

**ILLUSTRATED
BIBLE HISTORY**

ILLUSTRATED BIBLE HISTORY

**OF THE
OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS**

FOR THE USE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

By IGNATIUS SCHUSTER, D.D.

**THIRTY-SECOND EDITION
WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY PHILIP SCHUMACHER,
TWO COLORED MAPS, AND
A GLOSSARY OF PROPER NAMES BY THE
REV H. J. HECK**

TAN BOOKS
Charlotte, North Carolina

Nihil Obstat

Innocentius Swoboda, O.F.M.

Censor Librorum

Imprimatur

Sti. Ludovici, die 21. Augusti, 1950

✠ Joseph E. Ritter

Archiepiscopus

Originally published by B. Herder Book Co., St. Louis,
Missouri, U.S.A.

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Printed in the United States of America.

TAN Books
Charlotte, North Carolina
www.TANBooks.com

2014

CONTENTS

FIRST PART

HISTORY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

FIRST EPOCH

FROM ADAM TO ABRAHAM.

CHAPTER		PAGE
I.	The Creation of the World	1
II.	Creation and Fall of the Angels	3
III.	Creation of the First Man.—Paradise.—The First Commandment.—Creation of Eve	4
IV.	The Fall of our First Parents	5
V.	Cain and Abel	8
VI.	The Deluge	16
VII.	Noe's Offering.—His Children	13
VIII.	The Tower of Babel	15

SECOND EPOCH

ELECTION AND GREATNESS OF THE ISRAELITES—FROM ABRAHAM TO MOSES (2000 TO 1500 B C)

IX.	Call of Abraham	16
X.	Abraham's Love of Peace	19
XI.	Circumcision	21
XII.	Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrha	22
XIII.	Birth of Isaac, and Abraham's Sacrifice	25
XIV.	Isaac Marries Rebecca	27
XV.	Esau and Jacob	30
XVI.	Jacob's Flight and His Sojourn with Laban	32
XVII.	Jacob Returns Home, and is Reconciled with His Brother	32
XVIII.	Joseph Sold by His Brethren	36
XIX.	Joseph in the House of Putiphar	39
XX.	Joseph in Prison	40
XXI.	Joseph's Exaltation	42
XXII.	The Sons of Jacob go into Egypt	45
XXIII.	Benjamin's Journey to Egypt	47
XXIV.	Joseph's Silver Cup	48
XXV.	Joseph Makes Himself Known to His Brethren	50
XXVI.	Jacob Goes into Egypt	51
XXVII.	The Last Words of Jacob	53

CHAPTER	PAGE
XXVIII. Job's Patience	54
THE AGE OF MOSES. (1500 TO 1450 B. C.)	
XXIX. The Birth of Moses	58
XXX. The Flight of Moses	61
XXXI. The Burning Bush	62
XXXII. The Plagues Wrought in Egypt	65
XXXIII. The Paschal Lamb.—Departure from Egypt	68
XXXIV. Passage of the Red Sea	71
XXXV. The Miracles Wrought in the Desert	73
XXXVI. God Gives the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai	75
XXXVII. The Golden Calf	78
XXXVIII. The Making of the Tabernacle	80
XXXIX. Laws Regulating Divine Worship	83
XL. The Spies	86
XLI. The Revolt of Core and His Adherents	88
XLII. The Doubt of Moses.—The Brazen Serpent	90
XLIII. The Prophecy of Balaam	92
XLIV. Parting Advice of Moses.—His Death	94
XLV. Entrance of the Israelites into the Promised Land	95
XLVI. The Judges.—Gedeon, Samson	98
XLVII. Ruth's Affection for Her Mother-in-Law	103
XLVIII. Samuel—Impiety of the Sons of Hell	106
XLIX. Saul Elected King. (1095 B. C.)	109
L. David, the Young Shepherd	111
LI. David Fights with and Slays Goliath	113
LII. Friendship of Jonathan and David	116
LIII. David's Noble Conduct towards Saul	119
THE GREATNESS OF THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL, FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE REIGN OF DAVID TO THE REIGN OF ROBOAM. (1055 TO 975 B. C.)	
LIV. David's Piety.—His Zeal for God's Glory	121
LV. The Prophecies of David	123
LVI. Revolt and Punishment of Absalom	125
LVII. David's Last Words.—His Death	129
LVIII. Solomon's Prayer.—His Wisdom	130
IX. The Building and Consecration of the Temple	133
LX. Solomon's Magnificence.—His Sad End	136
THIRD EPOCH	
DECLINE OF THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL. FROM THE TIME OF ROBOAM TO JESUS CHRIST. (962 B. C.)	
LXI. Division of the Kingdom	139
DECLINE OF THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL	
LXII. God Raises up Prophets.—Mission of the Prophet Elias. (907 B. C.)	141

