

[For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

Ask for the Lesson Title, and then gather the teaching round five questions concerning the "Book of the Law":

1. *What was the book like?* See Geography Lesson and QUARTERLIES.

2. *Where was the book found?* In answer to this question the scholars should be led to tell the story (v. 14) of Hilkiah the high priest's coming upon the roll in the temple, while he was bringing out the money for the repairs on the sacred building (see v. 9, last Lesson). Where had the book been hidden?

3. *What did the book contain?* It is generally believed to have been a copy of the Book of Deuteronomy. This should be turned up by the scholars in their Bibles, and the contents of, say ch. 28 scrutinized, with its blessings on those who obey God's law and its curses on the disobedient.

4. *To whom was the book first read?* The answer will be an account of Hilkiah's giving the book to Shaphan, who carried it to King

Josiah when he went to report the progress of the temple repairs and the payment of the workmen, and Shaphan's reading the book to the king. (Vs. 15-18.)

5. *What effect had the reading of the book on the king?* The scholars will tell of the king's horror, describing its Oriental mode of expression and explaining the reason for it. (Vs. 19-21.)

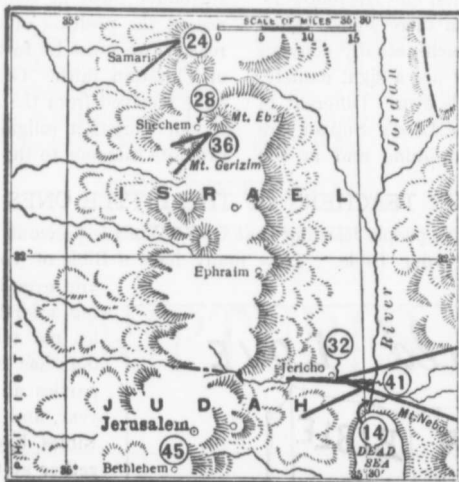
6. *To whom did the king have the book read?* Elicit an account of the great gathering in the court of the temple and the reading of the Book to the assembled multitude. (Vs. 29, 30.)

7. *What resulted from this public reading of the book?* Bring out the details regarding the covenant into which Josiah and his people entered with God to obey His law, and their carrying out of this covenant by destroying idolatry. (Vs. 31-33.) Obviously the lesson to impress is the duty of studying God's Word with the resolve to obey its teachings.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON

As you look through the stereoscope, you see the high priest who acts as leader of the present Shechem synagogue, standing beside the ancient treasure of his people. The material of the "book" is parchment. Many pieces of prepared skin are fastened together and their edges trimmed so as to form a long strip shaped like a web of cloth; the strip

is nearly as wide as the length of the priest's arm. The written characters ("drawn" rather than "written" seems to describe them) run in lines lengthwise of the long strip of parchment, so, for convenience in handling and reading, each end of the strip is



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fastened to a stout rod on which part of the strip may be rolled as we roll a wall map. While reading, it would be necessary to keep rolling the strip from one rod to the other. The upper end of each rod is finished with a big ornamental knob of silver by which to grasp it.

To see for yourself a book practically like the one whose reading led Josiah into still

more ardent religious work for his people, use the stereograph entitled, Samaritan High Priest and Pentateuch Roll—Supposed Writing of Abishua—Great-grandson of Aaron, Shechem. The Samaritan priest resembles, in dress and appearance, the men of the Lesson.