

DR. WATTS'S  
FIRST SET OF  
CATECHISMS AND PRAYERS.



PRICE ONE PENNY.



*For Children at a Sunday School.*

LORD, may a few poor children raise  
To thee a hymn of humble praise?  
'Tis by thy great compassion we  
Are taught to love and worship thee.

What wicked children we have been  
Alas! how soon we learn'd to sin  
But *now* we learn to read and pray,  
And not to break the Sabbath-day.

How condescending God must be,  
To love such little ones as we!  
He saw our sin with angry frown,  
And yet he looked with pity down.

Oh! if we should again begin  
To grieve our God, and turn to sin,  
And let our guilty passions loose  
We now shall be without excuse!

Remember, Lord, we are but dust;  
'Tis to thy grace alone we trust:  
Do thou instruct and guide us still,  
That we may ne'er forget thy will.

## *The Child of Poverty.*

Lord, I am poor ; yet hear my call ;  
Afford me daily bread ;  
Give me at least the crumbs that fall  
From tables richly spread.

Thou canst for all my wants provide,  
And bless my homely crust :  
The ravens cry and are supplied,  
And ought not I to trust ?

Behold the lilies, how they grow,  
Though they can nothing do !  
And will not God, who clothes them so,  
Afford me raiment too ?

But seeing, Lord, thou dost behold  
The riches some possess,  
Grant me what's better far than gold,  
Thy grace and righteousness.

O may I heavenly treasures find,  
And choose the better part :  
Give me a humble, pious mind,  
A meek and lowly heart.

Forgive my sins, and follies cure,  
And grant the grace I need :  
And then, though I am mean and poor  
shall be rich indeed.

## *The Little Pilgrim.*

THERE is a path that leads to God—  
All others go astray ;  
Narrow, but pleasant, is the road,  
And Christians love the way.

It leads straight through this world of sin  
And dangers must be pass'd ;  
But those who boldly walk therein  
Will get to heaven at last.

How shall an infant pilgrim dare  
This dangerous path to tread ?  
For on the way is many a snare  
For youthful trav'lers spread :

While the broad road, where thousands go,  
Lies near, and opens fair ;  
And many turn aside, I know,  
To walk with sinners there.

But, lest my feeble steps should slide,  
Or wander from thy way,  
Lord, condescend to be my guide,  
And I shall never stray.

That I may go without alarm,  
And trust his word of old ;—  
“ The lambs he'll gather with his arm,  
“ And lead them to the fold.”

Thus I may safely venture through,  
Beneath my Shepherd's care ;  
And keep the gate of heaven in view  
Till I shall enter there.



HAPPY the child whose youngest years  
Receive instructions well ;  
Who hates the sinner's path, and fears  
The road that leads to hell.

When we devote our youth to God  
'Tis pleasing in his eyes ;  
A flow'r when offer'd in the bud,  
Is no vain sacrifice.

'Tis easier work if we begin  
To fear the Lord betimes,  
sinners that grow old in sin  
arden'd in their cri

THE  
FIRST SET OF  
*Catechisms and Prayers;*  
OR, THE  
RELIGION OF LITTLE CHILDREN  
UNDER SEVEN OR EIGHT YEARS OF AGE;

Collected out of

*The larger Books of Prayers and Catechisms  
for Children and Youth.*

BY I. WATTS, D.D.



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## PREFACE.

THERE are two books which I have lately composed for the instruction and assistance of childhood and youth in the knowledge and practice of the Christian religion, according to their different ages. The one is a large collection of PRAYERS for their use and imitation; and the other is a book of CATECHISMS, or a whole course of instructions in the principles of the Christian religion, and the history of Scripture.

I have been engaged, by the request of many of my friends, to print the several Catechisms, suited to each several stages of childhood and youth, separate by themselves, and I have added some very short prayers also out of the book of prayers.

This first set of catechisms and prayers is composed as follows:

The first thing is, the young Child's Catechism of the principles of religion, from three or four years old to seven or eight, which contains twenty-four short questions.

In the second place, I have put the Catechism of Scripture names for young children, that they may be early acquainted with some slight sketches of the Scripture history, which are necessary in order to understand the Christian religion the better. This may be learnt at the same time with the foregoing Catechism, so that they may be carried on together

At the end there are inserted the morning and evening prayers for very young children, and graces before and after meat, from three or four years old to seven or eight, taken out of the same book of prayers which is mentioned before.

