

Lesson, 2 Chron. 30: 1-13.

Compare 2 Chron. 35: 1-19.

Commit vs. 10-13.

1. And Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, and wrote letters also to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, to keep the passover unto the Lord God of Israel.

2. For the king had taken counsel, and his princes, and all the congregation in Jerusalem, to keep the passover in the second month.

3. For they could not keep it at that time, because the priests had not sanctified themselves sufficiently, neither had the people gathered themselves together to Jerusalem.

4. And the thing pleased the king and all the congregation.

5. So they established a decree to make proclamation throughout all Israel, from Beer-sheba even to Dan, that they should come to keep the passover unto the Lord God of Israel at Jerusalem: for they had not done it of a long time in such sort as it was written.

6. So the posts went with the letters from the king and his princes throughout all Israel and Judah, and according to the commandment of the king, saying, Ye children of Israel, turn again unto the Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, and he will return to the remnant of you, that are escaped out of the hand of the kings of Assyria.

7. And be not like your fathers, and like your brethren, which trespassed against the Lord God of their fathers, who therefore gave them up to desolation, as ye see.

8. Now be ye not stiffnecked, as your fathers were, but yield yourselves unto the Lord, and enter into his sanctuary, which he hath sanctified forever: and the Lord your God, that the fierceness of his wrath may turn away from you.

9. For if ye turn again unto the Lord, your brethren and your children shall find compassion before them that lead them captive, so that they shall come again into this land: for the Lord your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn away his face from you, if ye return unto him.

10. So the posts passed from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh even unto Zebulun: but they laughed them to scorn, and mocked them.

11. Nevertheless divers of Asher and Manasseh and of Zebulun humbled themselves, and came to Jerusalem.

12. Also in Judah the hand of God was to give them one heart to do the commandment of the king and of the princes, by the word of the Lord.

13. And there assembled at Jerusalem much people to keep the feast of unleavened bread in the second month, a very great congregation.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"Yield yourselves unto the Lord, and enter into his sanctuary."—2 Chron 30: 8.

LESSON PLAN.

1. Sending the Proclamation, vs. 1-5.
2. Contents of the Proclamation, 6-10.
3. Reception of the Proclamation, 11-12.

Hezekiah, the thirteenth king of Judah, came to the throne on the death of his father Ahaz, in the third year of the reign of Hoshea, the last king of Israel.

On his ascension to the throne he found the kingdom in a very unfortunate condition. The kingdom had been invaded by the Edomites and many of the people carried captive. The king of Assyria had been harassing the nation; the temple and palace had been robbed of their treasures to secure his withdrawal.

Ahaz with daring impiety had shut the doors of the temple, destroyed the sacred vessels, removed much of the costly furniture from the temple, and had manifested his attachment to the heathen worship by setting up altars to false gods in every corner of Jerusalem. Oppression, disregard of justice, and lawless violence towards the masses had so increased, that the common people trembled before the nobility.

DAILY READINGS.

- M. Hezekiah's good beginning, 2 Chron. 29: 1-11.
 T. Hezekiah's great passover, 2 Chron. 30: 1-13
 W. Cleansing and sacrifice, 2 Chron. 30: 14-20.
 T. The feast continued, 2 Chron. 30: 21-27.
 F. Zeal and success, 2 Chron. 31: 1-8: 20-21.
 S. A prosperous King, 2 Kings 18: 1-8.
 S. The passover instituted, Ex. 12: 3-14.

CATECHISM.

Q. 43 What is the preface of the ten commandments?

A. The preface of the ten commandments is in these words, I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

LESSON HYMNS.

Nos. 16 (Ps.) 574, 526, 552.

Hezekiah set himself to right many of these wrongs, and to lift the people out of the condition of apostasy and profanity into which they had fallen. He was a great national and religious reformer, a brave defender of his nation; singularly wise in his management of the finances of the nation.

The opening year of his reign is marked by the beginning of his religious reformation, in reopening and repairing the temple and re-establishing the worship of God.

His character is referred to in Scripture with the commendation that had not been repeated since the days of Jehoshaphat "He did that which was right in the sight of Jehovah according to all that David his father had done."

1. Sent to all.

He sent the notices to all, as he was anxious to have the service take on a national character.