CHAPTER	PAGE
LXIII. The Sacrifice of Elias	144
LXIV. Wickedness of Achab and Jezabel.—Their Punishment	147
LXV. Elias Taken to Heaven.—The Prophet Eliseus Chosen to Succeed Him	149
LXVI. The Prophet Jonas	153

FINAL OVERTHROW OF THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL. (718 B. C.)

LXVII. Tobias During the Captivity of Babylon	156
LXVIII. Tobias' Parting Advice to His Son.—Departure of the Young Tobias	159
LXIX. Tobias Returns Home	163

DECLINE OF THE KINGDOM OF JUDA

LXX. The Prophets Joel and Micheas. (790 to 730 B. C.)	165
LXXI. King Ozias, wishing to Usurp the Priestly Functions, is Stricken with Leprosy. (803 B. C)	167
LXXII. The Prophecies of Isaias. (700 B. C)	168
LXXIII. The Pious King Ezechias. (723 to 694 B. C)	170
LXXIV. Judith	172
LXXV. The Babylonian Captivity.—Fall of the Kingdom of Juda. (588 B. C)	175
LXXVI. Daniel Saves Susanna	180
LXXVII. The Prophet Daniel.—The Three Young Men in the Fiery Furnace	182
LXXVIII. King Baltassar and the God Bel	186
LXXIX. Daniel in the Lion's Den	189
LXXX. Return of the Jews from Babylon. (536 B. C)	192
LXXXI. Esther	194
LXXXII. Translation of the Old Testament into Greek. (285 B. C.).—Wise Sayings of Jesus, the Son of Sirach	199
LXXXIII. The Martyrdom of Eleazar. (168 B. C.)	202
LXXXIV. The Martyrdom of the Seven Machabees	203
LXXXV. Vallant Exploits of Judas Machabeus. (160 B. C.)	206
LXXXVI. The Last Times Before Christ	210

SECOND PART

HISTORY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

FIRST SECTION

HISTORY OF JESUS CHRIST

HIS BIRTH AND INFANCY

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. Annunciation of the Birth of John the Baptist	213
II. Annunciation of the Birth of Christ	215
III. The Visitation	217
IV. The Birth of John the Baptist	219
V. The Birth of Jesus Christ	220
VI. The Shepherds at the Manger	221
VII. The Presentation in the Temple	223
VIII. The Adoration of the Magi	225
IX. The Flight into Egypt	227
X. Jesus at the Age of Twelve Years goes to the Temple	229
XI. John the Baptist, the Precursor of Christ	231
XII. Jesus is Baptised by John and Tempted by the Devil	233
XIII. The First Disciples of Jesus Christ	235
XIV. The First Miracle of Jesus.—He Changes Water into Wine	237
XV. Jesus drives the Sellers out of the Temple.—Discourse with Nicodemus	238
XVI. Jesus at the Well of Jacob	240
XVII. Jesus Preaches at Nazareth	243
XVIII. The Miracles of Jesus at Capharnaum	244
XIX. The Miraculous Draught of Fishes	246
XX. Jesus Heals the Man Sick of Palsy	248
XXI. The Sermon on the Mount	249
XXII. The Cure of the Leper and of the Centurion's Servant	253
XXIII. Jesus Raises from the Dead the Son of the Widow of Naim	255
XXIV. John the Baptist sends Messengers to Christ	256
XXV. The Penitent Magdalen	257
XXVI. The Cure of the Man who had been Infirm for Thirty-eight Years	259
XXVII. The Sin against the Holy Ghost.—Mary Declared Blessed	261
XXVIII. Jesus Preaching on the Lake of Genesareth.—The Parable of the Husbandman Sowing his Seed	263

