.—What was Christ's estimate of his own miracles?

October 27.—Study the evidences throughout this Gospel that it was written by John.

October 28.—Study the doctrine of the Holy Spirit as it is revealed in John's Gospel.

The Forty-fourth Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

October 29. John, chapters 17, 18. *The trial.*

October 30. John, chapters 19, 20, 21. *The closing scenes.*

October 31. Review the Gospel of John, marking in the margin the passages that seem to you to be most precious.

November 1. Review the four Gospels hastily, reminding yourself again of the special characteristics of each.

November 2. Acts, chapters 1, 2, 3. *Pentecost.* Read the introduction to the book, given below.

November 3. Acts, chapters 4, 5. *Ananias.*

November 4. Acts, chapters 6, 7, 8. *Deacons. Stephen. Philip.*

Acts.

This book was written by Luke, who dedicated it to the same man—Theophilus—whom he named in his Gospel. The book of Acts has been called “the Gospel of the Spirit.” Luke probably wrote it at Rome, and about A. D. 62, since the history closes about A. D. 61, and since the fall of Jerusalem is not alluded to. The Greek title, “Acts,” or “Acts of Apostles,” is more correct than “the Acts of the Apostles,” as the lives of only two apostles are treated, and the book may well be divided at chapter 13:3 between the acts of Peter and the acts of Paul.

For Meditation as You Read.

October 29.—Christ sends me into the world, even as He was sent (17:18).

October 30.—“Receive ye the Holy Ghost” (20:22).

OCTOBER 29—NOVEMBER 4.

October 31.—John was the Beloved Disciple because he was the loving disciple.

November 1.—"These are written that believing ye might have life."

November 2.—"Ye shall receive power when the Holy Ghost is come upon you" (Acts 1:8).

November 3.—God requires absolute truth in heart and life.

November 4.—Would I have had Stephen's courage?

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

October 29.—Make an analysis of the prayer recorded in chapter 17.

October 30.—What facts about the forty days following the resurrection, additional to those given in the other Gospels, does John give?

October 31.—Make a list of the discourses in John that are not given elsewhere, and discover their general character.

November 1.—Go through the Gospels with a harmony, and mark in each, with a peculiar color, the matters that are recorded in that Gospel only.

November 2.—Look up the evidences that the Gospel of Luke and the Acts were written by the same person.

November 3.—Study in the other portions of the New Testament what is meant by the saying that the early Christians had all things in common.

November 4.—Learn what the New Testament teaches about the office of deacon.

The Forty=fifth Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- November 5.* Acts, chapters 9, 10. *Paul converted. Peter's dream.*
- November 6.* Acts, chapters 11, 12, 13. *The first missionary journey.*
- November 7.* Acts, chapters 14, 15. *The first church council.*
- November 8.* Acts, chapters 16, 17. *The entrance into Europe.*
- November 9.* Acts, chapters 18, 19. *Corinth and Ephesus.*
- November 10.* Acts, chapters 20, 21. *Paul's arrest.*
- November 11.* Acts, chapters 22, 23. *Paul's trial.*

For Meditation as You Read.

- November 5.*—Paul's conversion is an absolute proof of the truth of the gospel.
- November 6.*—Cannot I aspire to the character of Barnabas (11: 24)?
- November 7.*—Am I like John Mark? (15: 38.)
- November 8.*—Can I not sing, like Paul and Silas, in the midst of my troubles?
- November 9.*—God gives me the same injunction he gave Paul in Acts 18: 9.
- November 10.*—Let me face danger as Paul faced it.
- November 11.*—I will take for an example of meekness Paul's reply in 23: 5.

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

- November 5.*—Study the traces in the later parts of the New Testament of Peter's remaining Jewish prejudices.

NOVEMBER 5-11.

November 6.—Trace Barnabas through the New Testament.

November 7.—Make a map showing the course of Paul's first missionary journey.

November 8.—Make a map showing Paul's second missionary journey.

November 9.—Study what Paul says in his writings about the doctrine of the Holy Ghost.

November 10.—Study the New Testament idea of prophecy.

November 11.—Compare the three accounts of Paul's conversion given in the New Testament.

NOVEMBER 12-18.

