

# Notes on the Lessons.

## LESSON IX—May 31st, 1896.

### Destruction of Jerusalem Foretold. LUKE 21: 20-36.

(Commit to memory verses 34-36).

GOLDEN TEXT: "Heaven and earth shall pass away; but my words shall not pass away."  
Luke 21: 33.

PROVE THAT—Sin will be punished. Rom. 6: 23.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 61. *What is forbidden in the fourth commandment? A.*  
The fourth commandment forbiddeth the omission or careless performance of the duties required, and the profaning the day by idleness, or doing that which is in itself sinful, or by unnecessary thoughts, words, or works, about our worldly employments or recreations.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 2, 148, 201, 149.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Trouble and comfort. Luke 21: 5-19. *Tuesday.* Destruction of Jerusalem foretold. Luke 21: 20-36. *Wednesday.* Jerusalem in prosperity. Psalm 122. *Thursday.* Wept over. Luke 19: 37-48. *Friday.* "Ye would not." Luke 13: 31-35. *Saturday.* Jerusalem destroyed. Isaiah 64. *Sabbath.* The heavenly Jerusalem. Rev. 21: 1-7, 22-27. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

### EXPOSITORY NOTES.

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INTRODUCTORY. After a day spent in teaching and healing—the last day of his earthly service—Jesus retired, as usual, in the evening to Bethany. As they passed out of the temple the disciples drew his attention to the magnificent stones of the building, and this gave occasion for the utterance of the solemn discourse which followed, having for its theme the destruction of Jerusalem and the second coming of Christ. Of this discourse, spoken on the road to Bethany, our lesson forms a part. Parallel Passages, Matt. 24: 15-42; Mark 13: 14-17.

LESSON PLAN. I. Judgment Predicted. vs. 20-24. II. Redemption Promised. vs. 25-33. III. Watchfulness Enjoined. vs. 34-36.

I. JUDGMENT PREDICTED. 20. **When ye shall see**—Troublesome times were to arise, apparent signs were to show themselves. Jesus lifts the veil, and gives his disciples a glimpse into the unfoldings of the future. He warns his people not to mistake those signs for "the true signs which his people are to be on the watch for." **Compassed with armies**—This was seen about 40 years afterwards, when the Romans besieged the city. **The desolation**—"Perhaps no period in the world's history has ever been so marked by these convulsions as that which intervenes between the crucifixion and the destruction of Jerusalem." (Plumptre). This was the sign that the end had come for "temple, city and people." The time when his people should take warning. A warning that was duly heeded. It is said that not a single christian perished in that terrible siege. All had noted the sign and fled to Pella, across the Jordan. 21. **Flee to the mountains**—The followers of the "Prince of peace," must not cultivate the belligerent spirit of the world, but must ever "follow after the things which make for peace," (Rom. 14: 19). The inhabitants of the country were to "flee to the mountains." The citizens of Jerusalem were to come out of it ere it was too late, "before the city be closely shut up, and before the trenches be opened." When the Lord, who "is a strong tower," forsaketh a city, let all the people tremble, and let the righteous seek refuge "under the shadow of the Almighty," (Ps. 91: 1). Neither city nor country is safe apart from the favor and approval of God. 22. **Days of vengeance**—spoken of so often by Old Testament prophets, "which will complete the ruin of that provoking people." (Henry). This very destruction was particularly foretold by Daniel (Dan. 9: 26, 27). All these things befel the Jews, because they rejected the Messiah. **All things which are written**—Whatever men may say or do, however bitter the criticisms made, the Word of God shall ever remain the same, unchanged and unchangeable. "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Matt. 24: 35). **May be fulfilled**—accomplished and verified to the very letter. "Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in nowise pass from the law till all be fulfilled" (Matt. 5: 18). 23. **Great distress**—Pestilence and famine drove the besieged to such distress that Lev. 26: 29; Deut. 28: 56, 57 were literally fulfilled. **Wrath upon this people**—What an idea is here presented of the sinfulness of sin, and the awful doom awaiting the impenitent, upon whom cometh the wrath of God. 500 prisoners were every day crucified until wood could not be found for crosses. 24. **Fall by the edge of the sword**—1,100,000 are said to have perished at that time. **Led away captive unto all nations**—It is estimated that 90,000