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Lessons FROM THE Old Testament.

FOR SENIOR CLASSES.

January 2 to March 26, 1892.

LESSON I.—January 2, 1892.

THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST.—ISA. 11:1-10.

(MEMORY VERSES, 2-4.)

GOLDEN TEXT: "He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth." Ps. 72:8.

1. WHAT does the prophet declare shall spring from Jesse, the father of David? Isa. 11:1. (The word "rod" means "shoot" and the word "stem" means "trunk" or "stock." See Revised Version.)

2. Whom does the apostle Paul declare this rod or shoot to be? Acts 13:22, 23.

3. What spirit should this king possess? Isa. 11:2.

4. Was this manifest in the life of Jesus?

NOTE.—The prophet presents the character of Jesus as it would be manifest in his entire work: (1) As man's Example; (2) as the wise Teacher; the Wisdom of God;

(3) as Judge; (4) as King. The Spirit of God rested upon him at the time of his baptism (John 1:33); the spirit of wisdom and understanding, of counsel and might and knowledge, was manifested repeatedly in his marvelous teaching, in his knowledge of men's hearts, in his replies to his adversaries, in his speaking the dead to life, and the stormy sea to a calm (see Luke 4:22; Matt. 13:54; 7:28, 29; Luke 20:26, 40; John 11:43, 44; Mark 4:39); and his fear of the Lord was shown in that he, as our Example, kept his Father's commandments (John 5:30; 12:49, 50; 15:10). Between his first and second advent Christ is a kingly priest upon his Father's throne. Heb. 8:1. During this time he is developing out from among all nations a people for his kingdom. Isa. 11:10 applies to this time.

5. Whose character did he thus reveal? John 14:9; 2 Cor. 5:19.

6. Did Christ act as judge while upon earth? John 12:47.

7. Will Christ ever become a judge? John 5:22, 27; Acts 17:31.

8. At what time will Christ judge the world? 2 Tim. 4:1; 1 Cor. 4:5.

9. How is justice manifested in the world now? Isa. 59:14, 15; James 5:4-6.

10. With what spirit will Christ judge? Isa. 11:4, first part.

11. How will he judge the wicked? Isa. 11:4, last part; Ps. 2:7-9; 2 Thess. 2:8.

12. What other great event comes in connection with Christ's execution of the judgment? 2 Tim. 4:1; Matt. 25:31.

13. Where and how extensive is this kingdom to be? Ps. 2:7, 8. See golden text.

14. For how long has this kingdom been waiting? Matt. 25:34.

15. How will all wickedness be purged away? Dan. 2:35, 44; 2 Peter 3:10.

16. What will the power of God bring out of this destruction? 2 Peter 3:13; Isa. 65:17; Rev. 21:1.

17. What will be the character of Christ's reign? Isa. 11:9; Jer. 23:5, 6.

18. What will be the character of the subjects of that kingdom? Isa. 60:21.

19. What change will take place in all the creation of God? Isa. 11:6-9; 60:18.

20. How long will this kingdom exist? Luke 1:31-33; Dan. 7:27.

21. What is said of the glory of this kingdom? Isa. 11:9 and last part of verse 10; Isa. 60:19, 20.

22. Until that glad day what will be the prayer of every child of God? Rev. 22:20.

LESSON II.—January 9, 1892.

A SONG OF SALVATION.—ISA. 26:1-10.

(MEMORY VERSES, 1-4.)

GOLDEN TEXT: "Trust ye in the Lord forever; for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength." Isa. 26:4.

1. WHAT will be consummated at Christ's coming and kingdom? Titus 2:13; Acts 26:6, 7.

2. What will then be revealed? 1 Peter 1:5, 7-9. *Ans.*—The salvation of God.

3. For what may we rejoice as that coming draws nigh? Luke 21:28.

4. For what have the children of faith ever looked? Heb. 11:16; 13:14.

NOTE.—The looking and longing for the *continuing* city of God is like that of a child longing for its mother, which the New Jerusalem is to the child of God. Gal. 4:26; Isa. 54:5; 62:4. Here the people of God have been pilgrims and strangers, they have seen earth's fairest, strongest cities fall and perish, and the brightest glories of earth fade away; no wonder, then, that they look and long for the haven of rest, where, in the presence of Father and Redeemer, they will "delight themselves in the abundance of peace," in that city which continueth ever. Note the contrast between the "strong city" of God and the "lofty city" of men mentioned in verses 5 and 6 of the lesson scripture.

5. What is the relation of this city to them? Rev. 21:9, 10; Gal. 4:26; Isa. 54:5.

6. What will be the condition of things on this earth when Christ comes? Matt. 24:29, 30; Rev. 16:17-21.

7. Where will Christ take his people? John 14:1-3; Rev. 14:1; 19:1.

8. In the midst of the calamities ushering in Christ's coming, what song will be sung by the children of God? Isa. 26:1; Ps. 46:1-7.

