

Doubtless in cleansing Jerusalem from idolatry (v. 3), the king had destroyed all signs of idolatry in the sacred building. Now he sets about repairing it, as King Joash had done two centuries before, 2 Kgs. 12: 4-16. Certain officers of the king were sent to Hilkiah the high priest to give him the money . . . gathered for this purpose. And they returned to Jerusalem. The meaning is "they had returned to Jerusalem," that is, "the Levites" who had gathered the "money" all over the land.

11-13. These verses mention those in charge of repairing the temple and restoring its services. And the men did the work faithfully; as in the times of Hezekiah and Joash, ch. 31: 12; 2 Kgs. 12: 15. Scribes; among whose duties was the copying of the Scriptures. Officers; corresponding to our magistrates. Porters; the keepers by night and day of the temple doors. From each of these classes men were drawn to take part in the repairing of the temple.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association)

M.—Josiah's good reign, 2 Chron. 34: 1-13. T.—Prophecy of Josiah, 1 Kgs. 13: 1-6. W.—Moses destroying the idol, Deut. 9: 13-21. Th.—Young Samuel's call, 1 Sam. 1: 1-10. F.—"Come, ye children," Psalm 34: 1-11. S.—Christ's call, Mark 10: 13-21. S.—In the days of youth, Eccles. 12: 1-7.

Prove from Scripture—That our work will be tested.

Shorter Catechism—Ques 89. How is the word made effectual to salvation? A. The Spirit of God maketh the reading, but especially the preaching of the word, an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners, and of building them up in holiness and comfort, through faith, unto salvation.

The Question on Missions—30. Why is Erromanga called the "Martyr Isle"? Erromanga is called the "Martyr Isle" because John Williams, the first missionary who visited the island, his companion, Harris, and our own missionaries, Rev. George N. Gordon and his wife, and his brother, Rev. James Gordon, were all cruelly murdered by the natives.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, Ps. Sel. 97 (Supplemental Lesson); 358; 403; 122 (Ps. Sel.); 387 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 389.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Juniors—Who became king of Judah after Manasseh? How long did he reign?

1-3 (a) What kind of father had Josiah? How old was he when he became king? Whom did he please? Whose example did he follow?

3 (b)-7 What did many of Josiah's people worship? How did the king treat the idols? At what age did he begin to do this?

8-14 What building did Josiah repair? Had there been any things in the temple used for idol worship? What had the king done with these things? Where had money been gathered for repairing the temple? To whom was it given?

Seniors and the Home Department—When did Josiah reign? Describe the character and fate of Amon?

1-3 (a) Who was Josiah's mother? What wise choice did he make? When should we make the same choice? (Josh. 24: 15.) What is told us of Jesus' boyhood? (Luk. 2: 52.)

3 (b)-7 What reformation did Josiah make? From what should we seek cleansing? (Isa. 1: 16.) What cleansing fountain does Zechariah speak of? (Zech. 13: 1.)

8-14 What other youthful king had repaired the temple? How long before Josiah's time? Whose temple are our bodies? (1 Cor. 6: 19.)

THE LESSON IN LIFE

1. Too young at eight "to seek the Lord?" So was not King Josiah. And he found Him. Too young at twelve to do battle against the wicked things that may be about you? So was not this boy king; and a brave fight he carried on.

2. Josiah would have made a good farmer. When he saw a weed he pulled it up by the root, and was careful to plant good seed in its place.

3. There is plenty of rubbish to clear away in our lives. All sorts of meanness and wickedness must be got rid of. Then we shall get down to the solid rock, and be able to build up a true manhood.

4. Strangers used to ask a policeman on Sabbath mornings the way to the church of a great preacher. "Cross the ferry, turn to the right, and follow the crowd," was the reply. But if we turn to the right in good earnest, as Josiah did, by and by we shall get the crowd to follow us.

5. An arrow, if it is to reach the mark, must not only be aimed straight; it must have force enough behind it to drive it forward in spite of the wind. And no one ever did much good in the world without a strong and steadfast will.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What made it hard for Josiah to do right?

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2. How do we know that he was sincere?

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3. What did he put away? What did he restore?

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