

III.

God's Revelation to Man.

LESSON XIII.

THE WORD OF GOD.

1. God revealed his will to man in order that he might know how to serve him acceptably. Deut. 29:29.

2. In the Bible we find the word of God, for it contains:

(a) Words spoken by God himself. Deut. 4:12, 13; Ex. 20:1-17.

(b) Revelations from God through his servants, the prophets. Amos 3:7; Deut. 29:29.

(c) Words spoken by Christ while on earth. Heb. 1:1, 2; John 12:49.

THE OLD TESTAMENT.

3. The Old Testament is composed of thirty-nine books, originally divided into three divisions; namely, the law of Moses, the prophets and the psalms, or poetical books; and all these together were called Scriptures. Luke 24:27, 44, 45; Rom. 16:26.

4. The Scriptures of the Old Testament were given by inspiration. 2 Tim. 3:15, 16; 2 Pet. 1:21.

5. From Joshua to Malachi we find the writings of Moses acknowledged as the infallible word of God. Josh. 23:6; 1 Kings 2:3; Dan. 9:11; Mal. 4:4.

QUESTIONS.

1. Why is it necessary for man to have a revelation from God? Paragraph 1.

2. In which book will we find God's will revealed to man?

3. In what three ways has God revealed his will to us? Give three references.

4. How many books constitute the Old Testament?

5. Into how many parts was the Old Testament divided at first? Name them.

6. Name two texts which prove the Old Testament Scriptures are inspired.

7. What texts can be given to prove that the writings of Moses were regarded as the word of God from the very first?

8. Are his writings of the same authority now as then?

LESSON XIV.

THE NEW TESTAMENT.

1. The New Testament contains twenty-seven books, which were written by inspired men some time after Christ's ascension and before the end of the first century. 2 Tim. 3: 15, 16; 2 Pet. 3: 15, 16.

2. The first four books of the New Testament contain an inspired history of Christ; the Acts contain the history of the first Christians; the epistles are full of instruction to the church, and the Revelation of John contains a prophetic history till the end of time.

3. Much of the New Testament teachings is based upon the Old. John 5: 39; Acts 26: 22, 23; 28: 23.

4. Jesus confirmed the Old Testament by affirming that it was written by Moses and the prophets, and by referring to it as authority in all his teachings, as follows:

(a) Moses. John 5: 45-47; Luke 16: 29-31.

(b) The prophets. Luke 24: 27.

(c) The Psalms. Luke 24: 44.

5. In the same manner the apostles confirmed and used the Old Testament in all their teachings.

(a) Peter. 1 Pet. 1: 10, 11; 2 Pet. 1: 21.

(b) Paul. 2 Tim. 3: 16; Acts 24: 14.

(c) James. James 2: 8, 9; 4: 5.

QUESTIONS.

1. How many books constitute the New Testament, and when were they written?

2. Tell briefly what they contain and teach. See paragraph 2.

3. Upon what are the New Testament teachings based? Mention two texts.

4. How did Christ confirm the Old Testament?

5. What does he say of Moses?

6. Tell how he used the prophets and the Psalms in his teachings.

7. To what did the apostles refer as authority in their teachings?

8. Give references proving that Peter, Paul and James referred to the Old Testament as authority for their instruction.

9. If Moses and the writings of the old Testament were regarded as divine authority for Christian instruction in the early Christian church, are not the same Scriptures equally good in our day?

LESSON XV.

POWER OF GOD'S WORD.

1. The word of God is living and powerful because of his spirit that is in it. John 6:63; Jer. 23:29; Heb. 4:12.

2. The following will illustrate the power of God's word:

(a) All things were created by the power of his word. Ps. 33:6-9; Gen. 1:3, 9, 11, 14, 15.

(b) All things are upheld and consist by the power of his divine word. Heb. 1:3; 2 Pet. 3:7.

3. Examples illustrating the power of Christ's word:

(a) Storm stilled. Mark 4:36-41.

(b) Fig tree withered. Matt. 21:18-20.

(c) Sick healed. Luke 7:2-10.

(d) Evil spirits cast out. Matt. 8:16.

(e) Dead raised to life. John 11:43, 44.

4. Examples illustrating the power of words spoken by man under the influence of God's spirit.

(a) Rock gave forth water. Num. 20:8-11.

(b) Sun and moon stood still. Josh. 10:12, 13.

(c) Sick man healed. Acts 9:33, 34.

(d) A woman raised to life. Acts 9:36-41.

5. Sinners are regenerated by faith through the power of God's word. Rom. 1:16; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23.

QUESTIONS.

1. What makes God's word living and powerful?
2. What illustrates the power of God's word in creation?
3. By what power are planets held in space? Heb. 1:3.
4. By what power was the storm stilled? The fig tree withered?
5. Give three other examples illustrating the power of the words of Christ.
6. Mention four examples illustrating the power of the words of men spoken under the influence of God's spirit.
7. By what power are sinners regenerated?

LESSON XVI.

REVIEW QUESTIONS ON LESSONS XIII TO XV.

1. Tell how and in which book God has revealed his will to man.
2. Why was such a revelation necessary?
3. How do the inspired writers look upon the writings of Moses? Give three Scripture references from the Old Testament.
4. When and by whom was the New Testament written?
5. Of what does the first five books of the New Testament treat?
6. What does the last book of the Bible contain?
7. What is there about the word of God that makes it different from all other books? See Lesson XIV, paragraph 1.
8. Give proof that God's word has creative power.
9. Name four examples illustrating the power of Christ's words.
10. Give two examples from the Old Testament demonstrating the power of words spoken by man under the influence of God's Spirit.
11. Name two like examples found in the New Testament.
12. By what power is man regenerated? Name one text.