9. As the redeemed host ascend with their Lord to that city, what command is given to the angels of God? Isa. 25:2.

10. Are we to wait till Christ comes before we can rejoice in his salvation? Col. 1:12-14.

11. How are we made to rejoice in his salvation? Rom. 5:1, 2, 11.

12. How and for what reason may we be kept in the peace of Christ? Isa. 26:3.

13. How long are we exhorted to thus trust God? Verse 4, first clause.

14. What basis does he give for everlasting trust? Same verse, last part; Isa. 51:6.

15. What will become of the proud of the earth who trust in themselves? Isa. 26:5, 6.

16. At what time will the poor and meek reign triumphant? Ps. 37:9-11; Mal. 4:2, 3.

17. What assurance has the righteous that God regards his faithfulness? Isa. 26:7; Ps. 37:23.

18. What will be the heart longings of those who are looking for Christ's coming? Isa. 26:8, 9.

NOTE.—This Scripture lesson fixes the time of this song of salvation in connection with the coming of Christ. The characteristics of the people who will be saved at that time are thus expressed: "Here is the patience of the saints; here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Rev. 14:12. One of God's commandments, namely, the fourth, presents the name, title, and extent of the authority of the Giver of the law. The Psalmist (111:4) says that God has "made his *wonderful works* to be remembered." The fourth commandment and other scriptures show that God has given, as the memorial of his wonderful works, the holy Sabbath. His faithful people will remember this in the last days, and, therefore, in this time of trouble, while longing for his coming, will sing: "Yea, in the way of thy judgments ["highway of thy commandments," Spurrell], O Lord, have we waited for thee; the desire of our soul is to thy name, and to the remembrance ["memorial," Rev. Ver.] of thee."

19. What is God's "remembrance" (or "memorial," Revised Version)? Ps. 111:4; Ex. 20:8-11.

20. Whom will this lead us to acknowledge?
Ans.—The Creator and Redeemer, Christ Jesus our Lord. Col. 1:14-17; Eph. 2:10.

21. How do God's judgments and favor affect men? Isa. 26:9 (last clause), and verse 10.

NOTE.—It is ever true that the man who is willing, or wills, to do God's will, will be brought to see it. The goodness of God or the judgments of God will bring him to his senses and to repentance; but he whose heart is to do evil, will do evil still. Like Pharaoh, he will harden his heart under God's judgments, or, like Judas, under God's favor. Others will be brought to repentance under God's mercy, like Peter, or under his judgments, like Manasseh. Whichever it may be that comes to us, whether prosperity or calamity, God desires that we shall learn of him righteousness and truth.

LESSON III.—January 16, 1892.

OVERCOME WITH WINE.—ISA. 28:1-8.

(MEMORY VERSES, 5-7)

GOLDEN TEXT.—“Wine is a mocker; strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.” Prov. 20:1.

1. WHAT denunciation does the Lord utter against the kingdom of Israel, as represented by the tribe of Ephraim, in whose midst was the capital city, Samaria? Isa. 28:1.

2. What power would he bring against them? and what would be the result? Verse 2. Evidently fulfilled three or four years after by the king of Assyria. See 2 Kings 17:6.

3. What well typified Samaria and her soon-coming destruction? Verse 4. *Ans.*—A fading flower, the first fruit greedily plucked and hastily devoured.

4. What was the direct cause of Israel's destruction? 2 Kings 17:14-18.

5. What prohibition did the Lord lay upon those who ministered in sacred things and taught the people? Lev. 10:8, 9.

6. What effect does wine have upon the senses? See golden text.

7. For what reason, then, did the Lord prohibit the priests from drinking wine? Lev. 10:10, 11.

8. What, then, was one of the prime causes why Israel went into idolatry? Isa. 28:1, 3.

9. What does the Lord say of the residue of his people (evidently Judah) at that time? Isa. 28:7, 8.

10. How would such ones be likely to understand the warnings and reproofs of God? Isa. 56:10-12.

11. To what did this blindness lead on the part of Judah? See 2 Chron. 24:16; 2 Kings 16:10, 11.

12. What other forms of intemperance are classed with drunkenness? Prov. 23:20, 21.

13. What was the beginning of Sodom's sins? Eze. 16:49, 50.

14. With what does the Lord connect gluttony and drunkenness? *Ans.*—With licentiousness and adultery. See Rom. 13:13; Prov. 23:31-33.

15. How did this gluttony result in the case of Eli's sons? 1 Sam. 2:12-17. *Ans.*—God's directions were to burn the fat first (Lev. 3:3-5, 16); but their gluttony would not allow it. This led to adultery (1 Sam. 2:22); and this to their destruction, even as wine drinking did to the destruction of the sons of Aeron (Lev. 10:1-10).

16. How great, then, is the sin of intemperance or gluttony? *Ans.*—Just as great as its consequences,—misery, degradation, and death eternal.

