

young king. Took an oath; of secrecy. Showed them the king's son; Joash, their rightful ruler.

5-11. The following arrangement was made: On an appointed Sabbath, when the people would be assembled at the temple (v. 13), one of the companies was to guard the royal palace, to prevent the queen's leaving it; a second to stand at the palace gate called Sur; a third at the gate behind the guard; that is, on the side of the palace towards the temple; to prevent an attack from the palace on the temple; and the two remaining companies were to watch the temple and protect the king, slaying any one who tried to break through the ranges (Rev. Ver., "ranks"). To the captains over hundreds were given spears and shields laid up by King David.

IV. A CORONATION.—12-16. Brought forth the king's son; into the temple court. Put the crown on him; a band of gold, plain, or set with jewels, fastened behind with a ribbon. Gave him the testimony; God's holy law, the rule for kings as well as subjects. Anointed him. See 2 Chron. 23: 11, and compare 1 Kgs. 1: 39. They (the assembled people) said, God save the king (literally, "Let the king live!"); the usual greeting to a new king. Athaliah heard . . . came . . . looked . . . rent her clothes (in rage), and cried, Treason, Treason. Treason to such a traitress! Then follows the story of her death, not in the temple, but in the stables of her own palace.

DAILY READINGS

M.—Ahaziah's short reign, 2 Chron. 22: 1-9. T.—Joash, the boy king, 2 Kgs. 11: 1-12. W.—Joash, the boy king, 2 Kgs. 11: 13-21. Th.—King Josiah, 2 Chron. 34: 1-7. F.—Idol altars to be destroyed, Deut. 12: 1-7. S.—Just ruling, 2 Sam. 23: 1-7. S.—Righteousness exalteth, Prov. 14: 27-35.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 304; 293; 52 (Ps. Sel.): 301; 69 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 297.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 49. Which is the second commandment? A. The second commandment is, Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Prove from Scripture—That Christians should honor the king.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Juniors—1-3 Whose daughter was Athaliah?

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. Why was the life of Joash in danger?.....

2. In what way was he saved?

3. When, how and under whose leadership, was he made king?.....

What was her husband's name? Her son's? What wicked deed did Athaliah do? Who was saved from the slaughter? By whom? Where was he hid at first? Afterwards? How long hid in the temple?

4-11 Who laid a plot to make Joash king? Whose help did he seek? How many companies of soldiers were there? Where was the first placed? The second? The third? The remaining two?

12-16 Where were the people assembled? Who brought Joash out to them? What was to be the rule of his life? How did the people greet him? What happened to Athaliah?

Seniors and the Home Department—Whose evil example did Athaliah follow? During what two reigns was she the real ruler of Judah? What means did she take to retain her power?

1-3 By whom was Athaliah's evil purpose thwarted? Who sought to slay the infant Saviour? (Matt. 1: 16.) What is said of the weapons used against God's people? (Isa. 64: 17.)

4-11 Who was Jehoiada? How many classes of soldiers were in the guard? Describe Jehoiada's plan. When did Paul plan his deliverance? (Acts 22: 17.)

12-16 Describe the coronation of Joash. Whose law was he to obey? What is the law called? (Ps. 119: 105.)

Seek - Further Questions—Through whose quick-wittedness was the babe Moses saved? Who interfered to save the life of the infant Jesus?

Topics for Brief Papers—1. Joash's first seven years. 2. Evil doers and doom.

THE LESSON IN LIFE

1. Every child is born a king. His kingdom is his heart. His subjects are his desires and passions. It is for himself to choose what kind of king he will be.

2. One is not necessarily bad because there have been bad people among his ancestors. Blood, of course, tells, bad, as well as good; but good counselors and the grace of God can redeem even the most unpromising life.

3. "Heart of Bruce, I follow thee or die!" In this spirit of Douglas, Jehoiada brought forth "the spears and shields of David." Let the heroic struggle of a brave ancestry nerve us to fight bravely our battles!

4. "God save the King!" The national anthem is a solemn prayer. The fate of the king and of the kingdom is in the hands of God.

5. The sleuths of retribution may at times seem slow in finding the trail. They come up at last. Athaliah reaped the harvest of blood she had sown.