

the First and Second Commandments) . . ye shall not. They had sinned with full knowledge of God's will.

III. AFTER WARNINGS.—13-15. The Lord testified. By loving invitations and solemn warnings the Lord showed His eagerness to bless, His unwillingness to punish. **By prophets, and . . seers;** men who spoke for God. **Turn ye.** The back towards sin, the face God-wards, this is the repentance that brings blessing. **They would not hear.** God's loving words fell on heedless ears. **Hardened their necks;** like oxen setting their necks obstinately in the way they are bound to go. **Rejected.** They had not held to the covenant of Sinai, Ex. 19: 5-8. **Followed vanity** ("nothingness", a fit name for the idols which could give no help), and became vain ("weak," "helpless"). Sin saps strength.

16-18. Left . . the Lord their God. In forsaking the true God they opened the door for the false gods. The charges of vs. 7-12 are now repeated with three additions: (1) **Worshipped . . the host of heaven;** the stars. Star worship had probably been brought in from Assyria and Babylon. (2) **Caused . . sons . . daughters . . to pass through the fire;** burnt them as an act of worship to the heathen God, Moloch, 2 Chron. 28: 3. (3) **Used divination and enchantments;** seeking by magic to know future events, forbidden in Deut. 18: 10, 11. **Sold themselves.** Sin is the worst kind of slavery. **The Lord was very angry;** with glowing hatred of evil. **Removed;** sent them into a captivity, with no return (see v. 23).

DAILY READINGS

M.—Captivity of the ten tribes, 2 Kings 17: 1-12. T.—Captivity of the ten tribes, 2 Kings 17: 13-23. W.—Solemn warning, Deut. 30: 11-20. Th.—Judgments, Isa. 9: 8-17. F.—Result of disobedience, Prov. 1: 20-33. S.—A greater sin, Heb. 10: 23-31. S.—"Except ye repent," Luke 13: 1-10.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 129: 144; 100 (Ps. Sel.); 77: 586 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 127. **Shorter Catechism**—Ques. 55. *What is forbidden in the third commandment?* A. The third commandment forbiddeth all profaning or abusing of any thing whereby God makes himself known.

Prove from Scripture—That sin will be punished.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Juniors—What was Samaria? By what people was it captured? How long had the siege lasted?

8 Who was king of Israel at the time of the Lesson? What king of Assyria took Samaria? What did he do with many of its inhabitants?

7, 8 Against whom had Israel sinned? What had

God done for their nation? What did their sin show? By what nations had they been led astray? By what two of their kings especially?

9-12 What did the people of Israel pretend? What were they really doing? Which Commandments had been broken? In what way?

13-18 Through whom did God warn Israel? How did they treat these warnings? What was their great sin? In what way did God show His anger?

Seniors and the Home Department—Of what king had Hoshea become a vassal? (v. 3.) What had offended this king? (v. 4.) How did he show his displeasure? (v. 5.)

1 During what period was Assyria supreme in the East? Give the date of the fall of Samaria. How many Israelites were carried away as captives? Whither were they taken?

7-12 Why did Israel deserve punishment? To what two sources is their sin traced? In what did it consist? Why was it without excuse? Show that knowledge adds to the guilt of wrongdoing. (Matt. 21: 23-32.)

13-15 To what is Israel's obstinacy likened? What law illustrated in their history? (Gal. 6: 7, 8.)

Seek—Further Questions—Give Micah's prediction of the fall of Samaria. What proverb describes "the way of the transgressor?"

Topics for Brief Papers—(To be ready on the day of the Lesson)—1. The captivity of the ten tribes. 2. The sinner's harvest.

THE LESSON IN LIFE

1. The king of Habit Land is waiting to pounce upon us and carry off to his dungeons by the River of Despair all who are practising an evil life.

2. "Late, late, so late! and dark the night and chill! Late, late, so late! but we can enter still.

Too late, too late! ye cannot enter now"

3. Jason and his companions in search of the Golden Fleece were so charmed with the music of Orpheus, their companion, that they laughed at the songs of the sirens who had lured many a sailor to his ruin. A heart filled with heavenly melody will find no attraction in the voices of evil.

4. God scoops out the ocean-bed, and cuts the river-channel, and piles up the mountains, but He never forces the human will. If we will we can reject His mercy, and if we will we can accept its offers.

5. The day of grace will close for us all. The slouth of Justice will come up with the impenitent at last. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. To what nation did the Israelites become captive? Whither were they taken?.....

2. Describe the sin of Israel?.....

3. Why was this sin specially great?.....