THE HOWARD SUNDAY-SCHOOL QUESTION BOOK, BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

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The Howard Sunday-School Question Book, by the Superintendent by Anonymous

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HOWARD SUNDAY-SCHOOL

QUESTION-BOOK.

BY THE SUPERINTENDENT.

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NOTE.

It is quite fortunate that this book is not to be published; the marks of haste in its preparation are altogether too obvious.

Teachers and pupils should bear constantly in mind, that great thoroughness need not be attempted in this course of lessons: the field gone over is by far too wide for that. A general knowledge of the subjects presented is what is to be simed at.

And yet, if any will faithfully study at home, — especially if teachers and older pupils, after such study, will attend the teachers' weekly meetings, and devote an entire evening to the work, — then much more than mere general knowledge may be attained.

We ought, as Christian believers, to labor hard to know all that this book suggests, as well as what it requires; not simply as a matter of knowledge, but of that kind of knowledge which shall fit us for time and eternity.

QUESTION-BOOK.

SECTION I.

INTRODUCTION. - GENESIS I., to XI. 9.

What is the meaning of Bible? Holy Bible? Scriptures? Why called Word of God? Revelation? Law and Gospel? Testament? Old and New Testament? Would "covenant" express the idea better than Testament? Does the New Testament contradict or complete the Old? How many books are there in the Bible? Is it known by whom and when all of these books were written? About how long time elapsed from the writing of the first book to that of the last? Did the authors divide them into chapters and verses? When were they thus divided? By whom were the headings of the chapters and pages written? What is the use of Italicized words in the Bible?

What is the name and nature of the first book of the Bible? Second? Third? Fourth? Fifth? Why these names given? Who is the supposed author of these five books? What are they called collectively? What means Pentateuch? Is there any part which Moses could not have written? Do any believe that he wrote these five books precisely as they are? Do all Christians believe that he had somewhat to do with the originating of any of their contents?

SECTION II.

THE CREATION. THE FALL .- GENERIS L. to III.

Is the book of Genesis biographical or historical?

If the book of Genesis is a biography of the patri
archs, how large a portion is prefatory? What are some of the contents of this preface?

Creation, I., II. — How many accounts of creation are there? Read the two, and tell wherein they differ. How do these differ, in general, from our present views? What the object of the author in writing these two accounts? What means "Spirit Accounts God"? ver. 2. Who meant by "us," in ver. 26?

The Full, II. 8-17; III.—Read these passages, and relate the story. Where was man placed? What two peculiar trees were in the garden? Their effects upon those eating the fruits thereof? What was Adam's occupation? What command was given to Adam? What induced Adam and Eve to sin? Who are meant by "gods," in iii. 5? What was the nature of this serpent? How did God punish each offender? What is a curse? What is the

meaning of ver. 15? Who are meant by "gods" and "us," in i. 26; iii. 5, 22? How had man become "as one of us, to know good and evil"? Why expel Adam and Eve from the garden? Had the promise of the serpent been fulfilled? Compare iii. 4, 5, with ver. 7, 22. Was not God's word more truly fulfilled? iii. 19. Whose fault was it that sin entered the world?

SECTION III.

THE MURDER. THE DELUGE .- IV. to IX. 17.

The Murder. — Read iv. 1-15, and tell the story of Cain and Abel. What was the occupation of Cain? Of Abel? What was their form of worship? Why was Cain's gift rejected? ver. 6, 7. What was the nature and object of the "mark set upon Cain"? Where did Cain afterwards dwell? ver. 16. What city build? ver. 17. Read 19-24, and relate what further is known of the dwellers in this city. What other son was born to Adam? v. 3. Had he other children? v. 3.

Who was the oldest man, and how old was he? v. 27. Who was and what became of his father? v. 21-24. Who was Methuselah's son? 25. Grandson? 28, 29. Who were the sons of Noah? 32.

General Depravity and Deluge, vi.-ix. 17. — What was the general character of man, when these three sons were born to Noah? vi. 12. What means

"Spirit of God striving with man"? vi. 3. Read vi. 9-ix. 17, and relate the story of the Deluge, How long time given to man to repent? vi. 3. Who and what were in the ark? How long? Compare vii. 11 and viii. 13, 14. What experiments tried Noah to ascertain the condition of the earth? What did he first after leaving the ark? What is meant by "sacrifice"? "Offering"? "Burnt-offering"? "Clean fowls"? What means ix. 4-6? What means 8-17?

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SECTION IV.

ORIGIN OF LANGUAGES AND NATIONS. CONCLUSION. XI. 1-9.

Babel, xi. 1-9. — Where did the ark rest? viii. 4. How long did Noah live after the Deluge? ix. 28. Where dwelt a portion of the descendants of Noah? xi. 2. Who founded Babel and Nineveh? x. 8-11. Read xi. 1-9, and relate the story of the origin of languages and nations. What was the object of this tower? 4. Was there any sin in this? Why were the people scattered? ver. 6.

Conclusion. — What ideas, concerning God in this preface, are different from ours? What ideas, concerning the earth, different from ours? What other ideas different from ours? What lessons are taught of God's interest in man? What lessons concerning

retribution? What is the character of God, as here presented? How many years elapsed from the creation, to the birth of Abram? During these many centuries, was there any Bible? Were there temples, or orders of priests? What was their form of worship? To what four individuals did God communicate by revelation? How did he communicate to them? Was there any Hebrew nation at this time? To what people, then, does this preface show God's relation? What was the object of the author in giving us the stories of this preface? Whence did he obtain them?