The Forty-sixth Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- November 12.* Acts, chapters 24, 25, 26. *Felix. Festus. Agrippa.*
- November 13.* Acts, chapters 27, 28. *The voyage to Rome.*
- November 14.* Review Acts, giving titles to the chapters.
- November 15.* Rom., chapters 1, 2, 3. *Justification by faith.* Read the introduction to the book, given below.
- November 16.* Rom., chapters 4, 5, 6, 7. *Reconciled by Christ.*
- November 17.* Rom., chapters 8, 9. *No condemnation.*
- November 18.* Rom., chapters 10, 11, 12, 13. *Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Romans.

When at Corinth in his missionary journey, A. D. 58, Paul took advantage of Phœbe's going to Rome to send by her a letter to the brethren whom he had been planning to visit. Some of these brethren probably had been converted on the Day of Pentecost, and others Paul may have met on his journeys. He had just written to the Galatians, and in his letter continues and expounds more fully the great doctrine of justification by faith. Much of the letter is taken up with the questions which would perplex Christians in Rome, such as God's design for the future of the Jews, and the relation of Christians to idolatrous practices. The letter closes with many practical exhortations.

For Meditation as You Read.

November 12.—Do not be disobedient unto the heavenly vision.

NOVEMBER 12-18.

November 13.—"God, whose I am and whom I serve."

November 14.—Why may I not have the same zeal and success as the early disciples and apostles?

November 15.—In judging another I condemn myself.

November 16.—The good of sorrow (5:1-5).

November 17.—If God is for me, who is against me?

November 18.—In honor preferring one another.

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

November 12.—Study the life history of the rulers mentioned in these chapters.

November 13.—Make for yourself an outline map of Paul's journey to Rome.

November 14.—Divide the history of the early church, as given in Acts, into six or seven eras, and mark them in the margin of your Bible.

November 15.—Review the origin of the rite of circumcision and its meaning to the Jewish church.

November 16.—Study the New Testament teachings regarding baptism and its meanings.

November 17.—What are the characteristics of Paul's literary style?

November 18.—What is the attitude of the New Testament toward worldly authorities? (Chapter 13.)

NOVEMBER 19-25.

The Forty-seventh Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- November 19.* Rom., chapters 14, 15, 16. *Doubtful disputations.*
- November 20.* 1 Cor., chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. *Is Christ divided?* Read the introduction to the book, given below.
- November 21.* 1 Cor., chapters 6, 7, 8, 9. *Many injunctions.*
- November 22.* 1 Cor., chapters 10, 11, 12, 13. *Love never faileth.*
- November 23.* 1 Cor., chapters 14, 15, 16. *O death, where is thy sting?*
- November 24.* 2 Cor., chapters 1, 2, 3, 4. *Forgive.* Read the introduction to the book, given below.
- November 25.* 2 Cor., chapters 5, 6, 7, 8, 9. *Ministry.*

First Corinthians.

From Ephesus, A. D. 57, during his third missionary journey, Paul wrote this letter to the church which he had established at Corinth five years before. Corinth, in the focus of trade east and west, north and south, was a cosmopolitan city, and the church was made up of many different classes who soon split into parties, the Jews favoring Peter, others Paul, others Apollos, others simply Christ. Paul writes to counsel unity and also to rebuke the excesses of the church. The immediate cause of the letter was the coming to Paul of a committee from the church at Corinth, whose many questions the apostle here answers.

The closing chapters of this book reach the loftiest eloquence, the deepest philosophy.

Second Corinthians.

Forced from Ephesus by the riot, Paul went to Macedonia, where Titus found him and told him of the effect of his first letter to Corinth. In the main his reproofs and injunctions had been heeded, but the Jewish party, re-inforced by some high authority, had been attacking him with great violence and malice. Thereupon Paul wrote this sturdy epistle as a defence. It constitutes a magnificent picture of his strenuous life. The date was early in A. D. 58, and the place of writing was probably Philippi.

For Meditation as You Read.

- November 19.*—None of us liveth to himself.
November 20.—I am God's fellow worker (3: 9).
November 21.—My body is the temple of the Holy Ghost.
November 22.—Have I such love as Paul describes in the wonderful chapter 13?
November 23.—Quit you like a man; be strong.
November 24.—I will look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen.
November 25.—I would become a new creature in Christ.