17. What would God have us to be in this respect? 1 Cor. 9:25-27.

18. By what power may this be wrought in us? *Ans.*—By the Spirit and promises of God. Gal. 5:22, 23; 2 Peter 1:4-6.

19. How far ought we to go in the matter of abstinence? Rom. 13:14; 14:21.

20. What is the rule of the Christian with regard to eating and drinking? 1 Cor. 10:31.

21. How many selfish indulgences and foolish, hurtful habits are permitted by this rule?

LESSON IV.—January 23, 1892.

HEZEKIAH'S PRAYER AND DELIVERANCE.—

ISA. 37:14-21, 33-38.

(MEMORY VERSES, 15-17.)

GOLDEN TEXT.—“The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them.” Ps. 34:17.

1. To what power was Judah tributary when Hezekiah came to the throne? 2 Kings 16:7.

2. How old was Hezekiah when he began to reign? and how long did he reign? 2 Kings 18:2.

3. What was the character of his reign? Verses 3-6.

4. Mention the most important acts of this reformation. *Ans.*—The destruction of the idolatrous places of worship and of the idols, notably

the brazen serpent, the repairing of the temple, and the holding of the great passover for all Israel. See chapters 29 and 30 of 2 Chronicles.

5. What is said of his greatness? 2 Chron. 32: 27-30.

6. How did God regard him? 2 Kings 18:7, first part.

7. What noted event occurred in the early part of his reign? Verses 9-12.

NOTE.—Hezekiah seems to have been at least outwardly friendly to Shalmanezar and Sargon, successors to Tiglath-pileser, and to have paid his tribute as a subordinate power. His faith had not yet reached the point of relying on God alone.

8. What did Hezekiah do when he thought himself strong? 2 Kings 18:7, last clause.

NOTE.—Rawlinson points out that at the time of Sennacherib's accession to the throne nearly all of the kingdoms south and west of Assyria, which had been tributary to that empire, were in open revolt, and Hezekiah seized upon such a time to declare Judah free. He was at this time, however, forced to yield, for he trusted in his own strength and the strength of allied powers, instead of resting wholly upon God. See 2 Chron. 32:1-8 and Isaiah 20. See also on Hezekiah in "Kings of Israel and Judah," by Rawlinson.

9. What action did Sennacherib take with reference to this? Verses 13-16.

NOTE.—After this victory, according to Assyrian records, Sennacherib returned to Nineveh, where Hezekiah sent his tribute.

10. To what power did Hezekiah evidently seek to ally himself, after having for the time purchased Assyria's favor? Isa. 36:4-6, 9.

11. What action did Sennacherib take when he

heard of what Hezekiah was doing? 2 Kings 18:

17.

12. Who did Rab-shakeh (the cup bearer of the king) say had sent him against Judah? Verse 25.

13. What showed that he not only lied, but that he had no faith whatever in Jehovah? Isa. 36:14, 15, 18, 20.

NOTE.—Rab-shakeh not only did not go by command of God, but he reproached and blasphemed Jehovah by classing him with the gods of the heathen.

14. How did this boastful chief, with his mighty army, affect Hezekiah? *Ans.*—Hezekiah humbled himself greatly, sought God in the temple, and sent his leading men clothed in sackcloth to inquire of Isaiah the prophet. See Isa. 37:1-5.

15. How did God regard this humility of soul? Verses 6, 7.

16. As Rab-shakeh departed, what threatening letter did he send to Hezekiah? Verses 9-13.

17. What did Hezekiah do with this blasphemous letter? Verses 14, 15.

18. How did he plead with God? Verses 16-20.

NOTE.—Hezekiah appealed (1) to God's majesty and omnipotence; (2) to God's honor, which had been insulted; (3) he admitted the truth of all Sennacherib's victories, but exalted God above him; (4) and, lastly, he pleads God's mercy to his people, and asks that the salvation granted may be such that all the nations of earth might know that Jehovah was God alone.

19. What answer did the Lord through his prophet give Hezekiah? Verses 21-35

NOTE.—He assured the king of Assyria that the virgin daughter of Zion laughed him to scorn; that as he had blasphemed the Holy One of Israel and reproached the

Lord, in whose power was all nations, so would God overcome Assyria, and lead him back as a man would a beast, with a hook in the nose; and that the Lord would defend Jerusalem for his own sake.

20. How did the Lord fight for his people? and what became of this proud king? Verses 36-38.

21. Why did God thus come to the help of Hezekiah? Verse 21.

22. What promise has God made to all that call upon him in trouble? See golden text and Ps. 107:17-21.

LESSON V.—January 30, 1892.

THE SUFFERING SAVIOUR.—ISAIAH. 53.

(MEMORY VERSES, 3-5.)

GOLDEN TEXT: "He hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." Isa. 53:6.

NOTE.—The fifty-third chapter of Isaiah is a prophecy of Christ from the standpoint of the Christian dispensation, with his glory and kingdom yet future. The tense of the verbs in the Revised Version, as well as the matter itself, makes this clear.

