

FIRST QUARTER: STUDIES ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF JUDAH.

B. C. 955. LESSON II. ASA FAITHFUL TO HIS GOD ; or, Help for the Faithful. 2 Chron. 14. 1-11. Commit to memory verses 2-5. January 13th.

EXPLANATORY.

ABIJAH. The second king of Judah ; reigned but three years ; warred successfully against Jeroboam, and wrested the cities on the northern frontier from his grasp. But, as is often the case, with wars abroad, sins grew rife at home, and he left the kingdom farther away from God than he found it. Asa. His name means "physician," appropriate to one who was the healer of the nation's disorders. Quiet ten years. As the result of Asa's victory and the unsettled succession in the northern kingdom, there came a decade of peace in ceuturies of strife, like a patch of blue sky on a dark day. Right in the eyes of the Lord. He took for a standard not his own impulses, or opinions, or convictions, but the will of God. He who sees upon himself God's eyes will not stray far from God's ways. HE TOOK AWAY THE ALTARS. Ever

since the evil example of Solomon's decline, idolatry had flourished, bringing in universal depravation of morals. First of the kings of Judah Asa appears as a reformer, and strikes at the root of the evil by destroying everywhere its outward institutions. "Tear down the nests and the rooks will take their flight," said John Knox, referring to the monasteries in Scotland. So shut up the saloons, and the next generation, if not the present, will be saved from drunkards. High places. Shrines for idol-worship, generally built on elevated situations. Groves. "Ashtaroth," a form of idolatry, whose rites were accompanied with the vilest immorality, practiced generally in woods and secluded places. The energy of the king was not supported by his people, and before the close of his reign the evils were again in full power. Eternal vigilance is the price not only of a nation's liberty, but also of its morality. COMMANDED JUDAH. It is not sufficient

te remove temptation ; inducements must be presented toward righteousness. Cold and to be urged into earnest service. Only those who seek the Lord will and no dipping. have power to do the law. Images. Lit-

though every thing depends upon God. [Teacher, urge your scholars to pray about all things.] Nothing with thee. Great and small are one with him. Prevail against thee. If Judah be overthrown, it is God's cause that will suffer defeat. The religious interests of the whole earth, for all time, were centred in that insignificant land. His plea was not in vain. The enemy fled, and the scepter of Egypt was so completely broken that during four centuries no enemy threatened Judah from the banks of the Nile.

GOLDEN TEXT : Lord, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power. 2 Chron. 14, 11.

DOCTEINAL SUGGESTION : Divine Providence.

The next lesson is 2 Chron. 15, 8-15.

CLASSICAL USE OF THE WORD BAP-TIZO .- Achilles Tatius says: "Whom having baptized with the same drug." Here the baptism seems to have been taken off with the same drug by which it was put on. The state of stupefaction is what is called the baptism. The mode was by taking the drug internally. There was no dipping here. Atheneus says :-- "You seem to be baptized with unmixed wine." That

is made drunk. The mode was by drinking the wine. There was no dipping here.

Canon says :-- " Having baptized Alexander with much wine." Drunkenness again, but no dipping. Erenus says :-- "Baptizes by sleep : neighbors of death." There was no fluid used in this baptism, and therefore could not be dipping. Lucien says: -"Resembles one heay headed and baptized"-i. e., drunk. Diodorus Siculus says: "They do not baptize the people with taxes." Bankrupted, he means. Here there was no fluid used, and could be no dipping. Plutarch says :-- "Baptized with a

debt of fifty millions." No dipping here. Heliodorus says :--- " Baptized by the

calamity." No fluid here and no dipping.

Again Heliodorus says:-Had baptiz-

ed the city in sleep." No fluid used Procus says :- " Baptized with much



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erally, "sun images," through which worship was paid to the sun. The kingdom was quiet. Free from foreign war and domestic strife. Asa was able to carry forward his reforms. [Teacher, impress the thought of thoroughness, wholeheartedness, in doing right.]

LET US BUILD. Industry and religion go hand in hand. "Tramps" have no piety. The land is yet before us. The way to avoid danger is to make preparation for it. Rest is not idleness but activity. "When the sword is sheathed. take up the trowel."-M. Henry. We have sought the Lord. God ever smiles upon the people that seek his face. Not always thus do people and kings remember God in peace and prosperity, and recognize national blessings as his gift. [Teacher, suggest the thought of thankfulness for happy homes, church privileges, etc.] Rest on every side. On the north, the kingdom of Israel was too closely absorbed in civil strife to undertake foreign war; and on the south the frontiers were left uninvaded by the Egyptian arms. Built and prospered. Trust in God must not beget neglect of personal effort; faith and works should supplement each other. Targets. An old term for shields. Judah with spears and and Benjamin, that...drew bows, could aid each other, one in the close fight, and the other at long range. God's warfare requires the varied weapons and abilities of every Christian soldier.

ZERAH THE ETHIOPIAN. Probably Osarchon I., the second king of Egypt after Shishak ; called the Ethiopian on account

of his birth, as he was not the son, but the son in law of the previous king. (Raw. linson.) He invaded Judah to recover The great remedy for Consumption. This the Egyptian supremacy, which had been thrown off by Asa. A thousand thousand. Notwithstanding the precautions of Asa, he found his dominions suddenly menaced by an army twice the number of all the fighting men in the land. God often reveals to us our own helplessness, that he may teach us to lean on him more fully. Mareshah. A city fortified by Rehoboam,

(11, 8) on the borders of the Philistine plain, between Hebron and Ashdol. ASA WENT OUT. Though his army was greatly inferior to the foe, he did not besitate, for he had a mighty ally. "One with God by his side is a majority." Asa cried unto the Lord. Having done his best, he now confidently claims the divine

sing. We must work as though every thing depends on ourselves, and pray as dealers generally.

wantonness."--N. D. E. in the Texas Presbyterian.

EXPOSITION OF 1876. Wandering through the United States section of this truly wonderful Exhibition, hyperornamented and over-displayed as the most of it is, I came upon an elegant glass case, whose modesty was the more conspicuous from its neighbors' finery, surmounted by the motto Dignis Praemia and displaying, in neat packages, the medical preparations of the house of DR. J. C. AYER & Co., Lowell, Mass. I was aware of the world-wide reputation of this eminent firm, for the character and quality of their goods, and remember well their agents in London, Messrs. NEWBERRY, in St. Paul's Churchyard Having a leisure hour, I determined to examine the contents of this case, myself, and I was surprised to see the delicate perfection to which they have brought their household remedies. I was chag. rined at the reflection that, while we have at home the most skilful and, pre-eminently, the best physicians in the world. these Yankee doctors distance us so far in the line of popular medicines for family use. They have the sharpness to take advantage of the high scientific discoveries among us and make pills and potions as palatable as they are salutary. I was told by a leading druggist in Philadelphia that DR. AVER'S manufactory was the largest in America, giving employment to hundreds. I must go to Lowell and see it, on my way home.-Correspondence of the London (Eng.) Telegraph.

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