



LESSON I—JULY 3.

The Kingdom Divided.

I. Kings xii., 16-25. Memory verses, 16-19. Read the whole chapter.

Golden Text.

'A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.'—Prov. xv., 1.

Home Readings.

- M. I. Kin. xi., 4-13.—Solomon's sin.
- T. I. Kin. xi., 14-25.—Solomon's adversaries.
- W. I. Kin. xi., 26-43.—The great revolt predicted.
- T. I. Kin. xii., 1-33.—The kingdom divided.
- F. I. Kin. xiii., 1-34.—Jeroboam and the man of God.
- S. II. Chron. xii., 1-16.—Rehoboam's reign.
- S. II. Chron. xiii., 1-22.—Jeroboam's defeat and death.

Lesson Story.

We have just finished learning how our Lord made the New Covenant or Testament with his own life-blood, we are to learn from these Old Testament stories why the New Testament was needed.

David, the man after God's own heart, who had repented most deeply his dreadful sin, had been king over Israel for forty years. His son Solomon, 'the wise king,' reigned after him forty years, and Rehoboam, Solomon's son, expected to reign after him. But God had promised Jeroboam (I. Kings xi., 29-38) that he should be king over ten of the twelve tribes of Israel. When Rehoboam went to Shechem to be crowned, all the people demanded that he should deal better with them than his father had done, and make their yoke easier. He promised them an answer in three days.

Rehoboam consulted with the old men who had been his father's counsellors, they advised him to be gentle, but he paid no attention to their counsel. He obeyed instead the foolish advice of the young men his companions, to speak roughly to the people; and promised to be much more cruel than was his father Solomon.

But the nation refused to submit to such a king and curtly answered that Rehoboam might reign over his own tribe, Judah. Rehoboam made one more attempt to secure Israel's submission, by sending Adoram, one of his most trusted officers, probably to make concessions to them and seek to win them back. But the people stoned Adoram and he died in the sight of his king.

The ten tribes made Jeroboam their king. Rehoboam fled to Jerusalem and got together 180,000 warriors to fight against the rebellious tribes, but God sent a prophet to forbid their going to war.

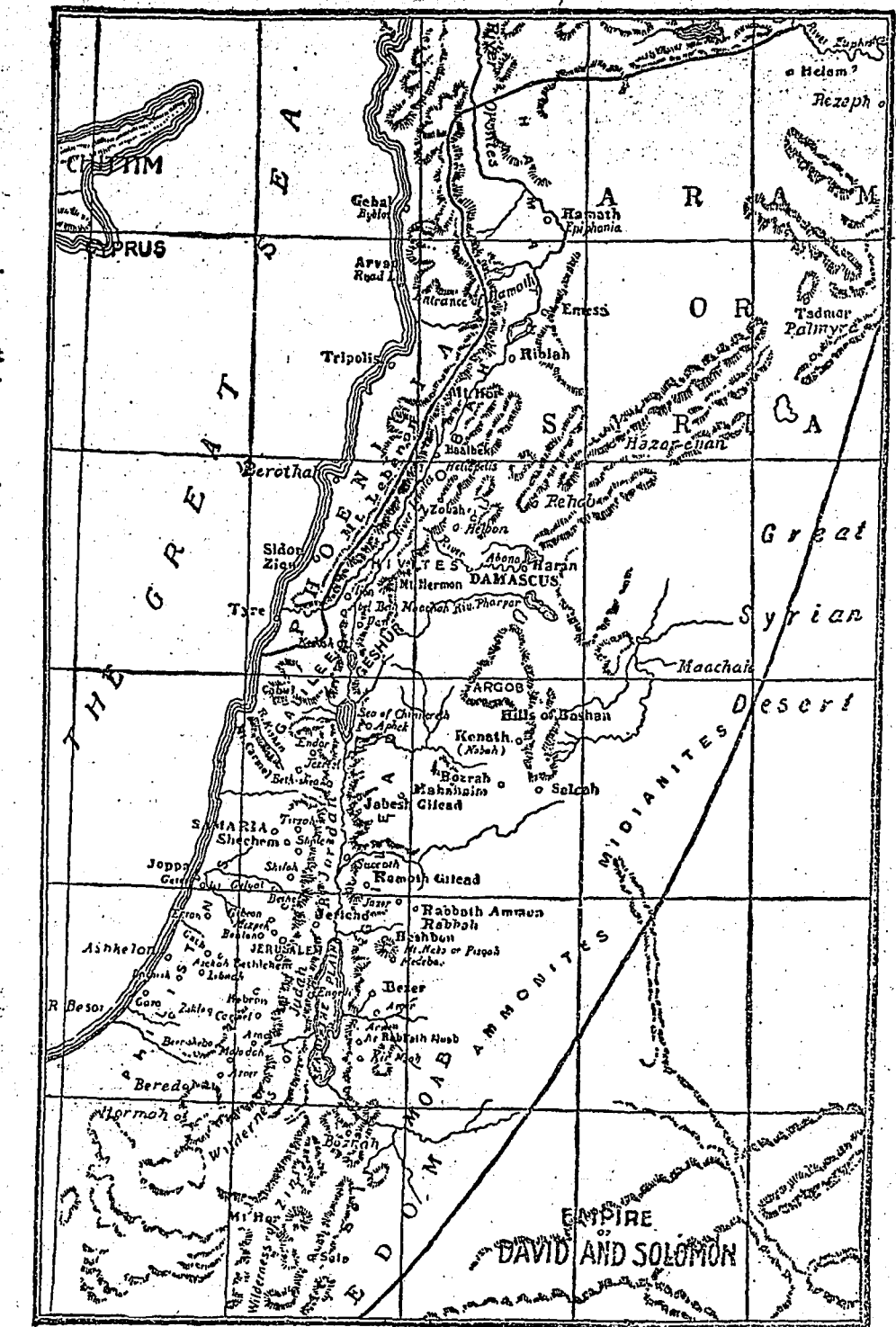
Questions to Be Studied at Home.

