

pended to make way for a rapid survey of the life of Jesus which we have just closed. This lesson, therefore, connects closely with Lesson X, December 4, 1904, *The Opening of the Temple by Hezekiah*, and with Lesson XI, December 11, 1904, *The Captivity of the Ten Tribes*. Verses 1-8, immediately preceding the printed lesson, tell of Sennacherib's descent upon the fortified cities of Judah, and of the measures taken by Hezekiah for the defense of Jerusalem. Note "all" in 2 Kings 18. 13 and Isa. 36. 1.

IV. *Our Lesson Passage Naturally Divides* before and after verse 20. A Simple Analysis: 1. The blasphemous challenge of the Assyrians, verses 9-19. 2. The Prayer to Jehovah, verse 20. 3. The answer of Jehovah, verses 21-23.

V. *Comparative Study of the Lesson Text*. Most of the changes made by the Revision here are unimportant. Instead of "the siege" (verse 10) the margin reads "the stronghold"; instead of "utterly destroyed" (verse 14), "devoted"; instead of "God" (verse 5), "gods"; instead of "magnified" (verse 23), "exalted." While vigorously defending Jerusalem and Lachish, Hezekiah made unavailing efforts for peace (2 Kings 18. 14-16). The titles of the royal "servants" mentioned in verse 9 are given in 2 Kings 18. 17 (see also Isa. 36. 2); and the names of the deputation which Hezekiah sent to meet them, in Isa. 36. 3; 2 Kings 18. 18. The message of Sennacherib is given at greater length and in more picturesque phraseology in Isaiah and Kings. Hezekiah, who was expecting chariots and cavalry from Egypt, is derisively offered two thousand horses if he can set riders on them. The reason for the Assyrians' outcry in the Jews' speech expanded, 2 Kings 18. 28-37; Isa. 36. 13-22. The story of verse 20 is told at length in 2 Kings 19. 1-7, 15-34; Isa. 37. 1-7, 14-35; and the discomfiture of Sennacherib in 2 Kings 19. 35-37; Isa. 37. 36-38.

VI. *Special Article in this Magazine*: "Isaiah the Statesman."

The Junior Grade

[For pupils from nine to twelve years, inclusive. Each pupil, if possible, should be supplied with a copy of the Berean Quarterly.]

Preparing the Lesson.

For the Lesson Material and Study Material for the Teacher see paragraph on GENERAL PREPARATORY WORK, above.

Illustrative Material: The pictures in our Senior Quarterly will help in class conversation on the lesson. The upper one represents a detachment of Egyptian soldiers whom Hezekiah expected to help him, but whether they came or not he depended on the Lord his God to fight his battles. The lower picture represents the Assyrian soldiers, the "servants" of Sennacherib, of whom our lesson tells.

Getting Ready: 1. Study the Connecting Links above. 2. In studying the lesson passages follow the Simple Analysis given in paragraph IV of GENERAL PREPARATORY WORK, above. 3. The best introduction to the lesson is familiarity on the part of the pupil with the six passages of Scripture selected as LITTLE READINGS FOR EACH DAY. 4. This is a lesson in which the Golden Text may well be used as a softly in unison at the places indicated by the teacher.

Teaching the Lesson.

Suggestions for Developing the Outline: 1. *Sennacherib*. The story of this boastful soldier is told in our LETTER, Boys and Girls' Quarterly, page 66. Explain to the class his wicked disposition to fight everybody within his reach, his cruelty, the many kingdoms he conquered. No wonder Hezekiah was frightened when Sennacherib entered his country. In

forty-six battles Hezekiah's soldiers had been defeated, and the presents he sent to Sennacherib had done no lasting good. The two greatest fortresses in Hezekiah's country were Lachish and Jerusalem. Hezekiah himself was in Jerusalem. Sennacherib had surrounded Lachish with soldiers, and it would have to surrender very soon. He sent messengers to Jerusalem with the message which is given in verses 10-15. That message is full of sneers against Hezekiah and against God. Make plain the sneer of verse 11. Explain that what Sennacherib blames Hezekiah for in verse 12 was a good and religious thing to do. Notice the boast of verse 13, and the blasphemy of verses 14 and 15. Show why Sennacherib's messengers shouted their message in the Hebrew language, verse 18.

2. *Hezekiah and Isaiah*. There were just two great men at this time in the little kingdom of Judah. One was the king himself, a man who would have been great even if he had not been king; the other was Isaiah, with whom God talked. The people looked to these two men as their leaders, and when Sennacherib's messengers threatened the city these two men took all their troubles, and the troubles of the whole nation, to God in prayer.

3. *The Lord*. Show how God answered the prayer. He gave them a comforting answer and a promise to help them. He destroyed the power of Sennacherib so that he had to hurry home with disheartened troops. Some time afterward two of his own sons killed him. Jehovah greatly blessed Hezekiah for having trusted in him when in trouble; he made him greater than he had ever been before, and all nations honored him.

Home Work for Pupils.

Advance Work: 1. The text of next Sun-