

SCHOLARS' NOTES.

(From the International Lessons for 1877, by Edwin W. Rice, as issued by American Sunday-School Union.)

LESSON VII.

FEBRUARY 17.

JOASH REPAIRING THE TEMPLE. [About 850 B. C.]

READ 2 Chron. 24: 1-13. RECITE vs. 8-10. DAILY READINGS.—M.—2 Chron. 24: 4-13. T.—2 Kings 12: 4-14. W.—Ex. 30: 11-16. Th.—Hosea 2: 18-28. F.—2 Cor. 8: 1-16. Sa.—Matt. 19: 20-30. S.—1 Cor. 8: 9-17.

GOLDEN TEXT.—Joash was minded to repair the house of the Lord.—2 Chron. 24: 4.

CENTRAL TRUTH.—All should give cheerfully to the Lord's work.

CONNECTED HISTORY.—After Jehoshaphat's victory over the Moabites, his son Jehoram shared the rule with him for two or three years; Jehoshaphat died; Jehoram ruled alone about six years; murdered all his brothers; fought the Edomites; restored idolatry; was reproved by Elijah; attacked by the Philistines and Arabians; died of an incurable disease, 2 Chron. 21: 18, 19. Ahaziah, his youngest son, next reigned one year, and was slain by Jehu. His mother, Athaliah, a daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, was the queen for six years; was slain by order of Jehoiada the priest. Joash became king at the age of seven, and reigned forty years.

NOTES ON PERSONS.—Joash, 8th king of Judah; son of Ahaziah; ruled forty years (878-839 B.C.). When Queen Athaliah slew the royal children, Joash was saved by his aunt; hid for six years; made king in his 7th; ruled until Jehoiada the priest died (about twenty-five years); was slain by his own servants. See 2 Chron. 22: 10-12; 2 Kings 11, 12. Jehoshaphat, a high priest; married Jehosheba, who hid Joash; ordered Athaliah to be slain; had Joash made king; aided him in restoring true worship; died at an old age. Athaliah, daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, wife of Jehoram, king of Judah, who is to be carefully distinguished from Jehoram, king of Israel, about the same time; destroyed the royal family except Joash; ruled six years (884-878); was slain by order of Jehoiada the priest.

EXPLANATIONS AND QUESTIONS.

LESSON TOPICS.—(I.) THE COLLECTION ORDERED. (II.) THE MONEY GATHERED. (III.) THE TEMPLE REPAIRED.

I. THE COLLECTION ORDERED. (4.) WAS MINDING, desired, wished; TO REPAIR, or "to renov," for in the reigns of Jehoram and Athaliah the temple had been partially destroyed and its worship neglected for that of Baal. (5.) PRIESTS... LEVITES, they had charge of the temple-worship, 1 Kings 8: 10, 11; GATHER OF ALL ISRAEL MONEY, a similar collection was made for the tabernacle, Ex. 35: 5, 21-29; 36: 6; HAD NOT, probably because they had no heart for the work. (6.) JOHAIADA, the chief priest, see Notes; THE COLLECTION... OF MONEY, Ex. 30: 12-15; THE TABERNACLE OF WITNESS, Num. 1: 50. (7.) SONS OF ATHALIAH, Ahaziah and his brothers: DEDICATED THINGS, holy things, see 2 Kings 12: 4; BAALIM, plural of Baal; the sun-god.

II. QUESTIONS.—Who ruled with Jehoshaphat? How long? How long was he king alone? Character of his reign? Who succeeded him? Length of his reign? By whom slain? Name of the queen succeeding him? Length of her reign? By whose order slain? Why? Who was made king in her place? How long did he reign? What did he wish to do? v. 4. Who were brought together? What was the king's order to them? Why did they not hasten? For whom did the king send? What did he ask Jehoiada? What was the collection of money? How much was each man to give? State the value of a half shekel. Who had broken up the temple? What had become of the holy things in it?

III. THE MONEY GATHERED. (8.) MADE A CREST, 2 Kings 12: 9. (9.) MADE A PROCLAMATION, literally "made a voice," sent a herald through Judah. (10.) PRINCES, princes were chief court-officers; MADE AN END, had given enough, or had given all they could. (11.) KING'S SCRIBE, or secretary; HIGH PRIEST'S OFFICER, either his servant or deputy; MONEY IN ABUNDANCE when all gave, there was abundance for the work.

II. QUESTIONS.—What did the king order made? Where set? What to be announced? What collection of money is meant? In what spirit did the people give? Who had charge of the chest? How much money was gathered?

