

S. S. LESSONS.

Select Notes on International S. S. Lessons,
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LESSON XII. JUNE 17, 1877**THE CAPTIVITY OF ISRAEL. 2 KINGS 17:6-18.**

6. In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria, etc. A very important event in the history of the Hebrews is the withholding of their tribute from the Assyrians by both the kings of Israel and Judah.

7, 8. For so it was that the children of Israel had sinned, etc. The historian proceeds immediately to assign the moral grounds for the hopeless captivity of the ten tribes.

9. Laid secretly those things which were not right. The signification of this passage is somewhat doubtful.

10. And they set them up images. Among the earliest objects of worship regarded as symbols of deity were the meteoric stones which the ancients believed to have been the images of the gods sent down from heaven.

13. Yet the Lord testified. God might in justice have been content with the giving of the law and the plain denunciations therein contained of such sins as those into which the Israelites fell; but in mercy he did more; he raised up prophets and seers to warn them and teach them.

14. Hardened their necks. A common Hebrew expression, taken from the driving of oxen, significative of unbounding obstinacy and determined self-will.

15. They followed vanity. As an idol is "nothing in the world" (1 Cor. 8:4), mere weakness and "impotence," the sacred writers give to idols and idolatry a variety of names denoting this emptiness and nothingness.

16. Two calves. See Lesson II, **First Quarter**, on v. 28.

17. They caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire. It is with Molech that human sacrifices are usually connected in Scripture.

LESSON XIII. JUNE 24, 1877.**REVIEW. NAHUM 1:1-13.**

1. The burden of Nineveh. It is a burden to wicked men to be told of their sins and foretold of their punishment.

2. A jealous God. These words very strikingly exhibit the peculiar feeling with which Jehovah regards all rivalry in the affections and homage of his subjects.

3. The Lord is slow to anger, etc. There

are two things in this verse: He is "slow to anger," and yet he "will not at all acquit the wicked."

4. He rebuketh the sea. In the rebuking of the sea is an allusion to the drying up of the Red Sea for the Israelites to pass through, but it is generalized here and extended to every sea and river which the Almighty can smite in his wrath and cause to dry up.

5. The mountains quake at him—the hills melt. Not properly "at him" but "before him," because of him.

7. The Lord is good. By a sudden yet most expressive transition, this same God is a glorious refuge for his people.

8. But with an overrunning flood. The metaphor of a river impetuously overflowing its banks, rushing into the adjacent country and passing through, carrying all before it, is employed to denote the ruthless invasion of a country by a hostile and powerful army.

10. While they be folden together as horns. Though your armies move in phalanx closely interlaced, as thorns they shall be devoured as stubble fully dry.

11. There is one come out of thee. Sennacherib or Rabshakeh.

12. Though they be quiet, etc. The word "quiet" more properly means "complete furnished with every appliance for success."

LESSON I. JULY 1, 1877.**PAUL IN CYPRUS. ACTS 13:1-13.**

1. Antioch. As the first city in which a church gathered directly from the Gentiles was founded, and as the spot where the illustrious name of "Christian" was first heard, Antioch has special claims to our regard, and has the right to be looked upon as the mother church of Gentile Christendom.

2. As they ministered to the Lord, etc. It is possible that they were observing a season of prayer with reference to this very question.

3. Laid their hands on them. Here, then, is the simple, beautiful, apostolic; practice of setting apart holy men for their work.

4. Departed unto Selucia. Selucia was about fifteen miles from Antioch, on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, at the mouth of the river Orontes.

6. They had also John to their minister. Their attendant and helper.

6. This was a place notorious for its licentiousness even in that age.

7. Was with the deputy. It may appear singular that a person of his character should so mislead and captivate the prudent Sergius.

8. Elymas is an Arabic word which means the wise.