

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

The Lesson contains three short stories linked together. These should be followed out in their details:

1. *The story of the siege of Samaria*, vs. 1-6. Who was the king of Israel at this time? What was his character? How did he compare with the preceding kings? What king of Assyria invaded Israel? What did Hoshea do? What plot ("conspiracy") did the king of Assyria discover? From whom had Hoshea sought help? What did he fail to bring to the king of Assyria? How was he punished? For how long then did the king of Assyria besiege Samaria? Whither did he carry the people of Israel away captive?

2. *The story of Israel's sin*, vs. 7-12. Against whom had the people of Israel sinned? Out of what land had God brought them? How had they shown their ingratitude? Whose evil practices had they followed? Mention some very wicked kings of Israel. How did the people of Israel try to cover their idolatry? How numerous were their

places of idol worship? How did they cause the Lord to feel towards them? What had the Lord said to them about the worship of idols?

3. *The story of God's warnings*, vs. 13, 14. How did the Lord feel regarding Israel's sin? How did He feel toward the people themselves? Against what did He warn them? What did He invite them to do? What messengers did He send to them? From what did the prophets urge the people to turn? What laws did they urge them to keep? How did the people treat the prophet's messages? What description is given of their obstinacy?

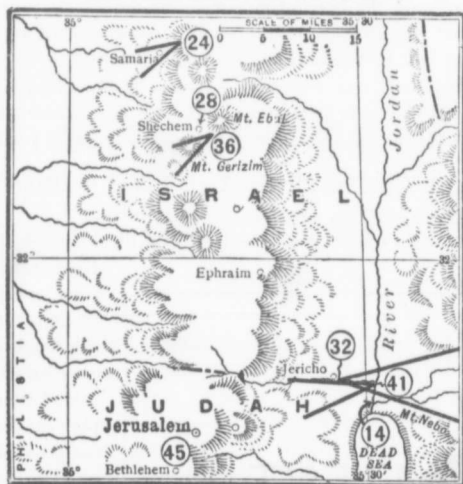
Give some further examples of Israel's sin. Show that this was the reason why they were removed out of their own land. Vs. 15-18.

After having brought out the details of the stories by some such line of questioning as that given above, talk about all that God had done for us, and the claims which He therefore has on our love and service. If we, like the people of Israel, in spite of all that He has done for us, sin against Him, how great is our guilt!

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON

Find on the special map the number 24 at Samaria. If you stand to-day at the spot marked 24 and look southwest over the space included between those two lines which spread from 24, you see at you feet a pasture with a valley beyond, and the long, upward slope of a beautiful hill facing you at the farther side of the valley. Parts of the hillside are covered with

orchards of olive trees. About half way up the slope is a poor Mohammedan village of small stone houses, with one large, low building marked by the slender white-washed tower of a mosque. Along the crest of the



hill big soft masses of olive tree foliage make an irregular line against the sky. In the days when Hoshea was king of Israel this hill was covered with the houses and shops, temples and palaces of his rich capital city.

To see for yourself the ground where the national existence of the Northern kingdom came to this forlorn end, use the stereograph entitled,

Where the Assyrians in B.C. 722 Captured Israel's Royal City, Samaria. (See also HOME STUDY and INTERMEDIATE QUARTERLIES and LEAFLETS for additional information regarding this capital of the Northern tribes.)