

by Professor Elmer Gates, of Washington, on 'Immortality from New Standpoints.'

Dr. W. T. Harris (a Philosopher) says: 'I have felt as certain about the immortality of the individual as I have about the truths of mathe-

atics.' Cardinal Bantandier, of Rome, says that he has never seen a serious argument used against the moral argument for a life to come; and the moral argument is, 'Every sin deserves a punishment, and every deed of virtue must bear its reward.'

The Reading of Scripture in Public Worship.

A CYCLE OF OLD TESTAMENT REVELATION.

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RECENT correspondence in THE EXPOSITORY TIMES has revealed a certain dissatisfaction with the haphazard treatment of the Bible in the public worship of most of the Nonconformist churches. The remedy for this, in my judgment, is not a lectionary, *i.e.* a set series of *lessons*, whether arranged on traditional or more historical lines; but a cycle of the chief *subjects* of revelation with a choice of illustrative readings.

In the following selection there is an attempt to provide a scheme which, on the one hand, does not fetter the freedom of the service or interfere with the initiative of the preacher; but, on the other hand, recognizes the value of the Scriptures as their own best spokesman, and gives them the lead, as it were, in setting forth the revelation of God. It might also be used with advantage in family worship.

The cycle consists of ten subjects, which fairly cover the great themes of the Bible so far as they are given us in the Old Testament, and under each heading is grouped, on an average, some fourteen classical passages, drawn from almost all the canonical books, but most abundantly, of course, from those that are of greatest devotional value.

It is suggested that for the sake of continuity these should provide the first morning lesson, unless there is a special reason for postponing one or another to the evening service. The ten lessons would thus account for a quarter of the year, allowing for occasional absences of the minister.

The benefits to be derived from such a plan are considerable, as I have found from experience. It gives to the Scriptures primacy in worship, and the opportunity, as it were, of unfolding their own case. There is an assurance, too, that all the notes of Biblical truth will be sounded, and its

spiritual catholicity represented in spite of the idiosyncrasy of the preacher.

And from the preacher's point of view there is plenty of scope for choice, because it is the subject and not the lesson that is settled for him. At the same time, although there is no necessity for the selected lesson to dictate the morning text, it very often affords a welcome suggestion, and saves the preacher from groping for a clue.

With this brief explanation and apology, I venture to commend the use of this scheme to my brethren in the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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| 1. <i>The traces of God in Nature.</i> | Neh 9 ⁵⁻²¹ . National recollection. |
| Gn 1 ¹⁻²⁶ . | Ps 46. 146. National defence. |
| Ps 8. 148. | Is 25 ¹⁻⁹ 26 ¹⁻⁹ . National peace. |
| " 19. | Ezk 34 ¹⁻¹⁶ . 23 ¹⁻³¹ . Care of the people. |
| " 65. | Is 45 ¹⁻¹⁹ . Control of events. |
| " 104 ¹⁻²⁴ . | Zech 2 ¹⁻¹³ , Hag 2 ¹⁻⁹ . A new beginning. |
| " 139. | Ps 91. 'The shadow of the Almighty.' |
| Is 40 ¹²⁻³¹ . | 3. <i>God's will and man's goal.</i> |
| Job 25. 26. | Ex 20 ¹⁻²¹ . |
| " 28. | Dt 6 ¹⁻²⁵ . |
| " 36 ²⁶⁻³³ 37. | " 81 ⁻²⁰ . |
| " 38 (part). | " 10 ¹²⁻¹⁹ 15 ¹⁻¹¹ . |
| Song of Songs, 2.* | " 30. |
| 2. <i>God's care of His people.</i> | Nu 32 ¹⁻⁹ . 14 ⁻²⁴ . |
| Gn 8. In natural disaster. | Is 58. |
| " 24 ¹⁰⁻²⁷ . In domestic concerns. | Ps 1, Job 31 ¹⁶⁻²⁸ . |
| " 45 ¹⁻¹⁴ , Ps 121. In personal career. | " 15. 18 ²⁵⁻³⁶ . |
| Ex 14 ⁷⁻²¹ . The Red Sea. | " 34. |
| Dt 32 ¹⁻¹² , Is 63 ⁷⁻¹⁴ . The wilderness. | " 37 ¹⁻¹⁹ . |
| 1 Ch 16 ⁷⁻³⁶ (Ps 105). National thanks. | Pr 1 ²⁰⁻³³ 2 ¹⁻¹¹ . |
| 2 Ch 6 ¹⁴⁻³³ . National prayer. | " 3 ¹³⁻³⁵ . |
| | " 16 ¹⁻²³ . |
| | " 20 ¹⁻²² . |

* It is as difficult to class this passage as to characterize the entire book.