1. IN contemplating the people who slew Christ and the wonderful message of the gospel which centers in his person, what question were his servants constrained to ask? Isa. 53:1; see also Rom. 10:16; John 12:37, 38.

2. What does the prophet say of Christ's person as he was manifest among men? Verse 2.

NOTE.—This statement does not mean that Christ's appearance was repulsive. They expected a monarch whose glory and splendor outshone that of Solomon, but Christ's appearance was such that they could not naturally expect anything from him. They desired the beauty

o: worldly glory; they did not find in him what they desired. His birth was also lowly, as a root out of dry ground.

3. How was this fulfilled? Mark 6:2, 3.

4. How did the prophet say that men would regard this man of sorrows? Isa. 53:3.

5. How was this fulfilled? John 1:10, 11; see also John 6:66; Matt. 26:56.

6. By whose afflictions was he made sorrowful? Isa. 53:4, first part. See Heb. 4:15; John 11:35, and elsewhere.

NOTE.—“Grief” and “griefs,” in verses 3 and 4, are in the Revised Version translated “sickness” and “sicknesses.”

7. Yet what did these sorrows lead men to conclude? Isa. 53:4.

8. For, or on whose account, did Jesus bear all these sufferings? Verse 5; 2 Cor. 5:21.

9. How many are in need of the grace and healing of Christ? Rom. 3:23; Isa. 53:6, first two clauses.

10. How great was the burden of sin that rested upon him? Verse 6; John 1:29.

11. How did he bear these sufferings? Verse 7.

NOTE.—Boothroyd and others render the first part of this verse, “It was exacted, and he was made answerable;” that is, God’s infinite holiness and justice could not remit the penalty due the transgression of his perfect law. The innocent One was made to bear it.

12. What is said of the injustice toward him? Verse 8, first part. “In his low estate, his judgment was taken away, and the [injustice and cruelty of the] men of his generation, who can describe?”

—Boothroyd.

13. Yet on account of whom was all this injustice borne? Verse 8, last part. Boothroyd reads: "He was cut off out of the land of the living; for the transgression of my people was he smitten to death." See Heb. 2:9, 10.

14. What kind of a burial attested his innocence? Verse 9, first part.

NOTE.—Boothroyd reads: "And he was placed with the wicked in his death, but with the rich in his sepulcher." See Matt. 27:57-60. A criminal was not allowed such burial.

15. Was this suffering a part of the divine plan? Verse 9, last part; verse 10, first part.

NOTE.—Boothroyd connects the verses thus: "Although he had done no wrong, neither was guile found in his mouth; yet it pleased the Lord to crush him with affliction," or, as in our version, "to bruise him; he hath put him to grief."

16. What part did Jesus personally take in this offering? Titus 2:14; Mark 14:36:

17. What did the prophet say should result to Christ from the offering of his soul or life for man's sins? Verse 10, last part.

18. What is the pleasure of the Lord that shall prosper in his hands? Verse 10, first clause. The humility and suffering are the foundation of honor and power. See Col. 1:19; Phil. 2:6-9.

19. To what extent will the sufferings of Christ prosper? Verse 11, first part. They will prosper to the full satisfaction of Christ in looking upon the kingdom he has redeemed and the souls he has saved. See Heb. 12:2; Isa. 62:3, 4.

20. What will he do for those who know and

trust in him? Isa. 53:11; John 17:3; Rom. 5:1, 9.

21. Over whom and how will he completely triumph? Isa. 53:12.

NOTE.—Again we give the translation of Boothroyd, as better expressing the sense: "Therefore will I give to him as a portion the great; and the mighty [Satan and his angels] shall he possess as a spoil [see Gen. 3:15; 22:17; Matt. 12:28, 29]; because he poured out his soul unto death," etc. For divine commentary on this chapter, see Heb. 2:14-18.

LESSON VI.—February 6, 1892.

THE GRACIOUS CALL.—ISAIAH 55.

(MEMORY VERSES, 6-8.)

GOLDEN TEXT.—"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near." Isa. 55:6.

1. WHAT reproof does the Lord give to those who spend means and time for that which is worldly and worthless? Isa. 55:2, first two questions.

2. What better way does he set before them? Same verse, last part. Boothroyd reads; "Let your soul feast itself with the best things."

3. To whom and how freely are these best things offered? Verse 1.

4. By what means is this fountain of God's grace thus opened? Isa. 55:4, 5.

5. What does Jesus himself say in regard to these riches of his grace? John 4:14; 6:27, 51, 63.

6. What does he promise us if we heed these instructions? Isa. 55:3, first two clauses.

7. What does he promise to those who will come to him? Same verse, last part.

8. What is this everlasting covenant here promised? *Ans.*—The new covenant in Christ. See Ps. 89:20, 26–36; Acts 13:34; Heb. 8:8–13; 13:20.

