

V.

Rebellion.

LESSON XXIII.

WHAT CONSTITUTES A REBELLION.

1. The good or bad character of a ruler is generally revealed through his laws, upon which his government is founded, and through his dealing with his subjects, both loyal and disloyal. If the liberties or rights of some are infringed upon through the enforcement of certain unjust laws, then the liberties and rights of all others who are subject to the same laws may also be infringed upon. Hence the character of a ruler is revealed through his law, and its enforcement.

2. That which lies at the foundation of a rebellion is dissatisfaction with the laws of the government, which are generally claimed to be unjust and oppressive, or with the administration of the government.

3. A rebellion originates generally with one or more of the leading subjects of a government.

4. A rebel always poses as one who is anxious to improve the condition of his fellow subjects by reforming the government through the revision and improvement of its laws. This, of course, proves that the rebel claims to know more about law and governing than the ruler on the throne, hence greater than the governor himself. Read 2 Sam. 15 and Isa. 14:12-14.

5. A rebel always seeks to enlist as many as possible in favor of the rebellion, and when he thinks himself strong enough, he will try to overthrow the existing government and then establish a new government founded upon better laws.

6. Finally the rebel risks all to overthrow the government under which he lives; if he succeeds, all is gained; but if he fails, all is lost.

7. The only way whereby a rebel can demonstrate that he can

improve the existing government is to obtain an opportunity and time to carry out his ideas of government.

8. Some day is generally appointed to commemorate the establishment of a new government.

9. A rebellion generally reflects upon the incumbent ruler in the eyes of the subjects, as it presupposes that the existing ruler has not the necessary ability to govern, or that he is unjust or tyrannical.

10. It requires great wisdom to subdue a rebellion so completely that all interested and concerned parties will be satisfied.

QUESTIONS.

1. How is the character of a ruler generally revealed?
2. What may be said about the infringement of rights?
3. What lies at the foundation of a rebellion?
4. With whom does a rebellion generally originate?
5. What is a rebel always anxious to do?
6. Explain how a rebellion exalts a rebel above the ruler.
7. How does a rebel proceed to overthrow the existing government?
8. What would be the result if he should fail in his rebellion?
9. How only could a rebel demonstrate that he could improve the condition of the subjects?
10. What is generally appointed to commemorate the success of a rebellion?
11. Show how a rebellion reflects upon the character of the incumbent ruler.
12. What is required to subdue a rebellion satisfactorily to all concerned?

LESSON XXIV.

REBELLION IN HEAVEN.

1. Moral intelligences must be created free to choose whether they will obey their Creator or not; otherwise, they would not be able to develop independent characters.

2. One of the most exalted cherubim in heaven refused, of his own free will, to submit to the government of God, and thus began

the first rebellion in God's universe. Eze. 28:12-15; Isa. 14:12-14; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6.

3. This rebellion consisted in that the rebel exalted himself above his Creator—Christ—and making himself equal with the Most High, the Father, who is greater than Christ. Eze. 28:12-17; Isa. 14:12-14; John 14:28; 1 Cor. 15:28.

4. In this rebellion the adversary, Satan, set aside the constitution, God's moral law, in the following manner:

(a) In seeking to be equal with God, he set aside the first command of His law. Ex. 20:3.

(b) In attempting to set himself up as a ruler over his fellow creatures, he thereby ignored the law of equal rights; viz., that by creation all are equal—brethren—and not one above another. Ex. 20:2-17; Matt. 23:8.

5. The object of this rebellion was to deliver the subjects of God's kingdom from the bondage of unjust and oppressive laws. Satan claimed "that God was not just in laying laws and rules upon the inhabitants of heaven"; "that it was his own object to improve upon the statutes of Jehovah," and thus he "made it appear that he himself was seeking to promote the good of the universe." Great Controversy, edition 1888, page 498; see also Patriarchs and Prophets, page 69.

• 6. Because of this rebellion, God is dishonored as follows:

(a) The rebel pretends to know more about ruling than the Creator; therefore, God cannot be all-wise or almighty.

(b) Consequently, God cannot be a just and merciful ruler; but, on the contrary, a tyrant. By "misrepresentation of the character of God," Satan caused "him to be regarded as severe and tyrannical." Great Controversy, page 500, and Patriarchs and Prophets, page 69.

7. "Therefore God permitted him (Satan) to demonstrate the nature of his claims to show the working out of his proposed changes in the divine law. His own work must condemn him. . . . The whole universe must see the deceiver unmasked." Patriarchs and Prophets, page 42.

8. "Satan, in his rebellion, took a third part of the angels. They turned from the Father and the Son, and united with the instigator of the rebellion." Testimonies for the Church, Vol. III,

page 115. On account of this rebellion, Satan and his sympathizing angels were finally banished from heaven. Rev. 12:4, 7-9; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6. Read Patriarchs and Prophets, chapter 1.

QUESTIONS.

1. Why is it necessary for created intelligences to have a free will?
2. With whom did the rebellion in heaven originate?
3. What did the rebellion consist in?
4. What law did Satan set aside by his rebellion?
5. Tell how he exalted himself above his fellow beings.
6. What was the object of this rebellion?
7. How does Satan make out that he knows more than God?
8. In what light does that place God?
9. Tell how God is dishonored thereby.
10. Why does God allow Satan to continue his rebellion?
11. How many angels joined the rebellion?
12. What became of them?