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

- November 19.*—Study the evidences throughout the New Testament of Paul's consecration and self-denial.
November 20.—Re-read the account of the founding of the church at Corinth.
November 21.—Trace Paul's teachings regarding bodily purity throughout his writings.

NOVEMBER 19-25.

November 22.—Study all the New Testament references to the Lord's Supper.

November 23.—Learn so far as you can through the New Testament what was the nature of the gift of tongues.

November 24.—The New Testament teaching regarding forgiveness compared with the teaching of the Old Testament.

November 25.—Look up all the references to this collection for the poor in Jerusalem.

The Forty-eighth Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- November 26.* 2 Cor., chapters 10, 11, 12, 13. *I must needs glory.*
- November 27.* Review Romans and First and Second Corinthians, underscoring the words that will indicate the progress of the argument.
- November 28.* Gal., chapters 1, 2, 3, 4. *The old covenant fulfilled.* Read the introduction to the book, given below.
- November 29.* Gal., chapters 5, 6. Eph., chapters 1, 2, 3. *No more strangers.* Read the introduction to Ephesians.
- November 30.* Eph. 4, 5, 6. *Put away the old man.*
- December 1.* Philippians. *The peace of God.* Read the introduction.
- December 2.* Colossians. *Holding fast the Head.* Read the introduction.

Galatians.

In A. D. 58, either in Macedonia or after he had gone down to Corinth, Paul wrote to the Christians in Galatia, a church he had founded in A. D. 52, while detained there by sickness on his second missionary journey, afterwards visiting it on his third journey. The country was settled by Gauls driven from Italy and Greece, but Greeks, Romans, and Jews had come to live among them. The Jews had made trouble in the church by insisting on circumcision and the Mosaic law, and declaring Paul nothing as compared with Peter. Paul wrote this letter to show how the coming of

NOVEMBER 26—DECEMBER 2.

Christ had introduced a new dispensation, not of law, but of grace; and he gives his first sketch of the doctrine of justification by faith and not by works.

Ephesians.

This was written from Rome about A. D. 63, during Paul's first imprisonment. Paul had lived three years in the luxurious Asiatic capital of Ephesus, and had done much to break the power of the great temple of Diana. There are no personal greetings in the letter, and so it is believed to have been a circular one, intended to be passed around among several churches. It is an epistle of general exhortation and counsel, especially fitted to those that had lately come from heathenism and were still exposed to its temptations.

Philippians.

This, like the preceding, was written from Rome during Paul's first imprisonment. It is a letter of gratitude sent by Epaphroditus, who had brought to Paul some generous gifts from the church. This church was the first established in Europe. Read the story in the Acts of the conversion of Lydia and afterwards of the jailer and his family. We have knowledge that Paul visited this church at least twice again.

Colossians.

This letter also was written at Rome during Paul's first imprisonment, and it was sent by Tychicus and Onesimus, who were going to Asia. Epaphras from Colossæ had visited Paul at Rome, and told him about his fellow Colossians whom Paul had never seen. Epaphras himself may have brought them the gospel from Paul while the apostle was at Ephesus. Paul's main purpose in the letter was to warn the Colossian Christians against a heresy that had crept into their church.

NOVEMBER 26—DECEMBER 2.

For Meditation as You Read.

- November 26.*—I will bring every thought into captivity to Christ.
- November 27.*—Do I ponder enough over divine truth as it is found in the Bible?
- November 28.*—No longer I, but Christ liveth in me.
- November 29.*—Whatsoever I sow, that shall I also reap.
- November 30.*—Am I grieving the Holy Spirit of God?
- December 1.*—Have I the peace of God which passeth all understanding?
- December 2.*—“Set your mind on the things that are above.”

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

- November 26.*—Compare Paul's account of his sufferings with the history, and see how much must have been left unrecorded.
- November 27.*—Make a study of the argument of Romans and condense it into as few sentences as possible.
- November 28.*—Trace through the New Testament Paul's struggle with the Judaizing party.
- November 29.*—Review in the Acts the story of Paul's stay at Ephesus.
- November 30.*—Make a list from Paul's writings of the principal temptations that had to be faced by Christian converts from heathenism.
- December 1.*—Review in the Acts the circumstances of the founding of the church at Philippi.
- December 2.*—Make a list of the principal heresies which, as the New Testament shows, disturbed the early church.

