

LESSON IX.

JEREMIAH IN THE DUNGEON

August 27, 1905

Jeremiah 38 : 1-13. Commit to memory vs. 8-10. Read chs. 37 to 39.

GOLDEN TEXT—Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.—Matthew 5 : 10.

1 ¹ Then Shephatiah the son of Mat'tan, and Gedaliah the son of ² Pashur, and Jucal the son of Shephatiah, and ³ Pashur the son of Malchiah, heard the words that Jeremiah ⁴ had spoken unto all the people, saying,

2 Thus saith the LORD, He that ⁴ remaineth in this city shall die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence: but he that goeth forth to the Chaldeans shall live; ⁵ for he shall have his life for a prey, and ⁶ shall live.

3 Thus saith the LORD, This city shall surely be given into the hand of the ¹ king of Babylon's army, which shall take it.

4 Therefore the princes said unto the king, ⁹ We beseech thee, let this man be put to death: ¹⁰ for thus he weakeneth the hands of the men of war that remain in this city, and the hands of all the people, in speaking such words unto them; for this man seeketh not the welfare of this people, but the hurt.

5 ¹¹ Then Zedekiah the king said, Behold, he is in your hand: for the king is not he that can do any thing against you.

6 Then took they Jeremiah, and east him into the dungeon of Malchiah the ¹² son of Hammelech, that was in the court of the ¹³ prison: and they let down Jeremiah with cords. And in the dungeon there was no water, but mire: ¹⁴ so Jeremiah sunk in the mire.

Revised Version—And Shephatiah: ² Pashhur; for: ⁶ he; ¹ army of the king of Babylon, and he ¹⁰ forasmuch as; ¹¹ and Zedekiah; ¹² king's son; ¹⁶ Omit for hunger; ¹⁷ because of the famine: for;

LESSON PLAN

- I. Jeremiah Accused, 1-4.
- II. Jeremiah Condemned, 5, 6.
- III. Jeremiah Rescued, 7-13.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association)

M.—Jeremiah imprisoned, Jer. 37 : 11-21. T.—Jeremiah in the dungeon, Jer. 38 : 1-13. W.—Jeremiah's prophecy, Jer. 21 : 1-10. Th.—Jeremiah accused, Jer. 26 : 8-16. F.—Reward of the Ethiopian, Jer. 39 : 11-18. S.—Boldness for the truth, Acts 5 : 17-32. S.—Persecution and comfort, Matt. 10 : 11-28.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 92. What is a**EXPOSITION**

Time and Place—Shortly before 587 B.C.; Jerusalem.

Connecting Links—Jehoiachin succeeded his father Jehoiakim, but after a reign of about three months he was carried away to Babylon, and with him was transported the flower of the nation, 2 Kgs. 24 : 14-16. Nebuchadnezzar then set upon the throne Zedekiah, a full brother of Jehoahaz (2 Kgs. 24 : 17-20); he reigned for eleven years (598-587 B. C.). "Early in the reign of Zedekiah an epidemic of revolt ran through all the states west of the Euphrates." (Davison.) Zedekiah joined the confederacy, and revolted from the Chaldeans or Babylonians. The result was that Jerusalem was besieged in 589 B.C., and in 587 B.C. was captured and

7 Now when Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, ¹⁵ one of the eunuchs which was in the king's house, heard that they had put Jeremiah in the dungeon; the king then sitting in the gate of Ben'jamin;

8 Ebed-melech went forth out of the king's house, and spake to the king, saying,

9 My lord the king, these men have done evil in all that they have done to Jeremiah the prophet, whom they have cast into the dungeon; and he is like to die ¹⁶ for hunger in the place where he is: ¹⁷ for there is no more bread in the city.

10 Then the king commanded Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, saying, Take from hence thirty men with thee, and take up Jeremiah the prophet out of the dungeon, before he die.

11 So Ebed-melech took the men with him, and went into the house of the king under the treasury, and took thence old cast clouts and old rotten rags, and let them down by cords into the dungeon to Jeremiah.

12 And Ebed-melech the Ethiopian said unto Jeremiah, Put now these old cast clouts and rotten rags under thine armholes under the cords. And Jeremiah did so.

13 So they drew up Jeremiah with ¹⁴ cords, and took him up out of the dungeon: and Jeremiah remained in the court of the ¹⁵ prison.

¹⁶ spake; ¹⁷ abideth; ¹⁸ and his life shall be unto him shall; ¹⁹ Then; ²⁰ Let this man, we pray thee, be; ²¹ guard; ²² and Jeremiah sank; ²³ an eunuch; ²⁴ the.

sacrament? A. A sacrament is an holy ordinance instituted by Christ: wherein, by sensible signs, Christ, and the benefits of the new covenant, are represented, sealed, and applied to believers.

The Question on Missions—33. What have the children of our church specially done to help mission work in the New Hebrides? The children of our church have assisted in raising funds to provide native teachers, and to build a vessel for the use of the mission. This vessel, "The Dayspring," sailed from Nova Scotia, October, 1863, carrying three ordained missionaries. A steamer now plies between Australia and the islands.

Le son Hymns—Book of Praise, Ps. Sel. 97 (Supplemental Lesson); 250; 246; 34 (Ps. Sel.); 255 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 251.

destroyed. Jeremiah regarded Zedekiah's action as foolhardy, and urged surrender to the Babylonians. His attitude made him extremely unpopular with the war party, who were in the majority. He was imprisoned, but afterwards released by the king, ch. 37 : 11-21. Our Lesson tells us of a second arrest.

I. Jeremiah Accused, 1-4.

Vs. 1, 2. *Shephatiah. Gedaliah. Jucal. Pashur.* These four princes, who were foremost among Zedekiah's counsellors, were evidently leaders of the revolt against the Chaldeans, and were determined that Jeremiah's mouth should be stopped. *Heard the words,* etc. Jeremiah was not afraid to