

International Bible Lessons

THIRD QUARTER

LESSON I—July 2

SENNACHERIB'S INVASION. 2 Chron. 32. 9-23

GOLDEN TEXT: "With us is the Lord our God to help us, and to fight our battles." 2 Chron. 32. 8.

Primary Notes

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Introductory to the Quarter's Lessons. The Old Testament lessons will fill the next six months. This quarter's Golden Text is, "The Lord is thy keeper" (Psa. 121. 5). Make this the keynote of the twelve lessons.

Look forward, dear teachers, and see how this gracious truth is emphasized in Hezekiah's danger and rescue, in his prayer, in the vision of the suffering Saviour and in Isaiah's "invitation," in Manasseh's sin and repentance and Josiah's good reign and his treatment of the book of the law; even in Jehoiakim's ill treatment of the Word, and in Jeremiah's dungeon experience the Lord is still keeper, and in Judah's captivity, while "The Life-Giving Stream" and "Daniel in Babylon" bring out the triumphant note.

How will God keep us? Talk a few minutes about "keeping." Show some precious thing, or mention something kept in a box for safety, or gold kept in a safe or a bank. But these things do not know that they are safe. Pass on to the child kept safely in the house, and the child kept safely along a dangerous path because father walks beside him. Thus lead up to the thought of our Lord's nearness and power, able to keep, and ready always to do it—keeping from harm, keeping from fear and from sin.

Keep the lesson thoughts before the children for review. Small shields may be prepared, with the thought for the day, and hung up each week tied with pink ribbon to a cord stretched across the blackboard. If not by this plan, by some other, at least by writing on the board, preserve the thoughts and review constantly.

Approach to the Lesson. The talk on God's keeping will be a sufficient point of contact. Now recur to the stories of Old Testament times which we had last year. Recall that beautiful building, the temple. Once we learned about its being shut up for a long time. Then a good king opened its doors. It was December 4 of last year that we heard about Hezekiah, who did this, and called the people together to God's house. Now

we come back to learn more about this king. We find him in trouble, and we see how God helped him.

A Great Trouble. Do good people have trouble, then? Why does not God keep away such things from them? But, then, earth would be just like heaven, and this is not to be just yet. Good people have enemies who try to hurt them. God does not take his children out of this world where trouble comes, but he keeps them in trouble so that it cannot hurt them, and in good time he takes the trouble away. A little boy going with his father begged to go back home when they came to a very rough, muddy place. His father did not allow this, nor did he take away the bad place. He just helped his boy through it, so they went safely on. God treats his children in this way, and so he saved and kept Hezekiah in his trouble, which came from a heathen king.

Describe the threats of the powerful Sennacherib, the great conqueror, who made up his mind to fight against Jerusalem and Hezekiah. Explain title of lesson if taught. Invasion means coming in, and coming in to make trouble and turn others out. Portray the fright of the people, the fierce manner of the heathen king as he sent messages to Hezekiah, who had done all he could to keep him out by stopping the water brooks and getting ready as best he could. Sennacherib's pride and his boasts and wicked words against God may be very briefly told.

The Prayer and the Answer. Picture Hezekiah and Isaiah kneeling before God, telling him the story of the trouble, asking help from heaven. They knew God was their keeper, so they turned to him. In a storm you may be safe in the house, but you must not stay outdoors; you must run into the house.

Tell of God's answer. He has many angels as messengers to send. He sent an angel to trouble the Assyrians, to take the life of the captain and hundreds of soldiers, and to send the army home. The king who had dared to say God could not help, any more than a heathen idol, was pun-



ished. Hezekiah and his people, who trusted and prayed, were saved.

The Lord Our Keeper Gives Help. Teach Golden Text and illustrate this lesson truth, showing how God keeps and helps children daily.

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