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INTERNATIONAL BIBLE LESSONS.

STIRST QUARTER: STUDIES ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF JUDAH.

B. C. 677. LESSON XII. MANASSEH BROUGHT TO REPENTANCE: or, Forgiveness for the Penitent. 2 Chron. 33, 9-16. Commit to memory verses 12, 13. March 24th.

EXPLANATORY.

MANASSEH. Hezekiah, the best of Judah's kings, had for a son Manasseh, the worst: so that holiness is not hereditary, and children will not be kept from sin by the godliness of their parents. During nearly the whole of his reign of fifty five years he exerted all his power for evil. He crowded the courts of the temple with images, and even set up an idol in the Most Holy place. He gathered in his palace a throng of soothsayers and enchanters. He burned his own children on the altar of Moloch. He persecuted even to death the remnant who clung to the service of Jehovah; and he left the nation so low that no permanent reform was afterward possible. Made Judah. The people were prone to evil, but their king drove them even more rapidly down the steeps of shame. Worse than the heathen. Nothing is so bitter as that which was once sweet; nor so wicked as an apostate people. Destroyed. Strange that the chosen people should follow in the track of the cast-off nation!

up his people until every means has been exhausted to induce them to turn and repent. [Teacher, impress the thought of God's long suffering, his love for sinners, and his constant calls to them.] To his people. The messenger of God to the king and the land was probably the venerable Isaiah, now bending under the burden of fourscore years. Would not hearken. To shut the ear against God's call is to close the door of hope. It is said that Manasseh caused the death of Isaiah, by commanding him to be sawn asunder. The Lord brought. They who will not listen to God's voice must suffer the sting of his rod; not in penalty, but in discipline. Captains of the host. These were none the less God's instruments because they were unconscious of a divine call. God often uses the ambition of one king to punish the crimes of another. Assyria. At that time under Esar-haddon, the most powerful monarch in the East. Took Manasseh. He was helpless, because sinful. He could not call on God, and he found it useless to invoke idols. Among the thorns. Some think this should be translated, "with hooks or rings," by which, fastened through the lips, the Assyrians led their captives. To Babylon. writers to be a mistake, as Nineveh was the capital of the Assyrian empire. But recently it has been discovered that just at this period Babylon rebelled, was recaptured, and for a time became the seat of Esarnaddon's court. A tablet of his reign, now in the British Museum, mentions "Minasi, king of Judah," among

. Affliction. King Ahaz, like clay, had been hardened by the fires of affliction; king Manasseh, like wax, was melted by them. [Teacher, urge your class not to wait until trouble shall scourge them to seek the Lord.] Besought. His prison proved more profitable than his palace. Blessed are those sorrows which bring men to their knees. Entreated of him. If God will listen when even a blood-stained Manasseh prays, who may not hope for mercy? Brought him again. Not every one who has thus failed in the use of opportunities has the privilege of their possession again. He was, perhaps, released and reinstated as a subject king, on the death of Esar-haddon. It was the Lord's work, for he controlled the events which led to it. Manasseh knew. He realized, as never before, the hand of God his power, mercy, and loving kindness. Let us be able to see God in our mercies as well as in our trials.

A WALL. He strengthened the fortifications of his capital, to resist attack in future. Gihon. Rather "westward to Gihon, in the valley." This was the northern portion of the valley of Hinnom. Fish gate. Somewhere near the north-east corner of the wall. On the southern side of Mount Moriah. Great height. Recent excavations have unearthed a part of this wall, and thus confirmed the statements of the Chronicles. Took away the strange gods. He removed the pollutions from the temple, and from the city, but he could not undo the harm which they had wrought; he could not bring to life the buried martyrs; nor restore his burned sons; nor place the nation on the plane where be had found it, half a century before. Commanded Judah. He who has been a leader in sin, must strive, with all the greater zeal, to lead others in the way of righteousness.

GOLDEN TEXT: As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore. and repent. Rev. 3, 19.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION: Divine mercy The next lesson is First Quarterly

A diamond ring, given by a blind young lady at the annual meeting of the Baptist Missiouary Union in Providence, last spring, toward paying the debt, was sold and resold in the interest of foreign missions until it had gained \$1,100 for the cause. The Tabernacle Baptist Church then presented it to the original owner, with the request that she wear it as long

In the lives of the saddest of us there are bright days, when we feel as if we could take the great world into our arms-Then come the gloomy days, when the fire will neither burn on our hearts nor in our hearts, and all within and without is dismal, cold and dark. Believe me, every heart has its secret sorrows, which the world knows not, and oftenimes we call a man cold when he is only sad-Longfel-

A successful business man says there were two things which he learned when he was eighteen, which were afterwards anything and never to forget anything." An old lawyer sent him with an import ant paper, with certain instructions what

"But," inquired the young man, "sup-THE LORD SPAKE. God will not give pose I lose it; what shall I do then?" The answer was with the utmost em- R. WOODBURN. phasis, "You must not lose it."

> "I don't mean to," said the young man but suppose I should happen to?"

"But I say you must not happen to! I shall make no provision for any such occurrence. You must not lose it!"

This put a new train of thought into the young man's mind, and he found that if he was determined to do a thing he could do it. He made such provision against every contingency that he never lost anything. He found this equally true about forgetting. If a certain matter of importance was to be remembered, he pinned it down on his mind, fastened it there, and made it stay .- Interior .

EVERY man stamps his value on him self. The price we challenge for ourselves is given us. There does not live on earth a man, be his station what it may, that I despise myself compared with him. Man is made great or little | your Acadian Liniment for cuts and by his own will.—Schiller.

An old bachelor explains the courage of the Turks by saying that a man with more Formerly this was supposed by some than one wife ought to be willing to face death at any time.

"I can't sold you some of dat saurkraut," said a Kentucky Dutchman. " I shust hafe tree barbels, and I keeps dot in

A youth of Augusta, Ga., who was mairied by a magistrate the other day, insisted that the bride should pay the fee, as he had bought the licence.

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