In all these Catechisms and Prayers, if parents or teachers dislike any word or expression, they may change it at pleasure, or put a better in the room of it. But there are three proposals or requests that I would here make to them.

First, though the Catechisms, and a few Prayers, which children should learn by heart in the first stages of their childhood, are now printed by themselves, yet it would be a considerable advantage to have the other Catechisms and Prayers put into their hands, that they might read those which are designed for the instruction of children who are a few years older, as lessons at home or at school; hereby they will be rendered familiar to their minds beforehand, and they will learn them afterwards with much more ease and speed. For this purpose I have continued to publish them all together in a new edition.

Secondly, that they would take all due pains to make their children understand every word and sentence of the Catechisms and Prayers, if possible, before they learn them by heart, or at least while they are learning them; that they may not gabble over mere sounds and syllables, and pronounce them as parrots do, without a meaning, which practice hath neither reason nor religion in it.

Thirdly, that they would not only pray for their children daily themselves, but appoint them proper seasons and places in the morning and evening to address themselves to God in prayer, and teach the young creatures to do it with all seriousness and solemnity, that religion may begin betimes in their hearts and practice.

THE  
FIRST CATECHISM

OF THE

*Principles of Religion.*

1 QUEST. CAN you tell me, child, who made you?

ANS. The great God, who made heaven and earth.

2 Q. What doth God do for you?

A. He keeps me from harm by night and by day, and is always doing me good.

3 Q. And what must you do for this great God who is so good to you?

A. I must learn to know him first and then I must do every thing to please him.

4 Q. Where doth God teach us to know him and to please him?

A. In his holy word, which is contained in the bible.

5 Q. Have you learned to know who God is?

A. God is a spirit; and though we cannot see him, yet he sees and knows all things, and he can do all things.

6 Q. What must you do to please God?

A. I must do my duty both towards God and towards man.

7 Q. What is your duty to God?

A. My duty to God is to fear and honour him, to love and serve him, to pray to him, and to praise him

8 Q. What is your duty to man

A. My duty to man, is to obey my parents, to speak the truth always, and be honest and kind to all.

9 Q. What good do you hope for by seeking to please God?

A. Then I shall be a child of God, and have God for my father and my friend for ever.

10 Q. And what if you do not fear God, nor love him, nor seek to please him?

A. Then I shall be a wicked

child, and the great God will be very angry with me.

11 Q. Why are you afraid of God's anger?

A. Because he can kill my body, and he can make my soul miserable after my body is dead.

12 Q. But have you never done any thing to make God angry with you already?

A. Yes, I fear I have too often sinned against God and deserved his anger.

13 Q. What do you mean by sinning against God?

A. To sin against God, is to do any thing that God forbids me, or not to do what God commands me.

14 Q. And what must you do to be saved from the anger of God which your sins have deserved?

A. I must be sorry for my sins, I must pray to God to forgive me what is past, and serve him better for the time to come.

15 Q. Will God forgive you if you pray for pardon?

A. I hope he will forgive me, if I trust in his mercy, for the sake of what Jesus Christ has done, and what he has suffered.

16 Q. Do you know who Jesus Christ is?

A. He is God's own Son, who came down from heaven, to save us from our sins and from God's anger.

17 Q. What has Christ done towards the saving of men?

A. He obeyed the law of God himself, and has taught us to obey it also.

18 Q. And what has Christ suffered in order to save men?

A. He died for sinners who have broken the laws of God, and who deserved to die themselves.

19 Q. Where is Jesus Christ now?

A. He is alive again, and gone to heaven to provide a place there

for all that serve God, and love his Son Jesus.

20 Q. Can you of yourself love and serve God and Christ?

A. No, I cannot do it of myself: but God will help me by his own Spirit, if I ask him for it.

21 Q. Will Jesus Christ ever come again?

A. Christ will come again, and call me and all the world to account for what we have done.

22 Q. For what purpose is this account to be given?

A. That the children of God, as well as the wicked, may all receive according to their works.

23 Q. What must become of you if you are wicked?

A. If I am wicked, I shall be sent down to everlasting fire in hell among wicked and miserable creatures.

24 Q. And whither shall you go if you are a child of God?

A. If I am a child of God, I shall  
be taken up to heaven, and dwell  
there with God and Christ for ever.  
Amen.

#### ADVERTISEMENT TO TEACHERS.

The following Catechism of Scripture  
Names is to be taught at the same time  
with the foregoing Catechisms of the Prin-  
ciples of Religion.