III. THE TEMPLE REPAIRED. (12.) TO MEND THE HOUSE, to repair or renew the house. (13.) WORK WAS PERFECTED, was finished; IN HIS STATE, as it was at first, or its proper condition.

III. QUESTIONS.—To whom was the money given? For what? How done? By what two facts is this proved?

What facts in this lesson teach us— (1.) That we are to sustain the public worship of God? (2.) That we should persuade others to aid us in it? (3.) That all should give cheerfully to the Lord's work?

GIVING

STATED PORTIONS, REGULARLY, LIBERALLY, CHEERFULLY, BY ALL, GATHERS ABUNDANCE FOR GOD'S WORK.

ILLUSTRATIONS.—Worship or praise is the rent we owe to God; and the larger the favor, the greater the rent.

God's house is always to be cared for and kept in order; the reverence of a community may well be judged of by the condition and appearance of the church where they worship.

LESSON VIII.

FEBRUARY 24.

UZZIAH'S PRIDE PUNISHED. [About 766 B. C.]

READ 2 Chron. 26: 16-23. RECITE vs. 19-20.

DAILY READINGS.—M.—2 Chron. 26: 16-23. T.—2 Chron. 26: 1-15. W.—Num. 18: 1-7. Th.—Num. 12: 9-15. F.—2 Kings 5: 20-27. Sa.—Dan. 4: 28-37. S.—Psalm 51.

GOLDEN TEXT.—Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.—Prov. 16: 18.

CENTRAL TRUTH.—The Lord resisteth proud worshippers.

CONNECTED HISTORY.—Joash ruled about 15 years after the death of Jehoiada the priest; was slain by his servants; his son Amaziah reigned 29 years; defeated the Edomites; Amaziah was treacherously slain at Lachish; his son Uzziah (or Azariah) succeeded him, and ruled 52 years. During this period Jehoahaz, Jehoahaz, Jeroboam II., Zachariah, Shallum, and Menahem were kings of Israel.

TO THE SCHOLAR.—We are not to worship the Lord in our way, but in his way. Even our worship in the house of God, when it is contrary to God's command, will bring us no blessing.

NOTE.—Uzziah (also called Azariah), 2 Kings 14: 21; son of Amaziah; made king of Judah at 16; reigned 52 years (810-758 B. C.); he defeated the Philistines; fortified his kingdom; stung by usurping the priest's office, was punished by leprosy. The prophets Hosea, Joel, Amos, and Isaiah lived in his reign. Azariah, a high priest who reproved Uzziah. Lep-ro-sy, a terrible and loathsome disease. See Lev. 13: 14. Six remarkable cases noted in the Old Testament: Moses, Ex. 4: 6; Miriam, Num. 12: 10. Namian, 2 Kings 5: 1; Gehazi, 2 Kings 5: 27; four lepers of Samaria, 2 Kings 7: 3, and Uzziah; 12 cases of it are noted in the New Testament. The disease was a type of sin. Jo-sham, son of Uzziah; ruled while his father was a leper, and succeeded him; reigned 16 years (768-742 B. C.). Isa-iah, (I-sa-iah), great prophet, son of Amoz; lived in the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah (766-698 B. C.). Tradition says he was slain by being sawn in sunder by order of Manasseh.

EXPLANATIONS AND QUESTIONS.

LESSON TOPICS.—(I.) UZZIAH'S PROFANE OFFERING. (II.) UZZIAH'S LEPROSY.

I. UZZIAH'S PROFANE OFFERING. (16.) WAS STRONG, by victories, armies, and help of the Lord, see v. 15; HEART WAS LIFTED UP, grew vain and proud, Prov. 16: 18; BURN INCENSE, lawful only for priests, Num. 16: 40. (17.) AZARIAH, as high priest, with 80 others, would hinder the king from burning incense. (18.) WITHSTOOD, to oppose; IT APPEARED NOT, it belonged not, is not proper; SONS OF AARON, who alone could be made priests; CONSECRATED, set apart for a holy work; TRANSPASSED, sinned.

QUESTIONS.—Give the title of the last lesson. Who was king after Joash? For how long? How did he die? Who was the next king? How long did Uzziah reign? Give the title of this lesson. The Golden Text. Central Truth. Name the kings of Israel during the reigns of Joash, Amaziah, and Uzziah in Judah. Who helped Uzziah? v. 5. How? v. 15. The effect on Uzziah's heart? v. 16. For what did he go into the temple? Who followed him? How many were with Azariah? What did they do to the king? What say to him? Who alone had a right to burn incense? Who were slain in the wilderness for a similar sin? Num. 16: 5, 31, 32. What order did the priest give the king?