9. What will the Father make of Christ, the seed of David? Isa. 55:4.

10. In confirmation of this, what does Jesus say of himself as a witness of God? John 18:37; Rev. 1:5.

11. What witness is borne to him as leader and commander? Matt. 17:5; Eph. 1:22, 23.

12. Were the blessings of Christ to be to the Jewish people alone? Isa. 55:5; John 10:16; 1 Cor. 12:13.

NOTE.—“Know” is used in Isa. 55:5 in the sense of covenant relationship, such as exists between God and his people. See John 17:3 and Gal. 4:9, for its use in this sense. It is here used of the Gentiles.

13. Why would men run after Christ? Isa. 55:5. Because God had glorified him in his sufferings for the world (John 13:31), in his resurrection from the dead (Eph. 1:19, 20), in the effectual power of his priesthood (Heb. 5:5); he is glorified in his people (1 Peter 4:14), and glorified with his people when he comes again (Rom. 8:17, 18).

14. In view of these things, what are men exhorted to do? Isa. 55:6.

15. Of what time only have we the promise? 2 Cor. 6:2.

16. What does he say of the wicked and unrighteous? Isa. 55:7, first part.

17. How great mercy will he exercise toward the repentant? Verse 7, last part; Isa. 1:18.

18. How does the richness of God's mercy compare with that exercised by man? Isa. 55:8, 9; Ps. 103:10-12.

19. How effectual will his promises be to those who trust in them? Verses 10, 11.

NOTE.—There could be no more beautiful figure of the power of God's gracious mercy upon the heart of the sinner than is contained in the two verses above. Just as the snow and rain, to the human eye of little worth, falling upon the dry and barren soil, causes to spring forth the grass and herb, so God's grace and mercy will soften the hard, barren heart of the sinner and make it fruitful. This is the promise, it will never return void to the heart of faith.

20. What does he say of the way, the joy, and triumph of him who accepts of this mercy? Verses 12, 13; Isa. 61:10, 11; 54:13-15.

LESSON VII.—February 13, 1892.

THE NEW COVENANT.—JER. 31:27-37.

(MEMORY VERSES, 33, 34.)

GOLDEN TEXT—"I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." Jer. 31:34.

1. WHAT promise does the Lord make to Israel and Judah? Jer. 31:27, 28.

2. On what conditions does God plant and build up? Jer. 18:7-10.

3. What shows that the blessing promised will

be based on individual character and knowledge of God? Jer. 31:29, 30.

4. Through what will these promised blessings come to the people of God? Verse 31.

5. Why did the Lord make a new covenant? Heb. 8:7.

NOTE.—The covenant made with man after he had fallen, renewed to Noah and confirmed by oath to Abraham and Isaac, was called the "new covenant," because its confirmation by the death of Christ was subsequent to the national covenant with Israel, recorded in Ex. 19:5-8; 24:3-8. All who are saved are saved by "the blood of the everlasting covenant." Heb. 13:10; Acts 4:12.

6. In what respect was the new covenant better than the old? Heb. 8:6.

7. In what respect do the promises differ?
Ans.—The old covenant was no stronger than the promises of Israel, one of the essential parties to the covenant, while the new covenant rests on the promise and oath of God. See Heb. 6:17, 18.

8. What express statement shows that the covenants were radically different? Jer. 31:32.

9. Under the old or national covenant where did Israel have God's law? Deut. 10:1-5.

10. Where does God promise to put this same law, under the new covenant? Jer. 31:33.

11. With whom was the first covenant made?
Ans.—With Israel as a nation. Ex. 19:7, 8.

12. For what purpose was it made? Jer. 11:5; Deut. 7:6-8.

13. What is the purpose of the new covenant? Acts 26:18.

14. How only, then, can men partake of the new

covenant blessings, as individuals or as a nation?
Jer. 31:34.

NOTE.—We can know God only by personal acquaintance. See John 10:14; 17:3.

15. How many of Israel, according to the new covenant, will know God? Same verse.

16. Through whom alone do we come into this covenant relation? Eph. 2:12, 13.

17. What is necessary on our part that we may enter this relationship? Mark 1:15; Acts 20:21.

18. In accepting Christ by faith what relationship does it establish between us and God? Eph. 2:18, 19; Jer. 31:33, last part.

19. To those who trust to the end (Heb. 3:14) what promises are given? Verse 34, last clause; Micah 7:19.

20. What surety has God given that the new covenant will be confirmed, and that true Israel will be saved by it? Jer. 31:35-37; Heb. 6:17, 18.

21. Who in Christ compose the true Israel of God? and for what purpose? Rom. 9:24; 1 Peter 2:9, 10.

LESSON VIII.—February 20, 1892.

Jehoiakim's Wickedness.—JER. 36:19-31.

(MEMORY VERSES, 22, 23.)

GOLDEN TEXT.—"To-day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts." Heb. 3:15.

