

setting a personal example of idolatry. **High places** . . hills . . every green tree ; places where the abominations of heathen idolatry were common.

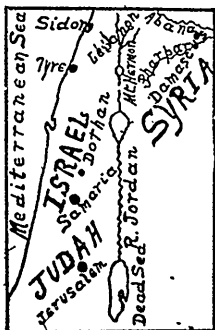
II. IDOLATRY PUNISHED.—5. Wherefore ; because of his sin. The link between sin and its punishment cannot be broken. **Into the hand ;** into the power. **King of Syria ;** Rezin (see 2 Kgs. 16 : 5). **Smote him ;** shutting him up in Jerusalem and taking from him the port of Elath on the Red Sea (see 2 Kgs. 16 : 5, 6). **Damascus.** See Geography Lesson. **The king of Israel ;** Pekah. **Great slaughter.** In one battle 120,000 men were slain, v. 6.

20, 21. Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria ; to whom Ahaz had applied for help. **Distressed him ;** brought further evil upon him. **Took away a portion,** etc. ; plundered the temple of its gold and silver vessels to purchase the help of the Assyrians, who accepted the gift, marched against Damascus and took it (see 2 Kgs. 16 : 9).

III. IDOLATRY CONTINUED.—22-24. Time of his distress ; while under the oppression of the Assyrians. **Trespass yet more ;** kept on in his evil course. **The gods of Damascus.** Ahaz went to Damascus to pay homage to Tiglath-pileser, and had a copy made of an altar which he saw there. On this he offered sacrifice, thus forsaking the true God. (See 2 Kgs. 16 : 10-13.) **Help them.** Ahaz ascribed the success of the Syrians (v. 5) to their gods. **Ruin of him,** etc. ; instead of bringing the expected help. **V. 24** tells how the worship of Jehovah in the temple was actually suppressed in favor of heathen rites, and Jerusalem was given over to idolatry.

25-27. These verses tell how Ahaz established idolatry throughout the whole land of Judah, and how, when he died, he was not thought worthy of being buried with his ancestors. He stands out in the Bible story as a glaring example of a king who forsook God.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



DAMASCUS, the chief city of Northern Syria, lies in a plain east of the Anti-Lebanon Mountains, famous for its beauty and fertility, and watered by the Barada River, the Abana of 2 Kgs. 5 : 12. The luxuriance of its gardens has long been famous. The population of the city is between 150,000 and 200,000. Its importance in modern times is due to its manufactures of woodwork, furniture, and artis-

tic metal and textile work, its convenience as a market for the desert tribes and its religious significance as the starting point of the annual Syrian pilgrim caravan to Mecca.

LESSON QUESTIONS

1, 2 What does the name Ahaz mean ? Whose son was he ? What kind of a king was Jotham ? What is said of the character of Ahaz ? Whose bad example did he follow ? Explain "Baalim." What great prophet set before his people the choice between serving God and serving Baal ? (1 Kgs. 18 : 21.)

3, 4 Explain "burnt incense." Where is the Valley of Hinnom ? How did its name come to be given to the place of everlasting punishment ? Describe the offering of children to Molech. Where is the heathen world said to be 'full of the habitations of cruelty ?' (Ps. 74 : 20.)

5 Into whose power was Ahaz delivered ? Why ? Give the name of the king of Syria. Of the king of Israel. How did they come to attack Ahaz ? Describe their success.

20, 21 To whom did Ahaz appeal for help ? What bribe did he offer ? What did the Assyrians do ?

22-27 What form of heathen worship did Ahaz copy ? How completely did he establish idolatry in Judah ?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Does a son inherit the character of his father ?
2. Are we in any danger of becoming idolaters ?

A PRAYER

Father, let the knowledge that, "Thou God seest me," restrain us each one from wrongdoing, spur us on to deeds of kindness and helpfulness and love, and save us from grieving thee by forgetting thy laws, leading thy children into wrongdoing or dishonoring thy name in any way. To all the world may it be evident that we are thine, and that we choose to be known as thy servants. For Jesus' sake we ask it. Amen.

Prove from Scripture—That God punishes evil.

Shorter Catechism Ques. 95. To whom is baptism to be administered ? A. Baptism is not to be administered to any that are out of the visible church, till they profess their faith in Christ, and obedience to him ; but the infants of such as are members of the visible church are to be baptized.

The Question on Missions.—2. Describe the sick people who came to them ? They are of all classes, from the beggar who crawls on his hands and knees to the official who is carried in his chair. There are sore eyes, large ulcers and fevers to be treated. Not a few of the patients are nearly blind. Some come too late to be cured, while for others there is still hope.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What led to the attack on Judah by Syria and Israel ?
2. To whom did Ahaz appeal for help ?

SIGN NAME HERE