

2 Kings 12 : 4-15. Commit to memory vs. 9-12. Read 2 Kings chs. 12 to 15.

GOLDEN TEXT—We will not forsake the house of our God.—Neh. 10 : 39.

4 And Jeho'ash said to the priests, All the money of the dedicated things that is brought into the house of the LORD, ² even the money of every one that passeth *the account*, the money that every man is set at, and all the money that ³ cometh into any man's heart to bring into the house of the LORD,

5 Let the priests take it to them, every man ⁴ of his acquaintance; and ⁵ let them repair the breaches of the house, wheresoever any breach shall be found.

6 But it was so, *that* in the three and ³ twentieth year of king Jeho'ash the priests had not repaired the breaches of the house.

7 Then king Jeho'ash called for Jehoi'ada the priest, and ⁶ the other priests, and said unto them, Why repair ye not the breaches of the house? now therefore ⁷ receive no more money ⁴ of your acquaintance, but deliver it for the breaches of the house.

8 And the priests consented ⁸ to receive no more money of the people, neither to repair the breaches of the house.

9 But Jehoi'ada the priest took a chest, and bored a hole in the lid of it, and set it beside the altar, on the right side as one cometh into the house of the LORD; and the priests that kept the door put therein

all the money *that was* brought into the house of the LORD.

10 And it was so, when they saw that *there was* much money in the chest, that the king's scribe and the high priest came up, and they put up in bags, and told the money that was found in the house of the LORD.

11 And they gave the money, ⁹ being told, into the hands of them that did the work, that had the oversight of the house of the LORD; and they ¹⁰ laid it out to the carpenters and ¹¹ builders, that wrought upon the house of the LORD,

12 And to ¹¹ masons, and ¹¹ hewers of stone, and ¹² to buy timber and ¹³ hewed stone to repair the breaches of the house of the LORD, and for all that was laid out for the house to repair *it*.

13 ¹⁴ Howbeit there were not made for the house of the LORD ¹⁵ bowls of silver, snuffers, basins, trumpets, any vessels of gold, or vessels of silver, of the money *that was* brought into the house of the LORD:

14 ¹⁶ But they gave that to ¹⁷ the workmen, and repaired therewith the house of the LORD.

15 Moreover they reckoned not with the men, into whose hand they delivered the money to ¹⁸ be bestowed on ¹⁷ workmen: for they dealt faithfully.

Revised Version—¹ hallowed; ² in current money, the money of the persons for whom each man is rated, and; ³ it; ⁴ from; ⁵ they shall repair; ⁶ for; ⁷ take; ⁸ that they should take; ⁹ that was weighed out; ¹⁰ paid; ¹¹ the; ¹² for buying; ¹³ hewn; ¹⁴ But; ¹⁵ cups; ¹⁶ for; ¹⁷ them that did the work; ¹⁸ to give to.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

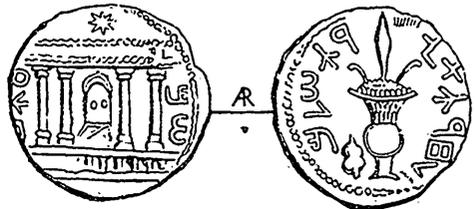
Time and Place—About 856 B.C.; Jerusalem, the capital of Judah.

Connection—At the coronation of Joash, Jehoiada the high priest had pledged king and people to the service of Jehovah (ch. 11 : 17), and an onslaught was made on Baal worship, v. 18. Joash was then a child of seven, v. 21. The Lesson of to-day begins, doubtless, some years later.

I. THE KING'S COMMAND.—4-6. Jehoash; another form of Joash. Said to the priests; taking this step of his own accord (see 2 Chron. 24 : 4). He had now grown to manhood. The temple had suffered greatly from the depredations of the wicked Athaliah's sons, 2 Chron. 24 : 7. **Money of the dedicated things** (holy gifts) . . . brought into the house of the Lord; the temple. The money was for the provision of vessels and implements for temple service. It came from three sources: (1) **Money of every one that passeth the account**; that is, numbered in the census, the half shekel (32¢) paid into the temple by every male Israelite on attaining the age of twenty years, Ex. 30 : 13. (2) **That every man is set at**; the amount fixed by law (Lev. 27 : 2-13) to be paid by those who had made a vow to the Lord. **That cometh into any man's heart to bring**; free will offerings. Lev. 22 : 18-23; Deut. 16 : 10, state the nature and occasions of such free will offerings. **Let the priests take it**. Each priest was to be a collector in the place where he lived, as we are told in 2 Chron. 24 : 5. Every man (priest) of his acquaintance; those to whom he was best known. **Repair the breaches**; the damage caused by long neglect, or by such violence as that of Athaliah's sons.

II. THE PRIESTS' NEGLIGENCE.—6-8. In the three and twentieth year; when Joash was

thirty years old, ch. 11 : 21. **The priests had not repaired**. Their orders had been to "hasten the matter," 2 Chron. 24 : 5. They seem to have shown little energy in gathering money. Probably only a small amount had come in, and this had likely been applied to their own support. **Called for Jehoiada**; who, as high priest, had chief charge of the work. He was now very old, which may account for the lack of energy shown. **Why repair ye not? No answer is given to the question**. There was no excuse to be made. **Receive ye no more money**. They were to make no more collections and be re-



A Shekel belonging to 69 A.D. On one side is a four-pillared temple, and the name in Hebrew of Simon, then ruling in Jerusalem; on the other, the Hebrew for "The Deliverance of Jerusalem," with a bunch of branches and a citron, referring to the harvest Feast of Tabernacles.

sponsible for no more repairs. A different method was to be adopted. **But deliver it**; allow it to be delivered in a new way appointed by the king, who now took the matter into his own hands.

III. THE PEOPLE'S GIFTS.—9, 10. Took a chest; at the king's command, 2 Chron. 24 : 8. **Beside the altar . . . right side**; where it could be seen from the entrance. The altar spoken of was the brazen altar in the temple court. **The priests**