DECEMBER 3-9.

The Forty-ninth Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

December 3. First Thessalonians. *A faithful church.* Read, with each book of the week, the introduction given below.

December 4. Second Thessalonians. *The second coming.*

December 5. Review Paul's letters, from Galatians to Second Thessalonians, giving titles to the chapters.

December 6. First Timothy. *A young minister.*

December 7. Second Timothy. *Paul's last letter.*

December 8. Titus. *Christian work under difficulties.*

December 9. Philemon. *Justice and mercy.*

First Thessalonians.

This is Paul's earliest epistle, being written at Corinth late in A. D. 52, in the course of his second missionary journey. The preceding year Paul and Silas had founded the church in this large commercial centre, first laboring with the Jews and then turning to the Gentiles. From this church Silas and Timothy came to Paul at Corinth, and told him many good things about the Thessalonians; but also some bad news, especially that, through looking for the immediate coming of Christ in the heavens, many of them had given up work and fallen into disorder. Paul wrote to correct these abuses.

Second Thessalonians.

This second epistle was also written from Corinth, and not long after the first. It is occupied with the same theme as the first letter, for Paul

had learned that the Christians of Thessalonica were still excited and disturbed over the expected second advent.

First Timothy.

After the first imprisonment at Rome, which Timothy shared with him, Paul returned to Asia Minor with this beloved young man and established him in charge of the church at Ephesus. This was a very difficult post on account of the licentious worship of Diana at the great temple, and because of heresies which had crept into the church itself. This letter, written by Paul probably from Macedonia, for which he had left Asia Minor, is a general epistle of instruction on the conduct of his ministry. The date lies between 64 and 67 A. D.

Second Timothy.

This is the last of Paul's writings. It was written during his second imprisonment at Rome, between 66 and 68 A. D. It gives some particulars we should not otherwise know about this second imprisonment and trial, and about Paul's life and the condition of the church between his first and this final imprisonment. Though urging Timothy to make all speed to Rome, Paul knows that he may never see the young man again, and sends him some earnest parting messages.

Titus.

Titus, a Greek, was in charge of the church in Crete; a church exposed to many dangers from the lying, immorality, and fickleness of the people. Paul wrote this letter at some time between A. D. 64 and A. D. 67, to give him just about such counsel as he gave Timothy in his first letter to him. Probably Paul had won Titus on his first missionary journey. He was not circumcised, and Paul took him up to that momentous council at Jerusalem,

DECEMBER 3-9.

that the necessity for circumcision might be decided. Paul had sent him several times as his ambassador to Corinth.

Philemon.

This is the only one of Paul's letters which is of a strictly private and personal nature, and yet it is full of beauty and instruction. Onesimus, a runaway slave, was converted by Paul at Rome. Paul induced him to go back to his former master, Philemon, a Christian of Colossæ, there to receive whatever punishment might be inflicted. He was sending by Tychicus a letter to the church at Colossæ, and gave him also this letter to explain matters to Philemon and beg his favor on behalf of Onesimus.

For Meditation as You Read.

December 3.—Pray without ceasing (1 Thess. 5: 17).

December 4.—Have I “the patience of Christ”? (2 Thess. 3: 5.)

December 5.—Am I in any point growing “weary in well doing”? (2 Thess. 3: 13.)

December 6.—What profit am I gaining from my religion? (1 Tim. 4: 8.)

December 7.—How I may rid myself of worldly entanglements (2 Tim. 2: 4).

December 8.—My blessed hope (Titus 2: 13).

December 9.—How much of my time am I spending in practical helpfulness toward others?

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

December 3.—Read in the Acts the account of the founding of the church in Thessalonica.

December 4.—Study what Christ himself said about his second coming.

DECEMBER 3-9.

December 5.—What peculiarities can you discover that are common to all of Paul's letters to the churches?

December 6.—What idea can you gain from Paul's writings as to the organization of the early church?

December 7.—Make a study of Paul's salutations contained in his letters.

December 8.—Gather up Paul's references to women, and study them in the light of the conditions of the times.

December 9.—Study in the light of the times Paul's attitude toward slavery.