CHAPTER	PAGE
XXIX. Christ Stills the Tempest	265
XXX. Jesus Heals the Woman Afflicted with an Issue of Blood, and Raises to Life the Daughter of Jairus	266
XXXI. Jesus Sends His Apostles	268
XXXII. John the Baptist is Put to Death	270
XXXIII. The Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes	271
XXXIV. Jesus Promises to give the Bread of Life	275
XXXV. The Woman of Chanaan	276
XXXVI. Jesus Promises Peter the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven	278
XXXVII. The Transfiguration	279
XXXVIII. The Tribute for the Temple	281
XXXIX. Jesus Blesses Little Children	282
XL. Fraternal Correction.—Forgiveness of Injuries—The Unforgiving Servant	283
XLI. Jesus Sends forth Seventy-two of His Disciples	285
XLII. Parable of the Good Samaritan	286
XLIII. Mary and Martha	288
XLIV. Jesus the Good Shepherd	289
XLV. Parable of the Prodigal Son	290
XLVI. The Parable of Dives and Lazarus	292
XLVII. Jesus Gives Sight to the Man Born Blind	294
XLVIII. The Lord's Prayer	297
XLIX. The Parable of the Rich Man	298
L. The Barren Fig-tree	299
LI. The Ten Lepers	300
LII. The Pharisee and the Publican	301
LIII. Jesus at the Feast of the Dedication	302
LIV. The Rich Young Man	303
LV. The Laborers in the Vineyard	304
LVI. The Raising of Lazarus from the Dead	305
LVII. Jesus Foretells His Passion and Death	308
LVIII. Jesus is Anointed by Mary	310
LIX. Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem	311
LX. The Marriage Feast	313
LXI. The Widow's Mite.—Destruction of Jerusalem and the End of the World	315
LXII. The Parable of the Ten Virgins and of the Talents	317
LXIII. The Last Judgment	319
LXIV. The Last Supper, and the Washing of the Disciples' Feet	321
LXV. Jesus Institutes the Most Holy Sacrament and Foretells the Treason of Judas	323
LXVI. Jesus tells Peter that he shall Deny Him, and bids Farewell to His Disciples	324
LXVII. The Agony of Jesus in the Garden	326
LXVIII. Jesus is Seized	328

CHAPTER	PAGE
LXIX. Jesus before Annas and Caiphas	329
LXX. Peter Denies Jesus	331
LXXI. Jesus before Pilate and Herod	332
LXXII. Jesus is Scourged, Crowned with Thorns, and Con- demned to Death	334
LXXIII. Jesus Carries His Cross to Mount Calvary.—He is Crucified	337
LXXIV. Jesus Speaks Seven Words on the Cross and Dies	339
LXXV. Jesus is Laid in the Sepulcher	342
LXXVI. Jesus Rises from the Dead	344
LXXVII. Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalen and Peter	346
LXXVIII. Jesus Appears to Two of His Disciples on the way to Emmaus	347
LXXIX. Jesus Appears to the Assembled Apostles, and Institutes the Sacrament of Penance	348
LXXX. Jesus Bestows on Peter the Supreme Pastorship	350
LXXXI. The Ascension of Jesus Christ	352

SECOND SECTION

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

LXXXII. The Election of Matthias.—Descent of the Holy Ghost	354
LXXXIII. The Lame Man Cured by Peter and John.—They are brought before the Council	357
LXXXIV. Ananias and Saphira	359
LXXXV. The Twelve Apostles in Prison.—Gamaliel's Counsel	360
LXXXVI. The Election of Deacons.—Stephen the First Martyr	362
LXXXVII. The Sacrament of Confirmation.—Baptism of the Officer of Queen Candace	365
LXXXVIII. The Conversion of Saul. (About the Year of Our Lord 37.)	367
LXXXIX. Peter's Journey.—He Raises Tabitha to Life. (A. D. 39.)	369
XC. The Conversion of Cornelius	370
XCI. Peter in Prison. (About the Year of Our Lord 42.)	372
XCII. Paul's First Mission. (A. D. 45 to 48.)	375
XCIII. The Council of Jerusalem. (About A. D. 50.)	378
XCIV. The Second Mission of St. Paul. (A. D. 51 to 54.)	379
XCV. St. Paul's Third Mission. (A. D. 55 to 58.)	383
XCVI. Last Years of the Life of the Apostles	385
APPENDIX	386

FIRST PART.