4. *Man's disobedience and God's wrath.*
 (a) Social—
 Ex 32¹⁻⁶, 15-20.
 Am 5.
 Hos 4¹⁻¹², Ps 14¹⁻⁷.
 Is 1.
 Mic 2¹⁻¹¹, Ps 12¹⁻⁷.
 Jer 5¹⁻⁶, 19-31.
 „ 8.
 Hab 2¹⁻²⁰.
 Is 59.
 Mal 2¹⁷ 3¹⁻¹⁸.
 Ps 10.
 (β) Personal—
 Gn 3¹⁻¹⁹.
 I S 28⁵⁻²⁰ 31¹⁻⁶.
 2 S 12¹⁻²³.
 I K 12¹⁻¹⁹.
 „ 13¹¹⁻³².
 „ 21¹⁻¹⁹.

5. *The mysteries of life.*
 Gn 40. Our unequal lots.
 Ru 1. The pain of parting.
 2 S 18²⁴⁻³³ 19¹⁻⁸. Paternal grief.
 2 K 2¹⁻¹⁸. The prophet's mantle.
 Is 38⁹⁻²⁰, Ps 39. The shadow of death.
 La 1¹⁻⁷, 12-16 3¹⁹⁻²⁶. Forsaken and fallen.
 Est 3¹⁻¹¹ 6¹⁻¹². The wheel of fortune.
 Hab 1¹⁻⁴, 12-17 2¹⁻⁴. The silence of God.
 Job 1. The meaning of trial.
 „ 7. Our infirmity.
 „ 19. A plea for pity.
 „ 23. In the crucible.
 Ec 11⁷⁻¹⁰ 12¹⁻¹⁴. The broken pitcher.
 Ps 42. 43. Remembering happier things.
 „ 73. The delay of retribution.
 „ 90. Our transient life.

6. *The need of repentance.*
 2 K 5.
 Hos 6. 14.
 Jer 31¹⁶⁻³⁴.
 Is 55.
 „ 63¹⁷⁻¹⁹ 64¹⁻¹².

Ezk 18¹⁴⁻³².
 „ 33¹⁻²².
 Jl 2¹⁻¹⁷.
 Jon 3. 4.
 Dn 9¹⁻¹⁰, 15-23.
 Ps 32. 130.
 „ 51.

7. *God's call to the individual.*
 Gn 12¹⁻⁷ 15¹⁻⁷ 17¹⁻⁶ (Abraham).
 „ 28¹⁰⁻¹⁹ 32²²⁻³¹ (Jacob).
 Ex 3¹⁻¹⁴ 33¹²⁻²⁰ (Moses).
 Jos 1 (Joshua).
 I S 3 (Samuel).
 I K 19 (Elijah).
 Am 7¹⁻¹⁵ (Amos).
 Is 6¹⁻¹³ 11¹⁻⁵ (Isaiah).
 Jer 1⁴⁻¹⁹ 13¹⁵⁻¹⁷ (Jeremiah).
 Ps 40¹⁻¹⁷ (Anon.).
 Ezk 1¹⁻¹⁴, 26-28 2¹, 2 (Ezekiel).
 Ps 36. 23 (Anon.).
 Dn 10 (Daniel).
 Ps 103 (Anon.).

8. *The way of vicarious sacrifice.*
 (α) Ceremonial—
 Ex 12²¹⁻⁴².
 „ 29³⁸⁻⁴⁶ 30¹⁻¹⁰.
 Lv 16¹⁻²².
 Nu 15¹⁷⁻³¹.
 (β) Personal—
 Gn 18¹⁶⁻³³.
 „ 22.
 Ps 89¹⁵⁻³⁷.
 Ex 32⁷⁻¹⁴, 20-33.
 Jer 15.
 Is 52¹³⁻¹⁵ 53¹⁻¹².

9. *Man's response to God.*
 Ex 17¹⁻¹³, Nu 21⁴⁻⁹ (Moses).
 Nu 13¹, 2, 26-33 14¹⁻¹⁰ (Caleb).
 Jg 6⁷⁻¹⁷, 27-34 (Gideon).
 I S 10²⁰⁻²⁷ 11¹⁻¹⁵ (Saul).
 „ 17¹⁷⁻²⁴, 34-50 (David).
 I K 18²⁰⁻⁴⁶ (Elijah).
 2 K 6⁸⁻²² (Elisha).
 „ 22¹⁻¹³ 23¹⁻⁴ (Josiah).
 Jer 37¹¹⁻²¹ 38¹⁻¹³ (Jeremiah).
 Ps 25 (Anon.).
 Ez 3 (Joshua and Zerubbabel).
 Neh 2 (Nehemiah).
 Job 29 (Job).