You will find here that the name of the  
person is always contained in the question,  
and the answer declares his character; but  
in order to teach children to pronounce the  
name right, as well as to learn the character  
and persons, parents or teachers may ask  
the same question backward or forward, viz.  
Who was Adam? Ans. The first man that  
God made, &c. And then, Q. Who was the  
first man that God made? A. Adam. By  
learning this both ways, children will be bet-  
ter acquainted with the names as well as the  
characters and actions of the persons men-  
tioned.



C. CATECHISMS AND PRAYERS.

THE CATECHISM OF SCRIPTURE NAMES, FOR  
LITTLE CHILDREN, IN THE OLD TESTA-  
MENT.

25 Q. Who was Adam?

A. The first man that God made  
and the father of us all.

26 Q. Who was Eve?

A. The first woman, and she was  
the mother of us all.

27 Q. Who was Cain?

A. Adam's eldest son, and he  
killed his brother Abel.

28 Q. Who was Abel?

A. A better man than Cain, and  
therefore Cain hated him

29 Q. Who was Enoch?

A. The man who pleased God,\*  
and he was taken up to heaven  
without dying.

30 Q. Who was Noah?

---

\* The usual character of Enoch is, that he walked  
with God; but this phrase is above the understand-  
ing of children. Nor is it given only to Enoch in  
Scripture, for Noah also walked with God, Gen. vii  
9. I have rather therefore expressed it, that Enoch  
pleased God, as in Heb. xi. 5.

DR. WATTS'S FIRST SET

5. The good man who was saved when the world was drowned.

31 Q. Who was Job?

A. The most patient man under pains and losses.

32 Q. Who was Abraham?

A. The pattern of believers,\* and the friend of God.

33 Q. Who was Isaac?

A. Abraham's son, according to God's promise.

34 Q. Who was Sarah?

A. Abraham's wife, and she was Isaac's mother.

35 Q. Who was Jacob?

A. Isaac's younger son, and he craftily obtained his father's blessing.

36 Q. What was Israel?

A. A new name that God himself gave to Jacob.

37 Q. Who was Joseph?

---

\* It is also the usual character of Abraham, that he was the father of the faithful, Rom. vi. 11. But 't chiefly means, the pattern of believers, which is much easier for children to understand.

A. Israel's beloved son, but his brethren hated him and sold him.

38 Q. Who were the twelve patriarchs?

A. The twelve sons of Jacob, and the fathers of the people of Israel.

39 Q. Who was Pharaoh?

A. The king of Egypt, who destroyed the children, and he was drowned in the Red Sea.

40 Q. Who was Moses?

A. The deliverer and lawgiver of the people of Israel, and he led them through the wilderness.

41 Q. Who was Aaron?

A. Moses's brother, and he was the first high-priest of Israel.

42 Q. Who were the priests?

A. They who offered sacrifices to God, and taught his laws to men.

43 Q. Who was Joshua?

A. The leader of Israel when Moses was dead, and he brought them into the promised land.

44 Q. Who was Samson?

A. The strongest man, and he slew a thousand of his enemies with a jaw-bone.

45 Q. Who was Eli?

A. He was a good old man, but God was angry with him for not keeping his children from wickedness.

46 Q. Who was Samuel?

A. The prophet whom God called when he was a child.

47 Q. Who were the prophets?

A. Persons whom God taught to foretell things to come, and to make known his mind to the world.

48 Q. Who was David;

A. The man after God's own heart, who was raised from a shepherd to be a king.

49 Q. Who was Goliath?

A. The giant whom David slew with a sling and a stone.

50 Q. Who was Absalom?

A. David's wicked son, who re-

belled against his father, and he was killed as he hung on a tree.

51 Q. Who was Solomon?

A. David's beloved son, the king of Israel, and the wisest of men.

52 Q. Who was Josiah?

A. A very young king, whose heart was tender, and he feared God.

53 Q. Who was Isaiah?

A. The prophet who spoke more of Jesus Christ than the rest.

54 Q. Who was Elijah?

A. The prophet who was carried to heaven in a chariot of fire.

55 Q. Who was Elisha?

A. The prophet who was mocked by the children, and a wild bear tore them to pieces.

56 Q. Who was Gehazi?

A. The prophet's servant, who told a lie, and he was struck with a leprosy, which could never be cured.

57 Q. Who was Jonah?

A. The prophet who lay three days and three nights in the belly of a fish.

58 Q. Who was Daniel?

A. The prophet who was saved in the lion's den, because he prayed to God.

59 Q. Who were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?

A. The three Jews who would not worship an image, and they were cast into the fiery furnace and were not burnt.

60 Q. Who was Nebuchadnezzar?

A. The proud king of Babylon, who ran mad, and was driven among the beasts.

THE SCRIPTURE NAMES IN THE NEW  
TESTAMENT.