II. UZZIAH'S LEPROSY. (19.) WAS WROTH, Josephus adds, "threatened to kill them;" HAD A CENSER, which only a priest should have; LEPROSY, see Notes; NOSE UP, broke out. (20.) THREW HIM OUT, a leper polluted the temple; HIMSELF HASTED, the sudden disease made him realize his awful sin. (21.) SEVERAL HOUSES, a free or separate house, possibly a public hospital. Josephus says: "A terrible earthquake took place in Jerusalem at this time." See Amos 1: 1; Zech. 14: 5; JOTHAM... JUDGING, ruling for his father, 2 Kings 15: 5. (22.) DID ISALAH... WRITE, see 2 Kings 15: 6. This history by Isalah is probably lost. (23.) BURIAL WHICH BELONGED TO THE KINGS, being a leper, he was buried, not in the tombs of the kings, but near them.

III. QUESTIONS.—How did Uzziah receive the reproof of the priest? What was in his hand? While he was angry what happened to him? Where was he standing? Who looked upon him? What did they see in his forehead? What did they do to the king? What did he himself do? Why? How long was he a leper? Where did he dwell? What is the meaning of "several houses"? Who ruled over the people for him? Who wrote a history of his reign? What has probably become of it? Where was Uzziah buried? Why not in the tombs of the kings?

What facts in this lesson teach us—

(1.) The danger of prosperity? (2.) How God regards his service? (3.) That he will punish those who defile his sanctuary?

ILLUSTRATION.—Pride.

He that is proud cuts himself up. Pride is his own glass, his own trumpet, his own chronicle; and whatever praises itself but in the deed, devours the deed in praise.—Shakespeare.

See also parable of the Pharisee and the publican. Luke 18: 9-14.

THE NORTHERN MESSENGER ATTACKED.

SIR,—I suppose you recollect that I sent you a letter about a club for the NORTHERN MESSENGER. The club is broken up, owing to an article that appeared in the Canada Presbyterian denouncing the NORTHERN MESSENGER as a Sunday-school paper. It is a great disappointment to me not to get the skates which you promised, but it will have to be. J. M. Waterloo, Jan. 4, 1878.

REMARKS.

The course of the Presbyterian in this matter has been unkind. It published an offensive and damaging attack on the MESSENGER at the instance of a young minister, to whom we give the utmost credit for conscientiousness, falsely accusing the publishers of the MESSENGER of very contemptible conduct towards himself, and declaring the MESSENGER unfit for circulation through Sabbath-schools because it contained other than Sunday reading. We did not imagine we had anything to do in reply to this thrust below the belt at the very season when all our subscriptions were coming in but to write to the Presbyterian a polite reply to the misrepresentations it had given space to, but were disappointed to find that in place of a generous desire to mend an injury done, there was inserted only a travesty of our answer. Our statements that the most experienced promoters of Sabbath-school work throughout the country had eagerly forwarded the circulation of the MESSENGER as being the very thing the country needed, and that about 25,000 copies of it were now taken through Sabbath-schools were entirely ignored. It is somewhat singular that the Presbyterian itself, which its friends look upon doubtless as a religious paper, has just the same departments of science and household economy and of advertisements, &c., that the MESSENGER has. The fact is the MESSENGER is intended to supply all the reading of many of the families it goes into, and we believe a considerable proportion of the fifty thousand families it enters are largely dependent on it for instruction, both temporal and spiritual. The whole accusation appears to us like tithing mint and anise and cummin and forgetting the weightier claims of justice and mercy.

EPSS'S COCOA—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.

"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoa, Mr. Epss has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavored beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. Hundreds of subtle maladies are floating around us ready to attack wherever there is a weak point. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a properly nourished frame."—Civil Service Gazette.—Sold only in Packets labelled—"JAMES EPSS & Co., Homoeopathic Chemists, London, Eng."

CAMPAIGN NOTES.

THE MESSENGER is doing better than ever this year. Nearly every club is renewing, the very best evidence of its usefulness and applicability for the work it sets itself out to perform. Now that the snow has fallen and the winter roads have been pretty generally opened there will be greater ease in getting to the front than before. Will our workers take advantage of it to do something for the MESSENGER. We would not like to drop a name on the list, and would be very much pleased to welcome thousands of new friends.