The Fiftieth Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- December 10.* Heb., chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. *The great High Priest.* Read the introduction to each book before the book is read.
- December 11.* Heb., chapters 7, 8, 9, 10. *The new covenant.*
- December 12.* Heb., chapters 11, 12, 13. *The catalogue of faith.*
- December 13.* Review Paul's letters, from First Timothy to Hebrews, giving titles to the chapters.
- December 14.* James, chapters 1, 2, 3, 4. *Practical precepts.*
- December 15.* James, chapter 5; 1 Pet., chapters 1, 2. *A peculiar people.*
- December 16.* 1 Pet., chapters 3, 4, 5. *Christian duties.*

Hebrews.

It is not known who wrote this epistle,—possibly Paul, since the thought and language are in some points like his; but it has been attributed to Luke, to Apollos, to Barnabas. Various indications point to a date between A. D. 64 and A. D. 67. At any rate, it was written before the fall of Jerusalem, as it speaks of the temple worship as still going on. It was written probably to the Hebrew Christians of Palestine, and to comfort them in their persecutions. They had lost, in accepting Christ, much that was sacred to them. Paul devotes himself to showing how far Christ is superior to them all,—to angels, Moses, the an-

cient priesthood, taking these points in order. The apostle goes on to contrast the glorious new covenant with the old one, and closes with a splendid picture of faith and of other virtues.

James.

The author of this epistle, our Lord's brother according to the flesh, was a Jew of the stricter sort, and in his letter urges the most sincere and thorough-going Christian living. The letter is the first of the "general epistles,"—those of James, Peter, John, and Jude,—so called because they are not addressed to any particular church. The letter of James, for instance, was written for all the Christian Jews that had been scattered from Jerusalem over the world. It is a letter full of the most practical wisdom.

First Peter.

Peter's later work, after that in Palestine with which the Acts makes us acquainted, was in Asia Minor; and this letter is addressed to the Jewish Christians of those provinces. Several references in the letter seem to show that the Christians were then undergoing persecution—probably that instigated by Nero; and this epistle was written to convert and encourage them. The date may be about 63 A. D.

For Meditation as You Read.

December 10.—My help in temptation (Heb. 2: 18).

December 11.—My sins in God's presence (Heb. 10: 31).

December 12.—The unseen cloud of witnesses (Heb. 12: 1, 2).

December 13.—The uses of sorrow (Heb. 12: 5-11).

December 14.—Can my religion stand James's test? (Jas. 1: 27.)

DECEMBER 10-16.

December 15.—In sorrow and joy (Jas. 5: 13).

December 16.—How should I be a partaker of Christ's sufferings? (1 Pet. 4: 13.)

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

December 10.—Make a list of the most important changes Christianity would work in the religion of a converted Jew.

December 11.—Study the many ways in which the Mosaic ritual and the temple pointed forward to Christ.

December 12.—What names can you add from the Old Testament to the catalogue of the heroes of faith?

December 13.—Study the arguments for and against the Pauline authorship of the letter to the Hebrews.

December 14.—Look up and clearly distinguish in your mind the different Jameses mentioned in the New Testament.

December 15.—In connection with 1 Pet. 1: 20 learn what the Bible says about Christ as a part of God's plan of redemption.

December 16.—In connection with chapter 3, study what the New Testament says about the relation of husband and wife.

The Fifty-first Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

December 17. 2 Peter. *The great addition.* Read the introduction to each book before the book is read.

December 18. 1 John. *God is love.*

December 19. 2 John. *Love one another.*

December 20. 3 John. *Fellow workers.*

December 21. Jude. *Contend for the faith.*

December 22. Review the General Epistles, giving titles to the chapters, and mark the passages you especially wish to remember.

December 23. Rev., chapters 1, 2, 3. *The messages to the churches.*

Second Peter.

This letter was probably addressed to the same persons for whom Peter wrote his former epistle; and though the date is uncertain, several references in the letter point to a time just before Peter's death. The epistle is an exhortation to faith in a well-proved gospel. Peter's reference to Paul is most noteworthy.

First John.

This, "the most independent of place and time and circumstance of all the writings in the New Testament," is an appendix to the Gospel of John, being a further unfolding of many of the unique truths there set forth. John probably wrote it at Ephesus toward the close of his long life; that is, in one of the last years of the first century. It

DECEMBER 17-23.

was quite certainly written for the churches in Asia, to which the apostle ministered.