61 Q. Who was Jesus Christ?

A. The Son of God and the Saviour of men.

62 Q. Who was the Virgin Mary?

A. The mother of Jesus Christ.

63 Q. Who was Joseph the car-

A. The supposed father of Christ, because he married his mother.

64 Q. Who were the Jews?

A. The family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and God chose them for his own people.

65 Q. Who were the Gentiles?

A. All the nations beside the Jews.

66 Q. Who was Cæsar?

A. The emperor of Rome, and the ruler of the world.

67 Q. Who was Herod the Great?

A. The king of Judea, who killed all the children in a town in hopes to kill Christ.

68 Q. Who was John the Baptist?

A. The prophet who told the Jews that Christ was come.

69 Q. Who was the other Herod?

A. The king of Galilee, who cut off John the Baptist's head.

70 Q. Who were the disciples of Christ?

A. Those who learnt of him as their Master.

71 Q. Who was Nathaniel?

A. A disciple of Christ, and a man without guile.

72 Q. Who was Nicodemus?

A. The fearful disciple who came to Jesus by night.

73 Q. Who was Mary Magdalene?

A. A great sinner, who washed Christ's feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair.

74 Q. Who was Lazarus?

A. A friend of Christ, whom he raised to life when he had been dead four days.

75 Q. Who was Martha?

A. Lazarus's sister, who was cumbered too much in making a feast for Christ.

76 Q. Who was Mary, the sister of Martha?

A. The woman that chose the better part, and heard Jesus preach.

77 Q. Who were the Apostles?

A. Those twelve disciples whom



Christ chose for the chief ministers of his gospel.

78 Q. Who was Simon Peter?

A. The apostle who denied Christ, and repented.

79 Q. Who was John?

A. The beloved apostle that leaned on the bosom of Christ.

80 Q. Who was Thomas?

A. The apostle who was hard to be persuaded that Christ rose from the dead.

81 Q. Who was Judas.

A. The wicked disciple who betrayed Christ with a kiss.

82 Q. Who was Caiaphas?

A. The high-priest who condemned Christ.

83 Q. Who was Pontius Pilate?

A. The governor of Judea, who ordered Christ to be crucified.

84 Q. Who was Joseph of Arimathea?

A. A rich man, that buried Christ in his own tomb.

85 Q. Who were the four evangelists?

A. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, who wrote the history of Christ's life and death.

86 Q. Who were Ananias and Sapphira?

A. A man and his wife who were struck dead for telling a lie.

87 Q. Who was Stephen?

A. The first man who was put to death for Christ's sake.

88 Q. Who was Paul?

A. A young man who was first a persecutor, and afterwards an apostle of Christ.

89 Q. Who was Dorcas?

A. A good woman, who made clothes for the poor, and she was raised from the dead.

90 Q. Who was Elymas?

A. A wicked man who was struck blind for speaking against the gospel.

91 Q. Who was Apollos?

A. A warm and lively preacher of the gospel.

92 Q. Who was Eutychus?

A. A youth who slept at sermon, and falling down was taken up dead.

93 Q. Who was Timothy?

A. A young minister who knew the scriptures from his youth.

94 Q. Who was Agrippa?

A. A king who was almost persuaded to be a Christian.

### *Prayers for Little Children.*

Note. As soon as children begin to learn these catechisms, they should also learn the following prayers.

#### *The Infant's, or young Child's Morning Prayer.*

ALMIGHTY God, the Maker of every thing in heaven and earth; the darkness goeth away, and the daylight cometh again at thy command: thou art good and thou doest good continually

I thank thee that thou hast taken such care of me this night, and that I am alive and well this morning.

Save me, O God, from evil all this day long, and let me love and serve thee for ever, for the sake of Jesus Christ thy Son. Amen.

Note. The word Amen signifies, that I believe all that I speak, and that I desire from my heart all that I pray for with my lips.

