

Lesson III.

ASA'S GOOD REIGN IN JUDAH

January 15, 1911

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—Rehoboam, the first king of Judah, reigned seventeen years, and was succeeded by his son Abijah, who reigned for only three years. Asa, the son of Abijah, then became king of Judah, and reigned forty-one years. The Lesson describes an incident in his reign not mentioned in Kings. **GOLDEN TEXT**—Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded. — 2 Chronicles 15: 7.

Memorize vs. 1, 2. **THE LESSON PASSAGE**—2 Chronicles 15: 1-15. Read chs. 14-16; 1 Kings 15: 9-24.

1 And the ¹ Spirit of God came upon Azari'ah the son of O'ed;

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; The 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 ² a long season Is'rael hath been without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law.

4 But when ² 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 ⁴ countries.

6 And ² nation was destroyed of nation, and city ⁶ of city: for God did vex them with all adversity.

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

8 And when A'sa heard these words, and the prophecy of O'ed the prophet, he took courage, and put away the ⁹ abominable idols out of all the land of Ju'dah and Ben'jamin, and out of the cities which he had taken from ¹⁰ mount E'phraim, and ¹¹ renewed

Revised Version—I spirit (small s); ² long seasons; ³ in their distress they turned unto the Lord, the God; ⁴ lands; ⁵ they were broken in pieces nation against nation; ⁶ against; ⁷ But be ye strong, and; ⁸ slack; ⁹ abominations out of; ¹⁰ the hill country of Ephraim; ¹¹ he; ¹² them that sojourned with; ¹³ sacrificed; ¹⁴ in that day; ¹⁵ the; ¹⁶ and that; ¹⁷ the.

Daily Readings—(Courtesy, I.B.R.A.)—M.—Rest and prosperity, 2 Chron. 14: 1-15. T.—Asa's good reign in Judah, 2 Chron. 15: 1-15. W.—Asa's mistake, 2 Chron. 16: 1-10. Th.—Joshua's covenant, Josh. 24: 14-25. F.—Seeking the Lord, Isa. 55. S.—Trust and safety, Ps. 16. S.—Joyful service, Ps. 99, 100

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. THE PROPHET'S MESSAGE

—1, 2. The Spirit of God; who reveals God's will to men. Azari'ah; a prophet, that is, one who speaks for God. To meet Asa; on the king's return to Jerusalem from his victory over Zerah the Ethiopian, an Egyptian king who had invaded Judah, ch. 14: 9-15. Hear ye me; for I bring a message from God. The Lord is with you. It was through God's help that Asa had won his victory, ch. 14: 11. While ye be with him. Only when we are on God's side, doing His will, can we claim His protection and blessing. Seek him; turn to Him in love and obedience. Will be found; because He is always seeking us, John 4: 23. Forsake him; cease to love and obey Him. Forsake you; withdraw His favor.

3, 4. For a long season; Rev. Ver., "for long seasons". The prophet points king and people back to the past history of Israel. Without the true God; without the knowledge of Him, like the heathen to-day, or without His worship and service. For such times see Judg. 2: 10-16. Without a teaching priest; one to teach the people about the

altar of the Lord, that was before the porch of the Lord.

9 And he gathered all Ju'dah and Ben'jamin, and ¹² the strangers with them out of E'phraim and Manas'seh, and out of Sim'oon: 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 fiftieth year of the reign of A'sa.

11 And they ¹³ offered unto the Lord ¹⁴ the same time, of the spoil which they had brought, seven hundred oxen and seven thousand sheep.

12 And they entered into ¹⁵ a covenant to seek the Lord ¹⁶ God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul;

13 ¹⁷ That whosoever would not seek the Lord ¹⁸ God 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.



true God and His will, like our ministers to-day. Without law; so that every one did as he pleased, Judg. 17: 6; 21: 25. In their trouble; when suffering came upon them because they had broken God's commandments. Did turn; repenting of their sins. The Lord God of Israel; their rightful Ruler and best Friend. Sought him; their backs toward sin and their faces toward God. Found of them. More willing He to receive them, than they to come to Him. (See Judg. 10: 15, 16, etc.)

5-7. No peace, etc. Travelers could not journey safely on the highways for fear of robbers, Judg.

5: 6. Great vexations; sore troubles. Countries; the different districts of Palestine. Nation . . . nation. See Judg. 20: 33-48. City . . . city. See Judg. 9: 45. God did vex them; afflict them, punish them for their rebellion. Be ye strong therefore; "be ye firm", that is, faithful to God, not forsaking Him as Israel did of old. Rewarded; with God's favor and blessing.

II. THE KING'S OBEDIENCE.—8-11. Prophecy of O'ed. Likely "Azariah the son of"