1. WHO was Jehoiakim and when and how did he come to the throne of Judah? See note.

NOTE.—Jehoiakim, or Eliakim, his name by birth, was the oldest son of Josiah, king of Judah, who died B. C. 610. The people made Josiah's second son king, which displeased the king of Egypt, under whose yoke they were. He deposed Jehoahaz, after a reign of only three months, and put Eliakim in his place, changing his name to Jehoiakim. This was probably in 609 B. C., the same year of Josiah's death. See 2 Kings 23:29-36.

2. What was his character? 2 Kings 23:37.

3. Who prophesied against his wickedness? and what did the king do unto him? Jer. 26:20-23.

4. What other prophet faithfully warned Jehoiakim against his coming doom, his overthrow by Nebuchadnezzar? *Ans.*—Jeremiah. He exhorted him to turn from his iniquity, that the Lord might repent him of the evil. He warned Judah that because of their sins God would bring against them the king of Babylon, who would lay waste Jerusalem. Because of this the king sought to slay Jeremiah. See Jer. 22:13-19; 26:1-15, and elsewhere.

5. Who saved Jeremiah from death? Jer. 26:24.

6. How was Jehoiakim's subjection to Babylon fulfilled? *Ans.*—By the overthrow of Egypt, Judah's support. See Jer. 46:2, 13; 2 Kings 24:1.

7. What instruction did God give Jeremiah with reference to a repetition of these solemn warnings? Jer. 36:1, 2.

8. For what purpose did the Lord thus warn Judah? Verse 3.

9. To whom did Jeremiah dictate all these warnings? and what was done with them? Verses 4-8.

10. How, and under what circumstances, were these warnings again brought before the people? Verses 9, 10.

11. Who carried the news of these warnings to the princes? Verses 11-13.

12. State what occurred as the result. Verses 14-19.

13. What did the princes then do? Verse 20.

14. What did the king do when he heard of this book? Verse 21.

15. As these solemn warnings of God were read, how was contempt of them shown by these rulers? Verses 22, 23.

16. Were the hearts of any of them softened or alarmed by these warnings? Verse 24.

17. What showed the hardness of the king's heart? Verses 25, 26.

18. How was the wrath of man made to glorify God? Verses 28, 32.

19. What judgment was pronounced against Jehoiakim because of his rejection of the message of the Lord? Verses 29-31; 22:17-19.

20. What lesson should we learn from these warnings and judgments? Heb. 3:15.

LESSON IX.—February 27, 1892.

JEREMIAH PERSECUTED.—JER. 37:11-21.

(MEMORY VERSES, 15-17.)

GOLDEN TEXT.—“I am with thee, saith the Lord, to deliver thee.” Jer. 1:19.

1. WHO was Jeremiah the prophet? Jer. 1:1.

NOTE.—Jeremiah (appointed by Jehovah) began prophesying about seventy years after Isaiah's death, or 629 B. C., continuing forty-two years. He was contemporary with Zephaniah, Habakkuk, and Ezekiel.

2. When was he ordained to be a prophet?

Verses 4, 5.

3. What assurance did God give him in his work? Verses 6-9.

4. How far-reaching was to be his work? Verse 10.

5. By what means did he become the arbiter of these nations? *Ans.*—By proclaiming the word of God as to the conditions of their continued existence. See Jer. 18: 7-10.

6. Did Jeremiah begin his work expecting an easy task? Chap. 1: 15-17.

7. What promise did he have of God's protection? Verses 18, 19.

8. What did Jeremiah predict concerning the nations round about Judah in whom she trusted? Chap. 25: 9-11.

9. How were his words regarded by prophets and princes? Chap. 20: 1, 2; 26: 10, 11.

10. What shows that King Zedekiah had some confidence in Jeremiah? Chap. 37: 3.

11. Yet did he follow the advice of the prophet? Verse 2.

12. When the army of Babylon retired before the host of Egypt, did it shake Jeremiah's confidence in his predictions? Verses 5-10.

13. Where did Jeremiah attempt to go? Verses 11, 12.

NOTE.—Boothroyd reads the latter part of verse 12, "To the possession which he had in the midst of the people." Jeremiah felt that his work for Jerusalem was done, and he wished to retire to the quiet village of Anathoth.

14. With what was he charged? and how was he treated? Verses 13-15.

15. After he had been there many days, what did the king do? Verses 16, 17.

16. What plea did he make? and how did he reprove the king? Verses 18-20.

17. How did the king relieve the prophet? Verse 21.

18. What persecution did Jeremiah further endure? See note.

NOTE.—After this, as stated in the following chapter, the prophet continued to warn the people that their safety lay in yielding themselves to the king of Babylon, when, at the instigation of the princes, the weak and vascillating king permitted him to be cast into a deep dungeon, in the bottom of which was filthy mire. He was rescued from this living death by a friendly Ethiopian, by permission of the king, who again sought his advice; but the king was too morally weak to follow it. Jeremiah remained in the prison court till the city was taken. In all these trials he proved loyal and faithful to God.