Note. When the child is five or six years old, he may leave out this Amen, and enlarge this morning prayer a little by adding the two following paragraphs:

Bestow on me every good thing that I have need of for my body and my soul: assist me by thy Holy Spirit to do thy will: make me always afraid to offend thee, and let me live and die in thy favour.

Hear the prayer of a child, O Lord and pardon all my sins, because thy beloved Son died once on earth for sinful creatures, though he never sinned himself, and now he lives in heaven to pray for them, and save

hem; let his name be praised for ever and ever. Amen.

*The Infant's or young Child's Evening Prayer.*

O Lord God, who knowest all things, thou seest me by night as well as by day.

I pray thee, for Christ's sake, for give me whatsoever I, have done amiss this day, and keep me safe all this night while I am asleep.

I desire to lie down under thy care, and to abide for ever under thy blessing; for thou art a God of all power and everlasting mercy. Amen.

Note. When the child is five or six years old, he may leave out this Amen, and enlarge this evening prayer, by adding the two following paragraphs

Bless all (my friends)\* as well as myself: do good to them at all times and in all places, and help me always to serve them in love.

And when I have done thy wil

---

\* Here the child may mention father and mother and other relations.

here, by thy grace assisting me, and enjoyed thy blessing on earth, then give my soul a place in heaven, to dwell with thee there, and with thy Son Jesus Christ; for heaven and earth, and all things in them, are thine for ever and ever. Amen.

*The young Child's Prayer for the Lord's Day, to be added to the Morning Prayer.*

SUFFER me not, O Lord, to waste this thy day in sin and folly; but let me worship thee with much delight. Teach me to know more of thee, and to serve thee better than ever I have done before, that I may be fitter to dwell in heaven where thy worship and service are everlasting. Amen.

*The young Child's Prayer for the Lord's Day, to be added to the Evening Prayer.*

O MOST gracious God, let me never forget the many good things that I have heard this day; but let them abide in my heart so as to amend my life, that I may be able to give a count of them to Jesus Christ

our Lord and Saviour, when he comes to judge the world at the last day. Amen.

*The Infant's Grace before Meat.*

BLESS me, O Lord, and let my food strengthen me to serve thee, for Jesus Christ's sake Amen.

*The Infant's Grace after Meat.*

I DESIRE to thank God, who gives me food to eat every day of my life Amen.

*The young Child's Grace before Meat.*

I ENTREAT thee, O Lord, that the good things which I eat and drink may keep me alive, and make me able to do thee some service, for the sake of Jesus Christ thy Son and our Saviour. Amen.

*The young Child's Grace after Meat.*

I THANK thee, O heavenly Father, for my daily food, and for every blessing thou bestowest on me; accept my thanksgiving for Christ's sake. Amen

*Sin makes God angry.*

How kind, in all his works and ways,  
Must our Creator be.  
I learn a lesson of his praise  
From ev'ry thing I see.

Ten thousand creatures by his hand  
Were form'd at first from clay :  
His skill their diff'rent natures plann'd  
And they his voice obey.

He condescends to do them good,  
And pities when they cry ;  
For all their wants are understood  
By his attentive eye.

And can so kind a Father frown  
Will he, who stoops to care  
For little sparrows falling down,  
Despise an infant's prayer ?

No; he regards the feeblest cry :  
'Tis only when we sin,  
He puts the smile of mercy by,  
And lets his frown begin.

'Tis sin that grieves his holy mind  
And makes his anger-rise ;  
And sinners old or young shall find  
No favour in his eyes.

But when the broken spirit turns  
And would from sin depart,  
The God of mercy never spurns  
A humble contrite heart.



*On Repeating the Catechism.*

As Mary sat at Jesu's feet,  
To learn her MAKER's will,  
We in the SAVIOUR's presence meet,  
And hear his doctrines still.

Still he beholds the wand'ring look,  
Each foolish thought discerns ;  
And knows who idles at his book,  
And who in earnest learns.

O for that meek, attentive mind  
Which happy Mary show'd !  
May we the "one thing needful" find,  
That was on her bestow'd.

Here we are taught the sacred word  
That Jesus first convey'd ;  
And here the doctrines we have heard,  
Are plain and easy made.

'Tis here we learn the glorious name  
Of GOD who reigns above ;  
And while we read of sinners' shame,  
Are taught the SAVIOUR's love.

Lord ! while we thank thee for the grace  
That sends this happy news,  
We still would sit in Mary's place,  
Her better part to choose.

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