

people down in the streets, at the sound, start and tremble and try to run! The people down in the streets? They don't look strong enough to bear a violent tremble, and as for running, it is very brief. Such pale, hungry, weak creatures! It is Famine gaunt and hollow eyed that mocks the children crying for bread, and mocks the fathers who do not cry, but, faint and disheartened, go to the walls and try to fight the Chaldean. That enemy daily crowds nearer. The rents in the poor old walls gape bigger and bigger as the crash and thunder of the battering-rams grow heavier and heavier. "It is useless to hold out longer," cries Jerusalem. And listen! One night, there is a hurried, heavy trampling down in the city's streets. "The men of war are fleeing!" The battered, tumbling gates are forced back, and out they go! The king too is there. He goes by "the way toward the plain." Hark, Zedekiah! The Chaldean chariots are rumbling behind you, for your flight is known. Now, hurry, hurry! Drive faster, faster, O king! Hungry, trembling fugitive, though a crown is on his head! Alas! he is overtaken. He is snatched away and borne to Babylon's king. Zedekiah's sight is continued long enough to witness the slaughter of his sons, and then, after this cruel service, their light is extinguished forever. In brazen fetters, sightless and friendless, he is carried to Babylon. Another day of shame for Jerusalem. Babylon's king has sent a captain to complete the destruction already begun. Look down into the streets and you will see men every-where running with torches. There flames toward the sky the house of a noble, and here smokes and crackles the beautiful home of the king. And see! From the temple itself shoot up the angry flames! All over the city ravages the angry, roaring fire, till Jerusalem is only a blackened cluder. Now, the Chaldeans have gone to the walls. Is there any goodly tower and strong "bulwark" still in place? Down, down in confusion, the heavy stones are rolled, and Zion's head bowed in shame still lower. When a long, tearful captive-line files off toward Babylon, and turns to see dear Jerusalem once more, only a blackened stone heap is there. Night comes, and in the white moonlight the jackal undisturbed roves through the forsaken, fire-ravaged streets, and hungry-eyed prowls in the very Holy Place of the temple.

Primary and Intermediate.

LESSON THOUGHT. *Sin Works Ruin.* Ask what the great sin of the Jews was, and show that idolatry is just not wanting God, and putting something or some-

body in his place. Tell what some of the idols are that children worship—play, nice clothes, good food, their own way, etc., and teach that Jesus is the only cure for idolatry.



God's Punishment for Sin.

Ask what Jeremiah had foretold about Jerusalem. Tell something about the beauty and glory of the holy city and the love the Jews had for it. Tell that it was its outward beauty that they loved, and not the beauty that God wants us to love. Tell how the army of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, came against Jerusalem, and made forts around it from which they shot darts and arrows at the Jews who were on the walls or towers of the city, so that no one could go in or out of the gates. Jeremiah the prophet was shut up in the city, and the king, Zedekiah, wanted him to pray that the city might be saved. Jeremiah told the king that if he would not fight any more the city should not be burned and he would not be put to death. But Zedekiah would not obey the Lord. When there was no more food left in the city, the king fled with his army, out of the city, but the Chaldeans followed him and brought him back to Nebuchadnezzar, and he had his eyes put out and was kept in prison until he died. Tell that this was because he disobeyed God. Then tell how the city was burned—the temple, the king's palace, and all the beautiful houses in the city, and all the walls around the city were broken down. This was God's punishment of the Jews for not obeying him. Call for Golden Text, and teach that when it was too late, the people wept for their beautiful city which had been destroyed for their own sin. Teach that some day we too shall have to weep if we do not mind God.

Practical Truth for Us. Make a heart on the board, and teach that God wants each little heart for his temple. Make something to represent forts around the heart, and tell that enemies are in these forts, waiting to destroy the temple. Let children help to name the enemies in the forts, such as pride, self-will, etc., and show that they are watching their chance to get in and destroy the place which God wants kept for himself. What can protect the heart? If Zedekiah had listened to God and obeyed him, he and his city would have been saved; but he chose his own way, and so sin worked ruin. Let us choose God's way.

B. C. 605.]

Don. 1. 8-21.

**FIRM AS A
ROCK**



LESSON V. DANIEL IN BABYLON.

[Jan. 31.]

[Commit to memory verses 20, 21.]

8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

9 Now God had brought Daniel into favor and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.

10 And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which are of your sort? then shall ye make me endanger my head to the king.

11 Then said Daniel to Melzar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Han'an'iah, Misha'el, and Azb'ar'iah,

12 Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink;

13 Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants.

14 So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days.

15 And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat.

16 Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse.

17 As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

18 Now at the end of the days that the king had said he should bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar.

19 And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Han'an'iah,