19. What lesson is there in this for us? James 5: 10.

20. Whose lot was preferable, Jeremiah's or his persecutors'? James 5: 11, first part; 1 Peter 4: 14.

21. Why may we rejoice under such trials? Rom. 5: 3-5; 1 Peter 4: 13.

22. Of what may we be assured in every trial that comes to us while we are in the way of the Lord? Golden text.

LESSON X.—March 15 1892.**THE DOWNFALL OF JUDAH.—JER. 39: 1-10.***(MEMORY VERSES, 6-8.)*

GOLDEN TEXT.—“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning.” Rom. 15: 4.

1. WHO was Zedekiah? how and when did he come to the throne of Judah? and how long did he reign? 2 Kings 24: 17, 18. This was about the year 599 B. C.

2. What was the character of his reign? Verse 19.

3. What position did he shortly assume towards Babylon? 2 Chron. 36: 13.

4. What prophet warned him of his ultimate overthrow? Jer. 21: 3-7.

5. Did he seem to have respect for the prophet or his message? Chap. 37: 17, 21; 38: 16.

6. Did he heed the message of the prophet? 2 Chron. 36: 12.

7. What showed his weak and vascillating character? Jer. 38: 5, 19, 24-26.

8. What was the general character of the people of Judah at this time? 2 Chron. 36: 14.

9. What great mercy and forbearance did God show toward them? Verse 15.

10. How did they regard this kindness? Verse 16; Acts 7: 51, 52.

11. When did the Chaldeans besiege Jerusalem for the last time? Jer. 39: 1.

12. How long did the siege continue before the city was taken? Verse 2.
13. Who took their places as rulers and judges in Jerusalem? Verse 3.
14. How did Zedekiah try to escape? Verse 4.
15. How was he captured? and what was done with him? Verses 5-7.
16. How had this been foretold? Eze. 12:13, compare with Jer. 32:4.
17. What did they do with the city and the house of God? Jer 39:8; 2 Chron. 36:17-19.
18. What did they do with the people? Jer. 39:9, 10; 2 Chron. 36:17, 20.
19. Who had before predicted these things? Jer. 26:2-6; 2 Chron. 36:21.
20. For what are these things written? and what is the lesson God would have us learn? Golden text and 1 Cor. 10:11, 12.

LESSON XI.—March 12, 1892.

PROMISE OF A NEW HEART.—EZE. 36:25-28.

(MEMORY VERSES, 25-27.)

GOLDEN TEXT.—"A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you." Eze. 36:26.

1. **WHAT** is said of the moral condition of Israel in the days of the prophet Ezekiel? 2 Chron. 36:14-16. See also Ezekiel 8 and elsewhere.
2. What among many admonitions did God give them? Eze. 36:32, last part.

3. How faithfully must the prophet warn them?

Eze. 3:17-21.

4. What express duty did he set before them?

Eze. 33:11, 14-16.

5. If they would heed these injunctions, what blessings would the Lord bestow upon them? Eze. 36:28-30, 33-36.

6. If they obeyed the Lord, how did he promise them they would regard their life, which they then loved, and which had brought them into captivity? Verse 31.

7. How did the Lord say that Israel would heed these injunctions of the prophet? and why? Eze. 3:7.

8. What is the condition of the hearts of all men by nature? Jer. 17:9; Rom. 8:7.

9. What, therefore, is necessary that they may be brought into union with God? Eze. 18:30, 31.

10. Can man accomplish this change of himself? Rom. 7:18, 19.

11. Who has promised to give the new heart? Eze. 11:19; 36:26.

12. Through whom alone is this work wrought? Acts 4:12; Rom. 8:3; 2 Cor. 5:17.

13. By what agency does Christ change the heart and spirit? Rom. 8:9, 10; Eze. 36:27, first clause.

14. What is the purpose and result of the new heart? Eph. 2:10; Eze. 36:27.

15. By virtue of what covenant is this change made? Heb. 8:8, 10.

16. How many of those know the Lord who are in this covenant relation to the Lord? Heb. 8:11

17. In addition to the new heart and new spirit, what is done for those who by faith embrace these promises? Heb. 8:12; Eze. 36:25.

NOTE.—Water is a symbol of the cleansing power of the word of God and the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. See Heb. 10:22. The first word of Eze. 36:25 in the Revised Version is "and" instead of "then."

18. From whence do those come who make up the Israel of the new covenant? Eph. 2:11-13, 19. See also Acts 15:7-9; Rom. 9:24.

19. How much does the promise of their inheritance include? Eze. 36:28, 37, 38; Rom. 4:13; Isa. 45:17, 18.

20. What will be the condition of that inheritance? Isa. 51:3. See also Isaiah 35 and Revelation 21 and 22.

21. For whose sake alone will the Lord fulfill all this to those who believe? Eze. 36:32, first clause, and verse 22.

22. To whom, therefore, will all the glory belong? 1 Cor. 1:30, 31.

LESSON XII.—March 19, 1892.

