

The King Who Made Israel to Sin—What a very dreadful way to be remembered! How good it is to lead others to worship God in the right way! Never start a wrong thing. It may lead others to sin.

Safety First—We hear a great deal about "Safety First" nowadays. School children

are wearing little buttons to remind them to look out for danger. Our Lesson teaches us that "God First" means safety. If we follow Him only and keep on the right track we are safe. Let us draw a little button GOD FIRST.

What the Lesson Teaches Me—I SHOULD WORSHIP GOD ONLY.

FROM THE PLATFORM

IDOLATRY PLANNED PRACTISED

Print on the blackboard the word IDOLATRY, and bring out, by questions, what it means,—the worship of idols in the place of the true God. Now ask, Who PLANNED (Print) idolatry in Israel? The scholars will answer, "Jeroboam," and the discussion should bring out clearly why he set up the two golden calves, one at Bethel and the other at Dan,—the fear that, if his people went up to Jerusalem to worship, they would return to their allegiance to Rehoboam. The scholars should be asked for an account of Jeroboam's plan in detail. Raise, at this point, the question whether the use of Rehoboam's images was necessarily idolatry. The conclusion (see Lesson Explained) will be that it was not, but that it was likely to lead to the worship of the images themselves, in place of the worship of God through them. Print PRACTISED, and bring out the extent to which the new worship prevailed. Emphasize God's sole claim on our worship.

Lesson VIII.

ASA'S GOOD REIGN

August 22, 1915

2 Chronicles 15 : 1-15. Commit to memory vs. 1, 2.

GOLDEN TEXT—Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.—James 4 : 8.

1 And the ¹Spirit of God came upon Azari'ah the son of O'ded :

2 And he went out to meet A'sa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, A'sa, and all Ju'dah and Ben'jamin : ³The Lord is with you, while ye be with him ; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you ; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you.

3 Now for ⁴a long season Is'rael hath been without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law.

4 ⁵But when they in their trouble did turn unto the Lord God of Is'rael, and sought him, he was found of them.

5 And in those times there was no peace to him that went out, nor to him that came in, but great vexations were upon all the inhabitants of the ⁶countries.

6 And ⁷a nation was destroyed of nation, and city of city : for God did vex them with all adversity.

7 ⁸Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be ⁹weak : for your work shall be rewarded.

8 And when A'sa heard these words, and the prophecy of O'ded the prophet, he took courage, and put away the ¹⁰abominable idols out of all the land of Ju'dah and Ben'jamin, and out of the cities which he had taken from ¹¹mount E'phraim, and ¹²renewed the altar

of the LORD, that was before the porch of the LORD.

9 And he gathered all Ju'dah and Ben'jamin, and ¹³the strangers with them out of E'phraim and Manas'seh, and out of Sim'eon : for they fell to him out of Is'rael in abundance, when they saw that the Lord his God was with him.

10 So they gathered themselves together at Jeru'salem in the third month, in the fifteenth year of the reign of A'sa.

11 And they ¹⁴offered unto the LORD ¹⁵the same time, of the spoil which they had brought, seven hundred oxen and seven thousand sheep.

12 And they entered into ¹⁶a covenant to seek the LORD ¹⁷God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul :

13 ¹⁸That whosoever would not seek the LORD ¹⁹God of Is'rael should be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman.

14 And they swore unto the LORD with a loud voice, and with shouting, and with trumpets, and with cornets.

15 And all Ju'dah rejoiced at the oath : for they had sworn with all their heart, and sought him with their whole desire ; and he was found of them : and the LORD gave them rest round about.

Revised Version—¹spirit (small "s") ; ²the (small "t") ; ³long seasons ; ⁴but when in their distress they turned unto the Lord, the God ; ⁵lands ; ⁶they were broken in pieces, nation against nation, and city against city ; ⁷But be ye strong, and let ; ⁸slack ; ⁹abominations ; ¹⁰the hill country of Ephraim ; ¹¹he ; ¹²them that sojournd with them ; ¹³sacrificed unto ; ¹⁴in that day ; ¹⁵the ; ¹⁶and that.