

"But"—a people's sin in contrast with God's love and promises, vs. 5, 6.

"They"—God's people, of the kingdom of Judah. Question about the division, 250 years before this, of the kingdom which had reached the height of its glory under David and Solomon, and which had then fallen apart, forming two kingdoms—of Israel, and of Judah, respectively. Judah continued the line of David and Solomon, and of it was to come the Christ.

"Also"—looks back to vs. 1, etc. where Isaiah, God's prophet, warns the kingdom of Israel of God's judgments because of their transgressions: vs. 2-4 describe with strong poetic imagery the destruction which is to come upon them in their captivity by Assyria. Judah "also" has erred, and must likewise be punished.

It is a terrible state of things which the prophet describes, and it is only that the scholars may learn to hate the sins which are pictured, and to fear before the Lord who punishes, that such a lesson should be taught.

A drunken people, vs. 7, 8. The drunken-

ness described, with all its silliness and villainess is, alas! but too familiar. The milder and the stronger drinks, alike dangerous; the shame of priest and prophet, God's own men, ensnared and incapacitated by drink; feasts turned into foul orgies: these are some of the repulsive details.

A mocking people. Vs. 9, 10, as the *QUARTERLIES* and *TEACHERS MONTHLY* explain, are the mocking retorts to the prophet—"Baby talk," they cry, "your warnings; God's warnings!" The sinner is twice hardened, who not only break's God's law, but mocks God.

A doomed people. Vs. 11-13, again, are the prophet's reply to the mockers. "Yes," he says, "God has taught you as children, in plain words, easily understood and often repeated. And now by a people of 'stammering lips and another tongue', a foreign people, will He crush and destroy."

The way of wisdom and safety, as the teacher will show, is to follow God's teachings, to keep away from sin, and, when warned by God, to hearken.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



Note that Canaan is now (B.C. 725) divided into two kingdoms, Israel to the north and Judah to the south. The division took place 250 years prior to the Lesson. It was due to the revolt of ten out of the twelve tribes descended from Jacob's sons, against Rehoboam, the son and

successor of King Solomon (see 1 Kgs. 12: 1-24). The ten tribes formed the

kingdom of Israel, leaving two for the kingdom of Judah. The capital of Judah was Jerusalem, and of Israel, Samaria. At the time of the revolt, Jacob's descendants had been dwelling in Canaan 450 years after their return from the bondage of Egypt. For the greater part of this period they had been ruled by judges, and then by the three great kings, Saul, David and Solomon. In Isaiah's time the two kingdoms had a powerful foe in Babylon, their great neighbor to the east, whither the people of Israel, in B.C. 722, just three years after the date of the Lesson, and those of Judah, in B.C. 587, were carried away captive by their fierce and powerful foes.

ADDED HINTS AND HELPS

Some Test Questions

1. What is the date of the Lesson?
2. Into what two kingdoms had the Israelitish nation been divided? Name the capital of each.
3. By what foreign foe was Samaria soon to be besieged and destroyed?

4. What warning did Isaiah base upon the impending destruction of Samaria?
5. What was one of the special vices of both kingdoms?
6. To what classes in particular did Isaiah address his warning?
7. To what did they compare his utterances?