The work for our prizes is rapidly progressing all over the country, and the latter are giving the greatest satisfaction. The following are a few of the letters received concerning them:—

"I now return many thanks for the present which I received from you. I received the ring last Tuesday, and I am surprised to see it is what it is. I honestly did not think that it would be gold, but it is solid gold. I cannot thank you enough for it. I am trying to get up another club, and will get as many subscribers as I can, anyhow, and send them to you. H. J., Heckston, O."

SHILOH, January 8th, 1878.

I received the fine album you sent me, safe and sound. It was far better than I expected; you have laid me under great obligations to you. I shall try and get you some more new subscribers. S. S.

EAST DURHAM.

You will please accept my thanks for the fine album you so kindly sent me. I gave it to

mother for a New Year's present, and she prizes it highly.—F. L. B.

MONTON, Dec. 25th, 1877.

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of the skates, which came duly to hand by mail. They exactly suit me. I am very much pleased with them. I feel that I am amply repaid for the little trouble I took in getting subscribers for the MESSENGER, and if spared another year will renew my efforts in getting names to your publications.—D. J. M.

BLUE MOUNTAINS, N.S., } Dec. 25th, 1877.

I received the skates last night, and I was well pleased with them. I think they are well worth working for. They are the best I ever saw. I think any one who sets their minds on getting a pair of skates may get them, if they will only try, and not be contented with trying only once, but try, try again, and then they will succeed.—A. MOD.

HOLSTEN, January 4th, 1878.

\*\*\* I hope you have received my letter of thanks for the skates, for they are a splendid pair. The weather is freezing now, and I am having a fine time skating. One of the boys I was skating with lately, admired my skates so much that he offered me \$3.00 for them, but I would not part with them.—G. M.

ELGIN, O.

Your prize ring came promptly to hand, and I was surprised when I opened the case, to find such a beautiful ring. It suits splendid, both in size and appearance. I am trying for another of your prizes, and hope to be successful.—S. A. S.

The prizes are as follows:—

Any person sending in one new subscriber to the WEEKLY WITNESS, at \$1.00 or four new subscribers to the MESSENGER, at 30c each (and stating that it is for a picture), will receive a chromo of Earl Duferin, or the Countess of Duferin, as may be preferred, size 11 x 14 inches. Anyone sending in two new subscribers to the WEEKLY WITNESS, or eight for the NORTHERN MESSENGER, or one new subscriber to the NEW DOMINION MONTHLY, at \$2 (and stating they are working for the picture), will receive the pair of chromos, which will make very nice ornaments.



A GOLD LOCKET

will be given to any person who sends in \$6 in new subscriptions to the WITNESS publications.



FOR GIRLS ONLY.

GOLD AND JEWELLED RINGS.

This is a present exclusively for girls (little or grown-up), and for those who intend to present the prize to their lady friends. The Gold Keeper shown in the centre of the engraving retails at \$2, and will be mailed to anyone sending us \$5 in new subscriptions to the WITNESS PUBLICATIONS. The Gold Ring with eight pearls and five stones retails at \$4; it will be mailed to anyone who sends \$10 in new subscriptions to the WITNESS PUBLICATIONS. The Gold Ring with three pearls and six stones retails at \$5; it will be mailed to anyone sending \$15 in new subscriptions to the WITNESS PUBLICATIONS. If the competitors prefer they can obtain rings of greater value on equally advantageous terms. For example, if they send \$50 in new subscriptions, they would receive by return mail a ring which they would have to pay \$20 for at any retail store; and such a ring would be a pretty good one. A lady in sending for any of these rings should send a piece of paper or thread the size of her finger, so that one to fit may be obtained.

A Handsome PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM which retails at \$2.25, will be mailed to all who send \$7 in new subscriptions to the WITNESS PUBLICATIONS.



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GENERAL DIRECTIONS.

DO NOT FORGET THEM! Every letter must be marked "In competition," or otherwise express the intention to compete for one or more of these prizes. No names are entered on our subscription lists unless the money accompanies the order. You can obtain sample copies, directions for working and any other information at any time by writing to JOHN DOUGALL & SON, WITNESS OFFICE, MONTREAL.

THE CLUB RATES for the MESSENGER are: when sent to one address, as follows:—1 copy, \$1.00; 2 copies, \$2.50; 3 copies, \$4; 5 copies, \$11.00; 10 copies, \$22; 1,000 copies, \$200. J. DOUGALL & SON, Publishers, Montreal.

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