

Lesson VIII.

ISAIAH'S MESSAGE TO JUDAH

November 20, 1904

Isaiah 1: 1-9, 16-20. Study Isaiah 1: 1-20—Memory Verses, 18-20.

Golden Text—Cease to do evil; learn to do well.—Isaiah 1: 16, 17.

1 The vision of Isai'ah the son of A'moz, which he saw concerning Ju'dah and Jeru'salem in the days of Uzzi'ah, Jo'tham, A'haz, and Hez'eki'ah, kings of Ju'dah.

2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me.

3 The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: *but* Is'rael doth not know, my people doth not consider.

4 Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Is'rael unto anger, they are gone away backward.

5 Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.

6 From the sole of the foot even unto the head *there is* no soundness in it; *but* wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.

7 Your country *is* desolate, your cities *are* burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and *it is* desolate, as overthrown by strangers.

8 And the daughter of Zi'on is left as a cottage in a vineyard, as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city.

9 Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sod'om, *and* we should have been like unto Gomor'rah.

16 Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil;

17 Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

19 If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

20 But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken *it*.

THE LESSON RETOLD

After the death of Joash the Israelites fell back into idol-worship, and as a punishment, the Syrians were allowed to come and spoil the country. There was now living at Jerusalem a young prophet called Isaiah, who had already warned Ahaz the king against his own and the people's wickedness; but Ahaz had refused to listen. Then Isaiah turned to the people, to try if possible to persuade them to return to God.

One of Isaiah's plans for getting the people to listen to him was, when he met them on the road or at their work, to tell them a story or song, in which would be hidden some message or warning.

Once Isaiah told of a loving father, who had cared for his family of boys and girls until they were grown up. But instead of loving him in return, every one of them turned against him. "That," said Isaiah, "is a picture of what God has done for Is'rael, and of how they have treated Him." At another time, noticing the farm animals as they returned from work, Isaiah said, "The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib, but Israel does not know, God's people have strayed away backward." "As a nation, Israel is as a man wounded in battle; from head to foot he is covered with wounds and bruises, which, because no one