History of the Old Testament.

FIRST EPOCH.

From Adam to Abraham.

CHAPTER I.

The Creation of the World.

The heavens show forth the glory of God, and the firmament declareth the work of His hands.—Ps. 18, 1.

IN the beginning God created heaven and earth. The earth was void and empty, darkness was on the face of the deep, and the Spirit of God moved over the waters. God said: "Be light made," and light was made. This was the first day.

2. On the second day God said: "Let there be a firmament made amidst the waters; and let it divide the waters from the waters." And it was so. God called the firmament Heaven.

3. On the third day God said: "Let the waters that are under the heaven be gathered into one place; and let the dry land appear." And it was so done. God called the dry land, Earth; the gathered waters, Seas. He also said: "Let the earth bring forth the green herb and such as may seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after its kind." And it was so done.

4. The fourth day God said: "Let there be lights made

in the firmament of heaven, to divide the day and the night, and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days and for years." And it was so done. God made the sun, moon and countless stars, and set them in the firmament of heaven, to shine upon the earth, and to rule the day and the night.



THE CREATION OF THE WORLD.

5. The fifth day God said: "Let the waters bring forth the creeping creatures having life, and the fowl that may fly over the earth under the firmament of heaven." And God created fish and birds of every kind, and He blessed them, saying, "Increase and multiply."

6. The sixth day God said: "Let the earth bring forth the living creature in its kind: cattle and creeping things, and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so done. At last God created man, and gave him dominion over all the rest. And God saw all the works that He had made, and they were very good. The seventh day God rested, and He blessed that day and made it holy.

QUESTIONS.

1. What did God create in the beginning? In what condition was the earth at first? What moved over the waters? What was then made? 2. What was made on the second day? 3. What did God say on the third day? What did God call the dry land? The waters? What else did God then create? 4. What did God say on the fourth day? 5. What did God say on the fifth day? 6. On the sixth day? What did God give to man? What did God do on the seventh day?

CHAPTER II.

Creation and Fall of the Angels.

O ye angels of the Lord, bless the Lord; praise and exalt Him above all forever.—*Dan. 3, 58.*

BESIDES the visible world, God also created an invisible world, namely, innumerable spirits called Angels. They were all good, happy, and endowed with excellent gifts of nature and of grace; but they did not all continue in that state, for, being possessed of a free will, a great many of them abused it, lost the grace of God, and became wicked.

2. They rebelled against God—Lucifer, their leader, saying: "We shall be like unto the Most High; we will place our throne above the stars."

3. Then there was a great strife in heaven. Michael and the other angels who had remained faithful to God, fought against the bad and rebellious spirits, whose chief is now called Satan, or the Devil. The bad angels were conquered and cast from heaven down to hell. The angels who remained faithful were rewarded with everlasting happiness. They forever see the face of God in heaven.

QUESTIONS.

1. Besides the visible world, what did God create? In what state were the angels first? Did they all continue in that happy state? 2. What did they do? What did Lucifer, their leader, say? 3. What was there then in heaven? Against whom did Michael and the other good angels fight? Who were conquered, and

how were the bad angels punished? How were the good angels rewarded?

CHAPTER III.

Creation of the First Man.—Paradise.—The First Commandment.—Creation of Eve.

He that liveth forever, created all things together. God only shall be justified, and He remaineth an invincible king forever.—*Ecclus.*, 18, 1.

WHEN God created man, He said: "Let us make man to our image and likeness, and give him dominion over all animals and over the whole earth." He then formed a human body of the slime of the earth, breathed into his face the breath of life, and man became a living soul. At the same moment God added to the nature of man many favors, and, especially, sanctifying grace. Thus was made the first man, who was named Adam, that is to say, man taken from the earth. By his nature man was the image of God; by grace he was the likeness of God.

2. By a special effect of His goodness the Lord God created, expressly for man, a garden of pleasure, called Paradise. There were in it all sorts of beautiful trees, covered with delicious fruit; and in the middle of the garden stood the tree of life, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. A river, divided into four branches, watered the whole garden.