REVIEW.

1. WHEN will the kingdom of Christ be set up?
2. Where will it be? and how long will it continue?

3. Whose seed will be the king? and who will share the kingdom with him?

4. When Christ comes into that kingdom, what song will be sung?

5. What will be the character of that people whom the Lord will bid enter?

6. What blessings come to those here who steadfastly trust in God?

7. Against what are we solemnly warned in our third lesson?

8. In eating and drinking, what should be the standard of the Christian? 1 Cor. 10:31.

9. What incident in the history of King Hezekiah shows God's willingness to help those who trust in him?

10. By virtue of what are all the blessings of God brought within our reach? Isa. 53:4-6.

11. In view of this great sacrifice, what gracious call does the Lord make to the children of men? Isa. 55:1, 6.

12. Who will be blessed in responding to this call?

13. What has God promised to do for those who thus seek him? Eze. 36:26.

14. What has he covenanted to write in this new heart? Jer. 31:33.

15. What has he promised to do with their sins? Eze. 36:25; Jer. 31:34.

16. By what power is this change wrought? Eze. 36:27; Rom. 8:9,10; 5:5.

17. How willing is God to give us his Spirit?
Luke 11:13.

18. How will such a heart regard God's law?
Eze. 36:27; 11:19, 20.

19. Give the character of Jehoiakim's reign, and mention one of his most notorious acts.

20. What prophet especially warned him of his doom? and what did that prophet have to endure?

21. Give an account of the overthrow of Jerusalem and what led to it.

22. Repeat the golden text of each lesson in order.

LESSON XIII.—March 26, 1892

THE BLESSINGS OF THE GOSPEL.—ISA. 40:1-10.

(MEMORY VERSES, 3, 4)

GOLDEN TEXT.—"And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together." Isa. 40:5.

I. WHAT message does God give his people through the prophet? Isa. 40:1.

NOTE.—Jerusalem, as the center of worship, the chief city of the kingdom, stands for the people of God. Her sins are the sins committed by them. If the Jews had proved faithful to God, old Jerusalem would have stood forever (Jer. 17:24-27), but as Israel continued to transgress, Jerusalem was destroyed. But this unbelief did not make the promise of God of none effect (Rom. 3:3); God's promises to the faithful are fulfilled through Christ in the new covenant, and to the new covenant city, New Jerusalem, the mother of us all (Gal. 4:24). See Isaiah 54 and Revelation 21.

2. What has been the condition of all God's people here? Isa. 53:6, first two clauses; Rom. 3:23.

3. Though accepted of God, what is their lot? Acts 14:22; 2 Tim. 3:12.

4. Who is their comforter? Isa. 51:3, 12; 61:1-3.

5. How does God comfort them? Isa. 40:2, see margin.

NOTE.—For the latter part of the verse, compare Jer. 16:18 with 17:18. Jerusalem's double punishment seemed to be double destruction to the earthly city. The prophet looks beyond this to the heavenly Jerusalem.

6. By virtue of whom are all these sins pardoned? Isa. 53:4, 5.

7. In what are these blessings included? Luke 2:10, 11, 14; Rom 1:16, 17.

8. What herald should go before this coming Redeemer? Isa. 40:3; Matt. 3:1-3.

9. What work must be done for the people in their own hearts, or be done by the power of the Son of God when he comes to reign? Isa. 40:4; Luke 3:5. See note.

NOTE.—The figure used is that of the advance guard of an army or king's retinue preparing the literal way before him. It doubtless meant that those who received Christ must put away their traditions, their errors, their sins. When this is not done by the grace of Christ in the hearts of those who accept him, it will be done by his glory when he comes.

10. What should be revealed through Christ? Isa. 40:5.

11. What does Jesus say of himself? John 14:9; 12:32. *Ans.*—That he represents the Father, and therefore, if lifted up, would represent to the world in that lifting up God's love and mercy.

12. What does John say of Christ in this respect? John 1:14.

13. What especial phase of God's glory was manifest in Christ on earth? Eph. 1:6.

14. When will the ultimate glory of Jehovah be revealed through Christ? Matt. 16:27; 25:31.

15. What will this full revelation of glory mean to the people of God? Luke 3:6; 1 Peter 1:5, 7-9.

16. In view of these wonderful promises of the gospel of Christ, what command does God give to his heralds? Isa. 40:6-8.

17. In what does the apostle declare this word is preached? 1 Peter 1:24, 25.

18. What message and spirit should animate the people of God in heralding these tidings? Isa. 40:9, margin. See also Matt. 3:1, 2; John 1:29.

19. What message will precede Christ's second advent? Isa. 40:10, compare with Rev. 22:12.

20. Having all the assurances of the word of God, in what may his people rest? Isa. 40:8; 51:6-8.

21. And what will that same blessed gospel reveal to us through all eternity? Eph. 2:7 and golden text.