

Lesson VI.

JEREMIAH TRIED AND ACQUITTED

August 6, 1911

Jeremiah 26: 7-19. Study Jeremiah, ch. 26—Memory Verses, 13, 14.

Golden Text—The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?—Psalm 27: 1.

7 So the priests, and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremi'ah speaking these words in the house of the LORD.

8 Now it came to pass, when Jeremi'ah had made an end of speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak unto all the people, that the priests and the prophets and all the people took him, saying, Thou shalt surely die.

9 Why hast thou prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, This house shall be like Shi'loh, and this city shall be desolate without an inhabitant? And all the people were gathered against Jeremi'ah in the house of the LORD.

10 When the princes of Ju'dah heard these things, then they came up from the king's house unto the house of the LORD, and sat down in the entry of the new gate of the LORD's house.

11 Then spake the priests and the prophets unto the princes and to all the people, saying, This man is worthy to die; for he hath prophesied against this city, as ye have heard with your ears.

12 Then spake Jeremi'ah unto all the princes and to all the people, saying, The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and against this city all the words that ye have heard.

13 Therefore now amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the LORD your God; and the LORD will repent him of the evil that he hath pronounced against you.

14 As for me, behold, I am in your hand: do with me as seemeth good and meet unto you.

15 But know ye for certain, that if ye put me to death, ye shall surely bring innocent blood upon yourselves, and upon this city, and upon the inhabitants thereof: for of a truth the LORD hath

sent me unto you to speak all these words in your ears.

16 Then said the princes and all the people unto the priests and to the prophets; This man is not worthy to die: for he hath spoken to us in the name of the LORD our God.

17 Then rose up certain of the elders of the land, and spake to all the assembly of the people, saying,

18 Mi'cah the Moras'thite prophesied in the days of Hezeki'ah king of Ju'dah, and spake to all the people of Ju'dah, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Zi'on shall be plowed like a field, and Jeru'salem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of a forest.

19 Did Hezeki'ah king of Ju'dah and all Ju'dah put him at all to death? did he not fear the LORD, and besought the LORD, and the LORD repented him of the evil which he had pronounced against them? Thus might we procure great evil against our souls.

THE LESSON RETOLD

After good King Josiah died, his son Jehoiakim ruled in his stead. But he did not do right, as his father had done, neither did the people keep their promise to serve and obey God.

In the land of Judah there lived at that time a great and good prophet called Jeremiah. And the Lord said to Jeremiah one day, "Go and stand in the court of the temple and speak to the people the words I shall tell thee; they may listen to My words and repent of their sins, so that I may forgive them." So Jeremiah went to the temple and cried aloud to the people, "Thus saith the Lord: 'If you will not obey My laws, nor listen to the prophets which I send unto you, behold, I will make your country an empty wilderness and this city a curse to all nations.'"

Now some of the priests and prophets of

that time, like the king, were wicked men. They were very angry when they heard the words of Jeremiah, and seizing him roughly, they cried, "Now, thou shalt surely be put to death for this." Down in the city the princes and rulers of the people heard of the disturbance at the temple, and came to see what it meant. Then the prophets and priests spoke wildly against Jeremiah, saying, "He should die for speaking thus against our city!"

The princes took Jeremiah aside, and when they had heard his story, they said to the priests, "This man should not be put to death, for he hath spoken to us in the name of the Lord God of Israel." Some of the other rulers also rose and spoke to the angry people, saying, "In the days of King Hezekiah, Micah the prophet foretold great evils that would come upon the people of Jerusalem for