Second John.

This very brief letter repeats some of the teachings of the first epistle. It is addressed to "the elect lady and her children," by which some think John meant the church, and others think he meant an actual person. Neither explanation is wholly satisfactory. Date and place of writing are also unknown, though probably the same as those of the first letter.

Third John.

Several persons named Gaius or Caius are mentioned in the New Testament, but none of these can be identified with the person to whom John wrote this letter. There is no reason for assigning it to a date or place different from those of the first two epistles.

Jude.

The Jude who wrote this epistle was doubtless the brother of our Lord according to the flesh, and therefore the brother of the James who wrote the epistle we have just read. Probably he is addressing the same audience that James addressed—the depressed Jewish Christians, whom he urges to hold fast to the faith in spite of false teachers and many temptations. A comparison of this epistle with the second letter of Peter will show many points of similarity.

The Revelation.

The Revelation, or the "Apocalypse," is the only prophetic book in the New Testament. It was undoubtedly written by John, and probably during his exile on the island of Patmos. There is the widest divergence of belief, however, as to

the date of the writing, some thinking it was written possibly as early as A. D. 68, others placing it near the close of John's life. There are many points of agreement in the thoughts and the spirit of the Gospel and the Revelation, but the former is written in much purer Greek than the latter. After a brief introduction, followed by the messages to the seven churches of Asia Minor, the greater part of the book is occupied with seven series of visions. The meaning of many of these is undetermined, though the general teaching—the ultimate triumph of the church—is entirely clear; and the book is full of comfort and inspiration.

For Meditation as You Read.

December 17.—How far have I gone in Peter's addition table? (2 Pet. 1: 5-7.)

December 18.—Am I "laying down my life" (1 John 3: 16) for any one?

December 19.—How closely am I "abiding in the teaching of Christ"? (2 John 9.)

December 20.—How much am I doing "for the sake of the Name" (3 John 7) ?

December 21.—"Without spot or blemish" (Jude 23, 24).

December 22.—How wonderfully all these evidences and memorials of Christ and of the early church have been preserved for us!

December 23.—Which of the seven churches am I most like?

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

December 17.—Scan the epistles of Peter for hidden references to his life with Christ, and for tokens of his character as disclosed by the Gospels.

DECEMBER 17-23.

December 18.—Trace the correspondence between First John and John's Gospel.

December 19.—See how much of the thought of Second John you can find in First John.

December 20.—Look up the other persons named Gaius or Caius in the New Testament.

December 21.—Look up the references in the Gospels to our Lord's brethren.

December 22.—Make in your Bible a table of all the Epistles, arranging them in their probable chronological order.

December 23.—Study what is known about the history of the seven churches, and the fulfilment of this prediction concerning them.

The Fifty-second Week.

Sections for Daily Reading.

- December 24.* Rev., chapters 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. *The seven seals.*
- December 25.* Rev., chapters 9, 10, 11, 12. *The seven angels.*
- December 26.* Rev., chapters 13, 14, 15, 16. *The seven plagues.*
- December 27.* Rev., chapters 17, 18, 19. *The scarlet woman.*
- December 28.* Rev., chapters 20, 21, 22. *The New Jerusalem.*
- December 29.* Review Revelation, marking the beginning of each new series of visions.
- December 30.* Glance rapidly over the entire New Testament, reviewing swiftly the general character and purpose of each book.
- December 31.* Pass in turn to each of the sixty-six books of the Bible, that you may gain some impression of all the riches with which you have become acquainted during the year.

For Meditation as You Read.

- December 24.*—God's holiness (Rev. 4:8).
- December 25.*—Christ's eternal reign (Rev. 11:15).
- December 26.*—What kind of death am I preparing for myself? (Rev. 14:13.)
- December 27.*—My joy in heaven (Rev. 19:9).
- December 28.*—Am I sure of heaven?
- December 29.*—Am I ready for the day when character will be fixed forever? (Rev. 22:11.)

DECEMBER 24-31.

December 30.—"The Spirit and the bride say, Come."

December 31.—"Amen; come, Lord Jesus."

For Further Study, if You Have Time.

December 24.—Trace through the Revelation the use of the mystic number "seven."