3. It was in this garden of delights that God placed man, that he might cultivate it for his own pleasure and occupation. God then commanded man, saying: "Of every tree of Paradise thou shalt eat, but of the tree of knowledge of good and evil thou shalt not eat; for in what day soever thou shalt eat of it, thou shalt die the death."

4. Adam was still alone on the earth. Hence God said: "It is not good for man to be alone; let us make him a help like unto himself." Then God caused all the animals to come before Adam, that he might give to each its name. But

for Adam there was not found a help like unto himself; therefore, casting a deep sleep upon Adam, God took one of his ribs and formed of it a woman. When Adam awoke, God brought to him his wife; and Adam rejoiced to see another being like himself. He called her Eve, that is, Mother of the Living.

QUESTIONS.

1. What did God say when He created man? How did He create man? What was the first man called? How is man the image of God, and how the likeness of God? 2. What did God, in His special goodness, create expressly for man? What was in the garden, and what stood in the middle of it? 3. What commandment did God give to man? 4. What did God say, seeing Adam still alone on the earth? Why did God cause all the animals to come before Adam? How did God create a helpmate for Adam? What did Adam call her?

CHAPTER IV.

The Fall of our First Parents.

He is a liar, and the father thereof.—*John, 8, 44.*

OF all the animals that God had placed upon the earth, none was more cunning than the serpent. Hence the devil, who was envious of the happiness of our first parents, made use of him in order to seduce them.

2. Eve, prompted by curiosity, approaching the forbidden tree, saw a serpent near it. He began to speak, and said to her: "Why has God commanded you, that you should not eat of every tree of Paradise?" Eve answered: "Of the fruit of the trees of Paradise we do eat; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of Paradise, God has commanded us that we should not eat, and that we should not touch it, lest, perhaps, we die."

3. The serpent said to the woman: "No, surely you shall not die if you eat of the fruit of that tree; but, rather, your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."

4. Hearing this, Eve gave way to pride, and she saw that the fruit was good to eat and pleasant to behold. She took and ate of the fruit, and gave to her husband, and he also ate. Thus was the first sin committed.

5. At the same time they lost sanctifying grace, which was the life of their soul; they lost the immortality of their body: their eyes were opened, and they saw with shame that they



THE FALL OF OUR FIRST PARENTS.

were naked. In their shame and confusion they began to sew fig-leaves together, in order to cover their nakedness.

6. But soon they heard the voice of God calling them, and they hid themselves among the trees. And God said: "Adam, where art thou?" And Adam answered: "I heard Thy voice, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." And God said: "Who has told thee that thou art naked? Hast thou eaten of the forbidden fruit?" Adam replied: "The woman whom Thou gavest me to be my companion gave me of the fruit, and I did eat." And the Lord

said to the woman: "Why has thou done this?" She replied: "The serpent deceived me, and I did eat."

7. Then God said to the serpent: "Because thou hast done this thing, thou art cursed among all the beasts of the earth. Upon thy breast thou shalt go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life. I will put enmity¹ between thee and the woman, and thy seed and her seed; she shall crush thy head, and thou shalt lie in wait for her heel." This referred to the Savior, who was one day to destroy the power of Satan. The woman mentioned is the Blessed Virgin Mary.

8. To Eve God said: "In sorrow and pain shalt thou bring forth thy children. Thou shalt be subject to thy husband, and he shall have dominion² over thee."

9. And to Adam He said: "Because thou has harkened to the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldst not eat, cursed is the earth in thy work; with labor and toil shalt thou eat thereof all the days of thy life. Thorns and thistles shall it bring forth to thee. In the sweat of thy face thou shalt eat bread, till thou shalt return to the earth, out of which thou wast taken; for dust thou art, and into dust thou shalt return."

10. How great is the mercy of God, that He promised a Redeemer to our sinful parents. How hateful must sin be to God, since He pronounces so terrible a curse on those favored creatures whom He had so recently blessed. When God had pronounced the sentence of banishment and death on Adam and Eve; when He had commanded the elements to oppress them in divers ways, He drove them out of Paradise, and placed before the gate Cherubim, with flaming sword, turning every way, to guard the way leading to the tree of life.

QUESTIONS.

1. Of what animal did the devil make use, in order to seduce our first parents? 2. What did the serpent say to Eve when she saw him at the tree? What did Eve reply? 3. What did the serpent then say? 4. What did Eve do? What did Adam do? What was thus committed? 5. What change then took place in Adam and

¹ EN'MITY, strife, warfare.

