

Lesson VIII. THE IMPORTANCE OF SELF-CONTROL— May 20, 1917 TEMPERANCE LESSON

THE LESSON SETTING—To-day is the World's Temperance Sunday. The Hebrew nation, from the days of Rehoboam, son and successor of Solomon, had been split into two kingdoms, Israel to the north, and Judah to the south. Many evils had grown up in both kingdoms, and amongst these the sin of drunkenness. In the lesson, Isaiah, the great prophet of Judah, the Southern Kingdom, speaking about B.C. 725, warns his people against the sin of drunkenness. He points to the Northern Kingdom of Israel, and declares that God will soon punish its people by bringing against Samaria, its capital, a foreign foe who will destroy it and carry away the inhabitants into captivity. A like doom will be Judah's unless her people forsake their sins.

GOLDEN TEXT—Every man that striveth in the games is temperate in all things.—1 Corinthians 9: 25 (Rev. Ver.).

*Memorize John 1: 14.

THE LESSON PASSAGE—Isaiah 28: 1-13.

1 Woe to the crown of 'pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim, ² whose glorious beauty is a fading flower, which is on the head of the fat ³ valleys of them that are overcome with wine!

2 Behold, the Lord hath a mighty and strong one, ⁴ which as a tempest of hail ⁵ and a destroying storm, as a ⁶ flood of mighty waters overflowing, shall ⁷ cast down to the earth with the hand.

3 The crown of 'pride, the drunkards of Ephraim, shall be trodden under ⁸ feet:

4 And the ⁹ glorious beauty, which is on the head of the fat valley, shall be ¹⁰ a fading flower, and as the ¹¹ hasty fruit before the summer; which ¹² when he that looketh upon it seeth, while it is yet in his hand he eateth it up.

5 In that day shall the Lord of hosts be for a crown of glory, and for a diadem of beauty, unto the residue of his people,

6 And for a spirit of ¹³ judgment to him that sitteth in ¹⁴ judgment, and for strength to them that turn ¹⁵ the battle ¹⁶ to the gate.

7 But ¹⁷ they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are ¹⁸ out of the way: the priest

Revised Version—¹ pride of the; ² and to the fading flower of his glorious beauty, which is; ³ valley; ⁴ Omit which; ⁵ Omit and; ⁶ tempest; ⁷ he; ⁸ foot; ⁹ fading flower of his glorious; ¹⁰ Omit four words; ¹¹ first-ripe fig; ¹² judgement; ¹³ back; ¹⁴ at; ¹⁵ these; ¹⁶ gone astray; ¹⁷ will; ¹⁸ the message; ¹⁹ it is precept upon; ²⁰ Nay, but by men of strange lips and with another; ²¹ rest, give ye rest to him that is weary; ²² Therefore shall; ²³ be unto; ²⁴ may.

and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are ¹⁹ out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in ²⁰ judgment.

8 For all tables are full of vomit and filthiness, so that there is no place clean.

9 Whom ¹⁷ shall he teach knowledge? and whom ¹⁸ shall he make to understand ¹⁹ doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.

10 For ¹⁹ precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, ²⁰ and there a little:

11 ²¹ For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.

12 To whom he said, This is the ²¹ rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.

13 ²² But the word of the Lord ²³ was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, ²⁴ and there a little; that they ²⁵ might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.

HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

M.—Jesus' talk with his disciples, John 13: 31-38.

T.—Jesus' talk with his disciples, John 14: 1-11.

W.—The old law of loving neighbor, Lev. 19: 9-18.

Th.—The old law of loving God, Deut. 6: 3-12.

F.—Do justly; walk humbly; love mercy. Micah 6: 1-8.

S.—Loving enemies, Luke 6: 27-38.

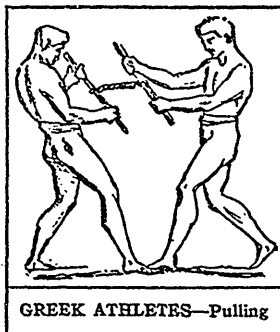
S.—The hymn of love, 1 Cor., ch. 13.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. ISRAEL'S WOE.—1, 2. Woe to the crown of pride. Samaria, Israel's capital, is here likened to a wreath of flowers on the brow of a drunken reveler. Drunkards of Ephraim; that is, of Israel, the name of its principal tribe being put for the whole kingdom. Glorious beauty; the splendor and luxury of Samaria. A fading flower. It will not endure; but will soon wither. The head of the fat valleys. Samaria looked out over a luxuriantly fertile valley. Overcome with wine. In the combat between the toper and his drink, the drink is victorious. A mighty and strong one; the powerful Assyrians, who would soon swoop down upon Samaria (see Lesson Setting). Tempest... storm... flood; a vivid picture of the might of the foreign foe. Shall he cast (Rev. Ver.); that is, the Lord. The Assyrian is his instrument for the punishment of Israel. With the hand; that is, with force.

3-6. Trodden under foot (Rev. Ver.); crushed by the cruel invader. Hasty fruit; Rev. Ver., "first-ripe fig," which might be found in June, while the proper fig season was not till August. These early figs were counted a great delicacy. Seeth... in his hand... eateth it up.

To see, to snatch, to swallow, is the work of a



GREEK ATHLETES—Pulling

* For the recitation of the Scripture Memory Passages in either Part of List IV., a Red Seal is added to the Diploma in Colors given for List III., and a Gold Seal for the verses of the other Part. For Form of Application, apply to Rev. J. C. Robertson, our General Secretary for Sabbath Schools, Confederation Life Building, Toronto.

† Courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Hon. Secretary, 58 Old Bailey, London, England.