Ps 27 (Anon.).
 Dn 6¹⁻²³ (Daniel).
 Ps 116¹⁻¹⁹ (Anon.).
 „ 119¹⁻¹⁶ (Anon.).

10. *The better time coming.*
 Mic 4¹⁻⁸ 5²⁻⁷.
 Ps 2. 98.

Ps 72.
 Is 11¹⁻¹⁰, Zec 9⁹⁻¹².
 „ 32¹⁻⁸ 35.
 Jer 31¹⁻¹⁴, 35-37.
 Ezk 37¹⁻¹⁴.
 Jl 2¹⁸⁻³².
 Is 40¹⁻¹¹, Zeph 3¹⁴⁻²⁰.
 „ 60.
 „ 61.

Name of Books.	Chapters and Lists in which they occur.
Gn . . .	1 ¹ 3 ⁴ 8 ³ 12 ⁷ 15. 17. 18 ⁸ 22 ⁸ 24 ² 28 ⁷ 32. 40 ⁵ 45 ² .
Ex . . .	3 ⁷ 12 ⁸ 14 ² 17 ⁹ 20 ² 29 ⁸ 30. 32 ¹⁸ 33 ⁷ .
Lv . . .	16 ⁸ .
Nu . . .	13 ⁹ 14. 15 ⁶ 21 ⁹ 32 ² .
Dt . . .	6 ³ 8 ³ 10 ³ 15. 30 ³ 32 ² .
Jos . . .	1 ⁷ .
Jg . . .	6 ¹ .
Ru . . .	1 ⁵ .
I S . . .	3 ⁷ 10 ⁹ 11. 17 ⁹ 28 ⁴ 31.
2 S . . .	12 ⁴ 18 ⁵ 19.
I K . . .	12 ⁴ 13 ⁴ 19 ⁷ 21 ⁴ .
2 K . . .	2 ⁵ 5 ⁶ 6 ⁹ 22 ⁹ 23.
I Ch . . .	16 ² .
2 Ch . . .	6 ² .
Ezr . . .	3 ⁹ .
Neh . . .	2 ⁹ 9 ² .
Est . . .	3 ⁵ 6.
Job . . .	1 ⁵ 7 ⁵ 19 ⁵ 23 ⁵ 25 ¹ 26. 28 ¹ 29 ⁹ 31 ³ 36 ¹ 37. 38 ¹ .
Ps . . .	1 ³ 2 ¹⁰ 10 ⁴ 12 ⁴ 14. 15 ³ 18. 19 ¹ 23 ⁷ 25 ⁹ 27 ⁹ 32 ⁶ 34 ³ 36 ⁷ 37 ³ 39 ⁹ 40 ⁷ 42 ⁵ 43. 46 ² 51 ⁶ 65 ¹ 72 ¹⁰ 73 ⁵ 89 ⁸ 90 ⁵ 91 ² 98 ¹⁰ 103 ⁷ 104 ¹ 105 ² 116 ⁹ 119 ⁹ 121 ² 130 ⁶ 139 ¹ 146 ² 148 ¹ .
Pr . . .	1 ³ 2. 3 ³ 16 ³ 20 ³ .
Ec . . .	11 ² 12.
Song . . .	2 ¹ .
Is . . .	1 ⁴ 6 ⁷ 11 ¹⁰ 25 ² 26. 32 ¹⁰ 35. 38 ⁵ 40 ¹⁻¹⁰ 42 ² 53 ⁸ 55 ⁶ 58 ³ 59 ⁴ 60 ¹⁰ 61 ¹⁰ 63 ² 64 ⁶ .
Jer . . .	1 ⁷ 5 ⁴ 8 ⁴ 15 ³ 31 ⁶ , 10 37 ⁹ 38.
La . . .	1 ⁶ 3.
Ezk . . .	1 ⁷ 18 ⁶ 33 ⁶ 34 ² 37 ¹⁰ .
Dn . . .	6 ⁹ 9 ⁶ 10 ⁷ .
Hos . . .	4 ⁴ 6 ⁶ 14.
Jl . . .	26. 10.
Am . . .	5 ⁴ 7 ⁷ .
Ob . . .	—
Jon . . .	3 ⁶ 4.
Mic . . .	2 ⁴ 4 ¹⁰ .
Nah . . .	—
Hab . . .	1 ⁵ 2 ⁴ .
Zeph . . .	3 ¹⁰ .
Hag . . .	2 ² .
Zec . . .	2 ² 9 ¹⁰ .
Mal . . .	3 ⁴ .