

called Chaldeans and Babylonians. Slew . . with the sword. Ezekiel (ch. 9 : 6, 7) describes the awful slaughter at the capture of the city. All the vessels, etc.; described in 2 Kgs. 25 : 14, 15.

19-21. The people who had not been slain were taken as prisoners to Babylon. For Zedekiah's fate, see Jer. 39 : 5-7. Until the reign of the kingdom of Persia; until Cyrus, king of Persia, conquered Babylon in 539 B.C. To fulfil, etc. Jeremiah had prophesied a captivity of seventy years, Jer. 25 : 11 ; 29 : 10. Until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths. Leviticus 25 : 1-7 required that every seventh year the land should lie idle. From David's to Zedekiah's time, seventy times seven (490) years, this law had been disregarded. Now, to make up for this, the land would have rest for 70 years.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association)

M.—The captivity of Judah, 2 Chron. 36 : 11-21. T.—Zedekiah's fate, Jer. 39 : 1-10. W.—Judgment foretold, Jer. 5 : 10-19. Th.—Great sin, Jer. 32 : 26-35. F.—Rebellious people, Isa. 1 : 1-9. S.—Mourning in captivity, Lam. 1 : 1-9. S.—Rebellion punished, Luke 20 : 9-18.

Prove from Scripture—*That God will punish sin.* Shorter Catechism—*Ques. 93. Which are the sacraments of the New Testament?* A. The sacraments of the New Testament are, Baptism, and the Lord's supper.

The Question on Missions—34. Have other churches undertaken mission work in the New Hebrides? Yes. At present eight branches of the Presbyterian Church are working heartily to evangelize the group. There are now about 3,000 communicants.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 97 Ps. Sel. (Supplemental Lesson); 129; 127; 100 (Ps. Sel.); 136 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 150.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Juniors—By whom was Jerusalem captured? Whither did he take the king and people?

11, 12 Who was Zedekiah's father? His mother? How old was he when he became king? What prophet gave him counsel? Did the king do what he advised? Who sent Jeremiah?

13, 14 Against whom did Zedekiah rebel? What oath had been taken? Who said he would be punished for breaking it? What was God's house in Jerusalem called? Who tells us that heathen practices were carried on in it?

15, 16 Did God desire to save his people? Whom did he send to them? How did they treat His messengers?

17-21 What happened to many people when Jerusalem was captured? What was done with the rest? How was Zedekiah treated?

Seniors and the Home Department—Give the date of Nebuchadnezzar's capture of Jerusalem. Describe the fate of its inhabitants.

11-14 How many kings of Judah were there? What was the character of Zedekiah? How should we act when tempted to evil? (Prov. 1 : 10.) What crime did Zedekiah commit against Nebuchadnezzar? How should we regard our promises? (Ps. 15 : 4.)

15, 16 What is God called in v. 15? What is the purpose of God's goodness? (Rom. 2 : 4.) How did the people of Judah treat the prophets? Which of our Lord's parables refers to this treatment? (Matt. 21 : 33-44.)

17-21 How long was the captivity of Judah to last? What psalm refers to the period of the captivity? (Ps. 137.)

THE LESSON IN LIFE

1. We live in deeds, not years: in thoughts, not breaths;

In feelings, not in figures on a dial.

We should count time by heart-throbs. He most lives,

Who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best."

2. Suppose some one should show us a splendid farm, or a rich gold mine, or a great factory, and say to us, "That is all yours." How delighted we should be, and what plans we should at once begin to make. But the poorest of us can call something ours that is far greater. The Lord is our God, and that means that all His love and care and all that is best in earth and heaven, are ours.

3. It is easy to stop a stone when it is just starting down a descent. But, with every foot, it gains momentum until it carries everything before it. Many a ruined life might have been saved at the beginning.

4. There is always a "therefore," in God's dealings with men. He never punishes without some reason, and if we search for the reason, we shall be able to avoid the suffering.

5. "Though the mills of God grind slowly, yet they grind exceeding small;

Though with patience He stands waiting, with exactness grinds He all."

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. Of what sins were Zedekiah and his people guilty?

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2. Why were they without excuse?

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3. How were they punished?

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