

THE BLINDING EFFECT OF SIN—
TEMPERANCE LESSON

June 22, 1913

Amos 6 : 1-8—Memory Verses, 7, 8.

Golden Text—Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live.—Amos 5 : 14.

1 Woe to them *that are* at ease in Zi'on, and trust in the mountain of San.ar'ia, *which are* named chief of the nations, to whom the house of Is'rael came !

2 Pass ye unto Cal'neh, and see ; and from thence go ye to Ha'math the great : then go down to Gath of the Phil'istines : *be they* better than these kingdoms ? or their border greater than your border ?

3 Ye that put far away the evil day, and cause the seat of violence to come near ;

4 That lie upon beds of ivory, and stretch themselves upon their couches, and eat the lambs out of the flock, and the calves out of the midst of the stall ;

5 That chant to the sound of the viol, and invent to themselves instruments of musick, like Da'vid ;

6 That drink wine in bowls, and anoint themselves with the chief ointments : but they are not grieved for the affliction of Jo'seph.

7 Therefore now shall they go captive with the first that go captive, and the banquet of them that stretched themselves shall be removed.

8 The Lord God hath sworn by himself, saith the Lord the God of hosts, I abhor the excellency of Ja'cob, and hate his palaces : therefore will I deliver up the city with all that is therein.

THE LESSON RETOLD

The words of our Lesson for to-day were spoken many years after the descendants of Joseph and his brothers had left the land of Egypt, and gone back again to the land of Canaan. They were God's own chosen people, now called Israel, and He had made them a great nation, rich and powerful. But they were not filled with thankfulness and gratitude to God for this. They boasted that they had won for themselves their riches and their greatness, and gave themselves up to idleness and drunkenness and sin.

Then God sent to them one prophet after another, calling upon them to give up their wickedness and become His obedient children once more. But they mocked these messengers of God, and went on in their sinful ways. So God sent to them a prophet with a different message—a message that He would now send upon them evil and punishment because they had not obeyed His warnings. The name of the prophet whom God sent to Israel

at this time was Amos. Amos was a shepherd,—a simple herdsman of Judah, when God's voice called to him to go down to the great wicked cities of Israel and tell the people there of the calamities that were coming upon them because of their sins.

So Amos came down to Samaria, and there in the streets he cried his message from the Lord. He told of the woes that were coming upon those who were living lives of ease and luxury, and paying no heed to the many enemies that were around them. They trusted in the strength of the walls of Samaria, but they had only to look at other cities that had once been as strong as theirs—Calneh, Hamath and Gath of the Philistines—upon whom God's judgment had fallen, and how could Samaria hope to escape ?

Thus the simple shepherd spoke burning words against those who would not give heed to the warnings that God had sent them ; who spent their days in idleness, who feasted on delicacies, who drank wine till they were