December 25.—Study the conception of angels here and in the other books of the Bible.

December 26.—Study the references to Babylon throughout the Revelation, and their probable meaning.

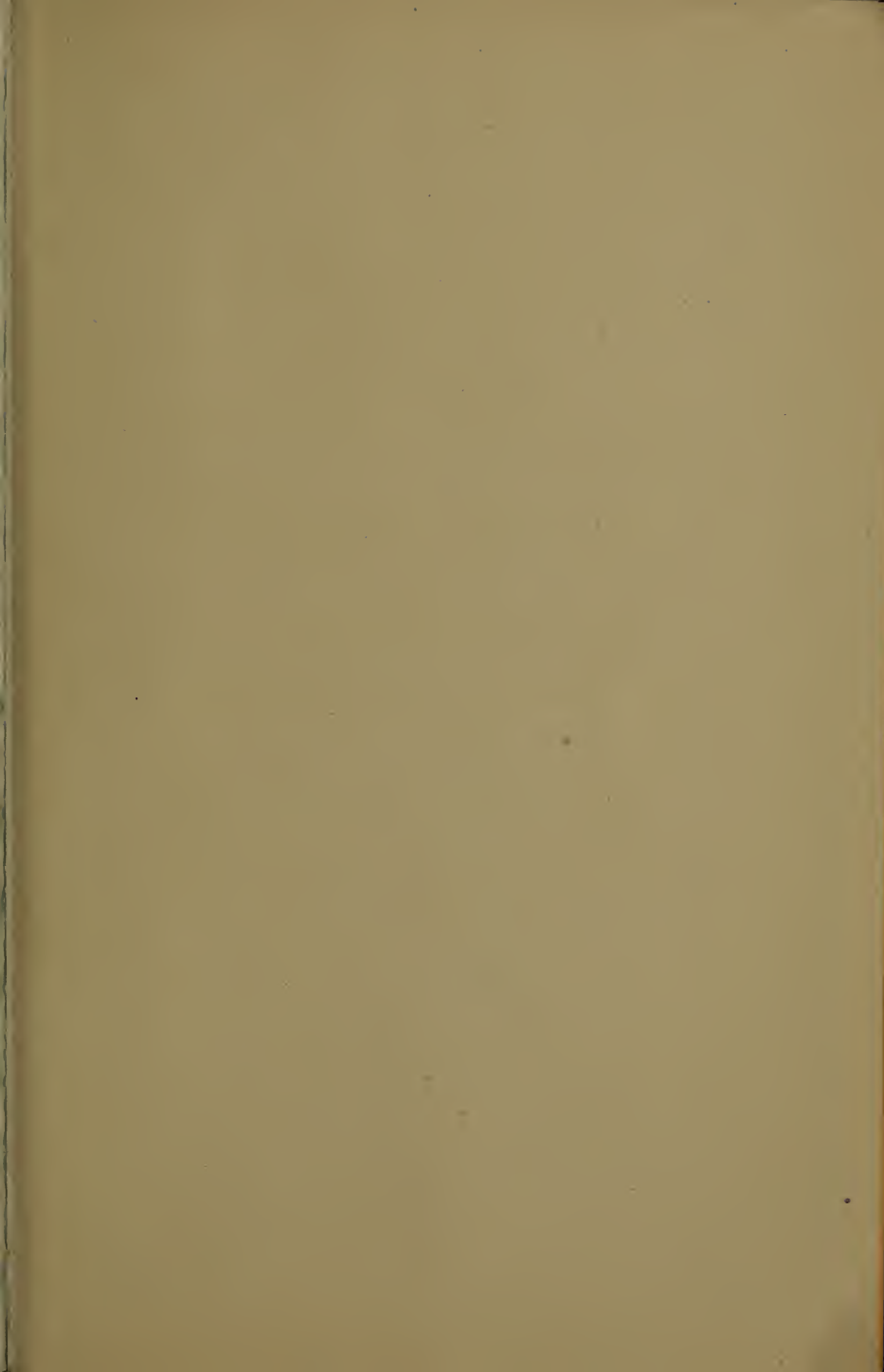
December 27.—Bring together the descriptions of Christ and of God scattered throughout the Revelation; what are their common characteristics?