1. What was the name of Jeroboam's father?
2. Whose son was Rehoboam?
3. Over what portion of the kingdom did Rehoboam reign?
4. Was Jeroboam a good man?
5. About what date did this division of the kingdom take place?
6. How does the Golden Text apply to the lesson?

Lesson Hints.

Use the map for every lesson. Let the scholars each make their own maps when possible, drawing at first only the outlines and putting in the names of the cities as they are mentioned in the lessons. The primary classes should have sand maps as well as pictures. Let the scholars write on the back of their maps some incident connected with each city, for instance, 'Shechem'—Revolt of the ten tribes of Israel.

One of the most important duties of a teacher is to see that each scholar reads his lesson from the bible. If the scholar has a bible of his own encourage him to bring it



every Sunday, if not, the Sunday-school may provide them, but every boy and girl should have a bible of his or her own. The Sunday-school lesson must be read from the book of God's law, or else it loses most of its impressiveness. Certainly a child who reads a few verses here and a few verses there, from a lesson leaf can gain no idea of the sacred continuity and majestic oneness of the scriptures.

Young people enjoy hunting up verses and parallel facts for the lesson. Each one should be thoroughly familiar with his bible, learning the names of the books in order and forming some idea of the length of each book so as to find passages quickly and with ease.

If our young people are not taught the use of the bible in Sunday-school how can they be expected to become familiar with it during the week? Or how shall they know to base their life and love upon it when Sunday-school days are over for them?

Suggested Hymns.

'Who is on the Lord's side?' 'Stand up, stand up for Jesus,' 'Hear the battle-cry,' 'There's a Royal Banner,' 'Onward Christian soldiers.'

Practical Points.

A. H. CAMERON.

JULY 3.

The voice of the people is sometimes the voice of God. Verse 16.

Loyalty to Christ demands that we obey our rulers only in as far as their laws are based upon justice and truth. Verse 17.

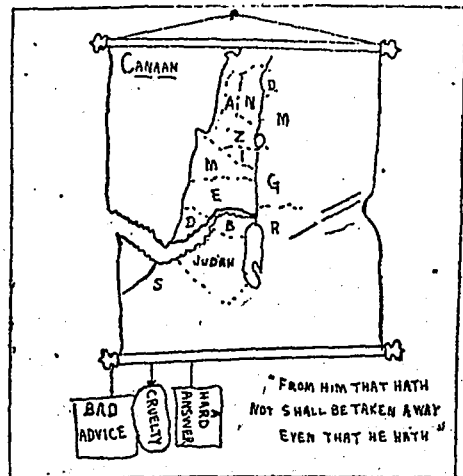
God's sovereignty will never lessen man's responsibility. Verses 18, 19 and verse 15.

The Lord setteth down one and raiseth up another. Verse 20.

God's ways are always better than ours, therefore we should never fight against them. Verses 21-24.

A new kingdom requires a new seat of government. So when Jesus comes to reign in our hearts every gate should be thrown open to receive him. Verse 25.

The Lesson Illustrated.



Christian Endeavor Topics.

July 3.—Honoring father and mother.—Eph. vi., 14; Prov. xvii., 6, 21, 25.