

Lesson III. **MANASSEH'S WICKEDNESS AND PENITENCE** July 16, 1911

2 Chronicles 33 : 1-13. Study 2 Chronicles 33 : 1-20—Memory Verses, 12, 13.

**Golden Text**—Cease to do evil ; learn to do well.—Isaiah 1 : 16, 17.

1 Manas's'eh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and five years in Jeru'salem :

2 But did *that which was evil* in the sight of the LORD, like unto the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Is'rael.

3 For he built again the high places which Heze-ki'ah his father had broken down, and he reared up altars for Ba'alim, and made groves, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them.

4 Also he built altars in the house of the LORD, whereof the LORD had said, In Jeru'salem shall my name be for ever.

5 And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD.

6 And he caused his children to pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hin'nom : also he observed times, and used enchantments, and used witchcraft, and dealt with a familiar spirit, and with wizards : he wrought much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.

7 And he set a carved image, the idol which he had made, in the house of God, of which God had said to Da'vid and to Sol'omon his son, In this house, and in Jeru'salem, which I have chosen before all the tribes of Is'rael, will I put my name for ever :

8 Neither will I any more remove the foot of Is'rael from out of the land which I have appointed for your fathers ; so that they will take heed to do all that I have commanded them, according to the whole law and the statutes and the ordinances by the hand of Mo'ses.

9 So Manas's'eh made Ju'dah and the inhabitants of Jeru'salem to err, and to do worse than the heathen,

whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Is'rael.

10 And the LORD spake to Manas's'eh, and to his people ; but they would not hearken.

11 Wherefore the LORD brought upon them the captains of the host of the king of Assy'ia, which took Manas's'eh among the thorns, and bound him with fetters, and carried him to Bab'y'lon.

12 And when he was in affliction, he besought the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers.

13 And prayed unto him : and he was intreated of him, and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jeru'salem into his kingdom. Then Manas's'eh knew that the LORD he was God.

**THE LESSON RETOLD**

Manasseh was one of the kings of Judah. He was the son of good King Hezekiah ; but Manasseh was not good, he was very wicked. He did not worship God, as his father had done, but worshiped instead the sun, the moon and the stars. He built up again the places for the worship of idols which his father had destroyed, and made altars for idols in the courts round the temple, which God had bidden His people keep holy and sacred, and had even set up an idol in the temple itself.

Besides, he made his children pass through blazing fires to please his idols, and he did a great many other wicked things which the Lord had commanded the children of Israel not to do. He put to death, also, many persons in Jerusalem who had done no wrong. So that he did more wickedly and caused the people to do more wickedly than the heathen peoples round about them.

The Lord spoke to Manasseh and to his people through His prophets about their sins ; but they would not listen. So the Lord brought against them the armies of their enemies the Assyrians, who came and took Manasseh prisoner, bound him with chains, and carried him away to Babylon.

There, in his trouble, far away from home, he felt sorry for his sins and prayed with all his heart to the Lord. The Lord heard him, and was kind to him and brought him back to Jerusalem. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord was the one true God, and he took away the idol which he had set up in the temple, and all the altars he had built in the courts round the temple, and threw them out of the city. And he repaired the altar of the Lord, and offered up sacrifices on it. Manasseh was king over Judah for fifty-five years. At last he died and was buried in the garden of his palace at Jerusalem. Amon, his son, was