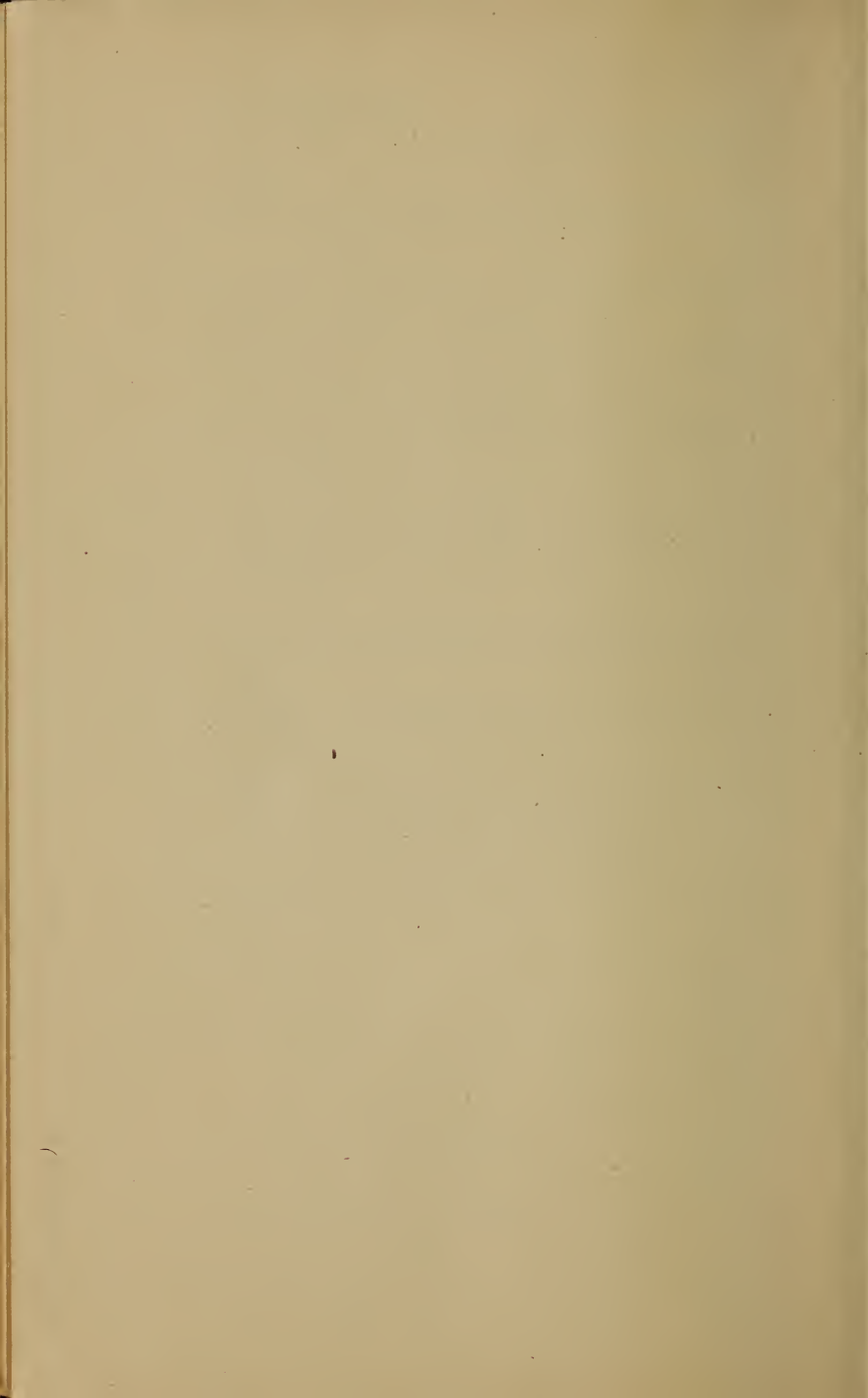
December 28.—What characteristics of heaven are indicated by these glorious symbols of the Revelation?

December 29.—What points has the Revelation in common with the other writings of John?

December 30.—Make a list of the books of the New Testament in the order of your familiarity with them, and then set yourself to becoming better acquainted with those less known.

December 31.—Do the same, afterward, for the books of the Old Testament.





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