² DOMIN'ION, power, control.

Eve? What did they do to cover their nakedness? 6. What did they do when God called them? What did Adam say? What did God say? What did Adam reply? What did the Lord say to the woman? What did she reply? 7. What did God say to the serpent? In what words did God promise a Redeemer? 8. What did God say to the woman? 9. What did He say to Adam? 10. When God banished Adam and Eve from Paradise, whom did He place at the entrance to guard the way to the tree of life?

CHAPTER V.

Cain and Abel.

By the envy of the devil, death came into the world.—Wis. 2, 24.

ADAM and Eve had many children; the first two were Cain and Abel. Cain was a husbandman, or tiller of the earth; Abel was a shepherd. Abel was just, but the works of Cain were evil. Now, it happened one day that they offered a sacrifice to God in gratitude for the benefits He had bestowed upon them.

2. Abel offered the firstlings of his flock, and Cain, fruits of the earth. The Lord regarded Abel and his gifts with favor, but for Cain and his offerings He had no regard. Seeing this, Cain was exceedingly angry, and his countenance fell.

3. And the Lord said to Cain: "Why art thou angry, and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou do well, shalt thou not receive? but if ill, shall not sin forthwith be present at the door?" Keep away from sin. But Cain did not heed the Lord.

4. One day he said to his brother: "Let us go forth abroad." Abel, suspecting no evil, went out with him; and when they were in the field, Cain rose up against Abel, his brother, and slew him. The Lord said to Cain: "Where is thy brother Abel?" Cain replied in an insolent manner: "I know not; am I my brother's keeper?"

5. And the Lord said to him: "What hast thou done?"

The voice of thy brother's blood crieth to me from the earth. Now, therefore, cursed shalt thou be upon the earth, which hath opened her mouth and received the blood of thy brother at thy hand. When thou shalt till it, it shall not yield to thee its fruit. A fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be upon the earth."

6. And Cain, in despair, said to the Lord: "My iniquity is greater than that I may deserve pardon. Behold! Thou



DEATH OF ABEL.

dost cast me out this day from the face of the earth. Every one, therefore, who findeth me will kill me." The Lord said to him: "No, it shall not be so; but whosoever shall kill Cain shall be punished sevenfold." And He set a mark upon Cain, that whosoever found him should not kill him. And Cain went out from the face of the Lord, and dwelt as a fugitive on the earth.

7. Abel, who offered a sacrifice pleasing to God, is a figure of Christ, whose sacrifice of the Cross was infinitely pleasing

to God. In the conduct of Cain we see the awful consequences of envy. Had he promptly suppressed in his heart the first emotion of envy, he never would have stained his hands and his soul with his brother's blood, which cried to heaven for vengeance.

QUESTIONS.

1. Who were the first two children of Adam and Eve? What was Cain? What was Abel? 2. What offerings did Cain and Abel make to God? Why did they offer a sacrifice? Were the sacrifices of the two brothers equally well received? What happened then? 3. What did the Lord say to Cain? Did Cain heed the words of God? 4. What did Cain say to Abel? What happened when they walked out together? What did the Lord say to Cain? What did Cain reply? 5. What did the Lord then say? 6. What did Cain, in despair, say to the Lord? What did the Lord reply? 7. Of whom is Abel a figure? What do we see in the conduct of Cain?

CHAPTER VI.

The Deluge.

The wicked shall be destroyed from the earth, and they that do unjustly shall be taken away from it.—*Prov. 2, 22.*

ADAM lived nine hundred and thirty years. He had many sons and daughters, to whom he announced the Law of God and the coming of the Redeemer. His immediate descendants also lived to a very great age. Mathusala, the oldest of them, lived nine hundred and sixty-nine years. The people became very numerous. Some were herdsmen and lived in tents; others built cities and became mechanics and musicians. The descendants of the pious Seth, whom God had given to Adam instead of Abel, were good, feared God, and hence were called the children of God. Henoah, one of the children of God, was noted for his faith and piety, and was taken up alive into heaven. The descendants of Cain, however, turned away from God, were wicked, and were called the children of men.

2. Unhappily, the children of God began to associate with