LESSON XXV.

REBELLION ON EARTH—THE FALL OF MAN.

1. After Satan was banished from heaven, he planned to get man to unite with him in his rebellion, then set up his kingdom here on earth. Rev. 12:9. Read Patriarchs and Prophets, chapter 1.

2. He succeeded in deceiving man and prevailed upon him to disobey God, and to obey himself; and thus man became Satan's subject, and the earth the rebel's territory. Gen. 3:1-6, 13; 2 Cor. 11:3; 1 Tim. 2:14.

3. In yielding to Satan's temptations, man transgressed the following commands of God's law:

First.—By obeying Satan they transgressed the first command. Gen. 3:6; Ex. 20:3.

Second.—By desiring — coveting — the forbidden fruit, they broke the tenth command. Gen. 3:6; Ex. 20:17.

Third.—They stole in taking of the forbidden fruit. Gen. 3:6; Ex. 20:15.

Fourth.—By eating this fruit, they brought death into the world, and thus broke the sixth command. Rom. 5:14, 15; Ex. 20:13.

4. Satan set aside the penalty of God's law—death—and promised them life if they would obey him. Gen. 3:3, 4.

5. In this way Satan became the prince, the ruler, of this world. John 14:30; Luke 4:5-6.

6. He is also the god and father of this world. 2 Cor. 4:4; John 8:44.

QUESTIONS.

1. What did Satan plan to do after his banishment from heaven?

2. Relate how he succeeded.

3. What did man become? What about the earth?

4. Explain in what way and how many commands man broke in the fall.

5. What did Satan do about the penalty of the law?

6. Explain how Satan became the prince and ruler of this world.

7. Who, then, is the god and father of this fallen world? Give two references.

LESSON XXVI.

SATAN'S ENMITY AGAINST THE LAW.

1. Satan's opposition and hatred manifested against God's law in heaven is brought to view more fully in his continued rebellion on earth. Read Patriarchs and Prophets, chapter 29.

2. Satan is a liar and a murderer from the beginning, and this proves that it was the ten-commandment law Satan and his angels transgressed in heaven. John 8:44; 2 Peter 2:4.

3. Satan and his spirit leads men to sin or disobedience. Eph. 2:1, 2; 1 John 3:4, 8; John 8:44.

4. He wishes man to reject God's regulations concerning diet. Gen. 2:16, 17; 3:16; 1 Tim. 4:1-3.

5. He would have all believe that man may be holy (spurious holiness) while disobeying God's law. Num. 15:37-41; 16:1-3.

6. Such as lie, steal, commit adultery, "are delivered to do all these abominations." Jer. 7: 8-10; John 8: 41, 44.

7. Such as commit sin and "seek to kill" are not in bondage, but free. John 8: 31-41.

8. Satan wants all to acknowledge him as the ruler and god of this world, and that he owns everything in it. Luke 4: 5-7.

9. He seeks to kill and torture his most faithful subjects, and this proves him to be the worst of tyrants. 2 Chron. 18: 18-21; Mark 9: 17-27.

10. From the above it is evident that Satan is a very cruel ruler and a lawless anarchist. John 8: 44.

QUESTIONS.

1. What may be said about Satan's continued opposition to the law of God?

2. What was Satan from the very first?

3. Tell what Satan leads his subjects to do.

4. How does he wish his subjects to regard God's regulations concerning diet?

5. Can a man be holy and disobey God's law?

6. Would Satan have those believe that they may commit great sins?

7. How would Satan have all regard him?

8. How does he sometimes treat his most faithful subjects?

9. Will Satan's subjects grow better as we near the end? 2 Tim. 3: 1-7, 13.

10. What may be said of Satan's true character?

LESSON XXVII.

REVIEW QUESTIONS ON LESSONS XXIII TO XXVI.

1. How may the character of a ruler be determined?

2. What is always the basis of a rebellion?

3. With whom does a rebellion originate?

4. What is it that a rebel hopes to improve, and how?

5. How does he try to gain sympathizers?

6. How can it be demonstrated that a rebel can really improve the condition of oppressed subjects?

7. How does a rebellion reflect upon the incumbent ruler?
8. What is required to subdue a rebellion satisfactorily to all concerned?
9. What can be said of free moral agency? Lesson XXIV, paragraph 1.
10. With whom did the rebellion in heaven originate, and how? Give two references.
11. Explain how he set the law of God aside.
12. What did Satan wish to accomplish by this rebellion?
13. Explain how this rebellion dishonors God.
14. Why did God permit Satan to continue his opposition against the government of heaven?
15. How many angels united with Satan in this rebellion?
16. Relate how Satan prevailed upon man to join him in the rebellion.
17. How many commands did man transgress by the fall?
18. Explain how Satan became the prince and ruler of this world.
19. Explain how Satan tries to get man to reject God's law; and tell why.
20. What does he lead sinners to believe that they are? Lesson XXVI, paragraphs 5-7.
21. What may be said of Satan's real character? *Ibid*, paragraphs 9, 10.