

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE KINGS AND PROPHETS.

LESSON XIII. [Dec. 27.]

REVIEW AND CHRISTMAS LESSON.

ISAIAH'S PROPHECIES OF THE REDEEMER.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The dayspring from on high hath visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.—Luke 1. 78, 79.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

Hope in dark times.

DAILY READINGS.

M. 2 Kings 7. 1-17. Th. John 1. 1-17. 3. 1-10.
T. 2 Kings 12. 1-15. F. 2 Kings 18. 1-12; 20. 1-17.
W. 2 Kings 13. 14-25. Sa. Isa. 53. 1-12. Su. Isa. 55. 1-11.

REVIEW.

I. GENERAL VIEW. This Quarter embraces about two centuries of the history of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah, B.C. 892-698.—what was the general tendency and state of the kingdom of Israel during this time? Name some of the kings under which there were strong impulses toward the ba. What kings did something to withstand the downward tendency? What prophets helped them? How and when did this kingdom come to an end?

In what respects was the kingdom of Judah better than that of Israel? Under what kings were their great revivals of religion? What great prophet aided the good? What great religious institution also helped the people to obey God? How much longer did the kingdom of Judah last than the kingdom of Israel?

II. PERSONS.—Name the leading persons about whom we have studied during the past quarter. Which of them were kings? Which were prophets? Name one who was a high priest. Which was the best king? Which was the greatest prophet? Which one wrote a book? Which one wrought the most miracles?

III. PLACES.—Name the principal places noted in these lessons? Which three were capitals of nations? What city suffered a great famine? Which one was destroyed? Which one repented? Which one contained the Temple?

IV. NATIONS.—What four great nations have a prominent part in this history? Locate them on the map.

V. EVENTS (picture in a few words).—(1) An army made blind and led by a single man for many miles. Name the army, places, and person. (2) A city besieged, suffering from a terrible famine, suddenly relieved. (3) A man of great but imperfect zeal working a reform. (4) A young king repairing the house of God. (5) A death-bed scene. (6) A man trying to run away from God. (7) A great city in mourning through the preaching of one man. (8) A great revival of religion led by a good king. (9) A sick man's prayer and the answer. (10) A prophet's vision of the future. (11) A gracious invitation to all.

VI. Let each scholar name some great practical lesson they can learn from the studies of this quarter,—the one which seems to them to be most important.

CHRISTMAS LESSON.

SUBJECT: ISAIAH'S VISIONS OF THE COMING REDEEMER.

I. THE PROPHET.—Who was Isaiah? How long before Christ did he live? Did he have many visions of Christ? Who only could have revealed these things to him?

II. VISION OF THE FORERUNNER (Isa. 40. 3-5).—What was heard in the wilderness? What did the voice say? Who was the fulfilment of this prophecy? (Matt. 3. 1-3.) How did he prepare the way of the Lord? What is meant by "every valley shall be exalted?" etc.

III. VISION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST (Isa. 9. 6; 11. 1, 2).—Whose son was Jesus? How was he a rod (or shoot) out of the stem of Jesse? Where was he born? How long ago? What song did the angels sing at his birth? Who came from afar to see the child? How was he in his human nature prepared to be the Saviour of the world? (Isa. 11. 2; Luke 2. 40, 52.)

IV. VISION OF THE DIVINE REDEEMER (Isa. 9. 6, 7).—What names did the prophet apply to Christ? What is said of him in John 1. 1-3? Why is Jesus called the Wonderful? Why the Counsellor? Is he The Mighty God? Why is he called the Prince of Peace? Do we need all these qualities in our Redeemer? Why? What is said of his kingdom? Has that kingdom been continually increasing?

V. VISION OF THE WORK JESUS WAS TO DO FOR MEN (Isa. 11. 4, 9; 49. 13; 60. 1-3; 61. 1-3).—What was the Saviour to do for the poor and oppressed? Has he done it? What kind of a world was he to make this to be? What would he do for the heathen nations? Has the light and glory of Christianity attracted them? What has Jesus done for the broken-hearted? for mourners? for captives? Is Jesus still doing these things? What reasons have you to rejoice on Christmas day? How should you manifest your joy?

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN JEWISH HISTORY.

B.C. 640.] LESSON I. [Jan. 3.]

JOSIAH AND THE BOOK OF THE LAW.

2 Kings 22. 1-13. Commit to mem. v. 13.

GOLDEN TEXT.

He did that which was right in the sight of the Lord.—2 Kings 22. 2.

HOME READINGS.

M. 2 Kings 22. 1-13. Tu. 2 Chron. 24. 1-7. W. Deut. 31. 24-30. Th. Deut. 29. 14-29. F. 2 Kings 22. 14-20. Sa. Isa. 57. 13-21. Su. Matt. 5. 13-26.

TIME.—B.C. 640.

PLACE.—Jerusalem, capital of Judah.

INTRODUCTION.—Josiah began to reign when a child; chose the service of God when sixteen years old; was Judah's last good king, and fulfilled prophecies spoken of him long before. His evil successors prepared the way for the keen denunciations of the prophet who was Josiah's contemporary, Jeremiah, one of whose prophecies makes our next lesson.

EXPLANATIONS.—The way of David his father—"Father" is often used, meaning "ancestor." The way means the example. He followed the example of his ancestor, King David. Shaphan the scribe—Shaphan the writer or secretary. He was the king's private secretary. Book of the law—Some portion of what now forms our Old Testament. It was a roll or parchment which had been covered up and lost in the decay of the temple. Rent his clothes—The approved and formal way of expressing grief, anger, or sorrow. The act is frequently mentioned in the Scriptures.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

I. THE RIGHTEOUS KING (v. 1, 2).—Over what kingdom did Josiah reign? At what age was he made king? How long did he reign? What is said of his conduct? What is the advice of the wise man in Prov. 4. 27?

II. THE HOUSE OF THE LORD (v. 3-7).—To whom did the king send a message? Of what did he ask an account? Where was this money kept? 2 Kings 12. 9. To whom was the money to be given? For what purpose? How did the king recognize the honesty of the workmen?

III. THE BOOK OF THE LAW (v. 8-13).—What report did Shaphan bring to the king? What discovery did he announce? Where was the book found? 2 Chron. 34. 14? What did the scribe read? What did Josiah do on hearing the law? What did he mean by this act? Whom did the king summon in council? What did he desire to know? What had the neglect of the law brought upon the people?

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where in this lesson are we taught—

1. To be careful of God's house?
2. To be faithful in his service?
3. To be careful of his word?

THE LESSON CATECHISM. (For the entire school.)

1. Who was Josiah? The best of all the kings of Judah. 2. What is said of Josiah in the Golden Text? He did, etc. 3. What good work did he do? He destroyed the idols in Judah. 4. What lost book was found during his reign? The book of God's law. 5. What did Josiah do with the law? He read and obeyed it.

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