

Lesson, 2 Kings, 19: 20-22, 28-37.

Read the chapter and Psalms 46 and 48

Commit vs. 32-34.

20. Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, That which thou hast prayed to me against Sennacherib king of Assyria I have heard.

21. This is the word that the Lord hath spoken concerning him; The virgin the daughter of Zion hath despised thee, and laughed thee to scorn; the daughter of Jerusalem hath shaken her head at thee.

22. Whom hast thou reproached and blasphemed? and against whom hast thou exalted thy voice, and lifted up thine eyes on high? even against the Holy One of Israel.

23. Because thy rage against me and thy tumult is come up into mine ears, therefore I will put my hook in thy nose, and my bridle in thy lips, and I will turn thee back by the way by which thou camest.

24. And this shall be a sign unto thee, Ye shall eat this year such things as grow of themselves, and in the second year that which springeth of the same: and in the third year sow ye, and reap, and plant vineyards, and eat the fruits thereof.

25. And the remnant that is escaped of the house of Judah shall yet again take root downward, and bear fruit upward.

31. For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant, and they that escape out of mount Zion: the zeal of the Lord of hosts shall do this.

32. Therefore thus saith the Lord concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shield, nor cast a bank against it.

33. By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith the Lord.

34. For I will defend this city, to save it for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake.

35. And it came to pass that night that the angel of the Lord went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.

36. So Sennacherib King of Assyria departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh.

37. And it came to pass, as he was worshipping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons smote him with the sword: and they escaped into the land of Armenia: and Esarhaddon his son reigned in his stead.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."—Psa. 46: 1.

LESSON PLAN.

1. Warning to Evil Doers, 20-23.
2. Promises to God's People, 23-34.
3. Doom of Evil Doers, 35-37.

DAILY READINGS.

- M. Refuge in trouble, 2 Kings 19: 8-19.
 T. The Assyrian invasion, 2 Kings 19: 20-23.
 W. The Assyrian invasion, 2 Kings 19: 23-37.
 T. Hezekiah's Prayer, Isaiah 38: 1-8.
 F. Thanksgiving, Isaiah 38: 9-22.
 S. A song of deliverance, Psalm 76.
 S. Reliance on God, Psalm 46.

CATECHISM.

Q. 44. What doth the preface to the ten commandments teach us?
 A. The preface to the ten commandments teacheth us, that because God is the Lord, and our God, and Redeemer, therefore we are bound to keep all his commandments.

LESSON HYMNS.

Nos. 65: (Ps.) 532, 542, 593

Following the great passover of Hezekiah, which as kept up for double the usual time, was another attempt to rid the land of idolatry, by breaking images, cutting down groves, and throwing down altars.

And this work was done, not only in Judah, but also in some tribes of the Northern kingdom, new no more an independent nation. Then Hezekiah restored, in all its parts, the worship of Jehovah at Jerusalem, as described in the law.

These facts are related in 2 Chron. 31, which closes with the following eulogy of Hezekiah. "And thus did Hezekiah through out all Judah, and he wrought that which was good and right and faithful before the Lord his God. And in every work that he began in the service of the House of God, and in the law and in the commandments, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart, and prospered."

Then follows the narrative of the invasion of the land by the Assyrians. This narrative is thrice told in the Old Testament, namely 2 Ki. 18: and 19; 2 Chron. 32, and Isa. 36, and

37. The verses chosen for our lesson describe the closing scenes of the invasion, including the promises of God to Hezekiah through the prophet Isaiah, in answer to Hezekiah's prayer.

That prayer itself, recorded in the verses immediately preceding our lesson, is remarkable for its simplicity, faith in Jehovah, and desire for God's glory.

V. 20. **Isaiah.**—A great prophet, who had been active during three preceding reigns. Isa. 1: 1. Of Amoz we know nothing, except that he was father of Isaiah. **Sent.**—The matter had been referred to Isaiah, at an earlier stage of the invasion, as a subject for prayer, and an answer then returned vs. 1-7. At the renewal of the siege, and the threatenings of the Assyrian leaders, Isaiah sends this additional assurance to the king, and he gives the assurance, not as from himself, but from Jehovah, God of Israel.

21.—This verse pictures rather the attitude of God than of Judah towards Sennacherib; and Jehovah thus identifies himself with his people, attributing to the people, who were