

Lesson, 2 Chron. 17: 1-10. Read 1 Kings 14: 21 to 16: 34. Commit vs. 3-6.

1. And Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his stead, and strengthened himself against Israel.
2. And he placed forces in all the fenced cities of Judah, and set garrisons in the land of Judah, and in the cities of Ephraim, which Asa his father had taken.
3. And the Lord was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the first ways of his father David, and sought not unto Baalim:
4. But sought to the Lord God of his father, and walked in his commandments, and not after the doings of Israel.
5. Therefore the Lord established the kingdom in his hand; and all Judah brought to Jehoshaphat presents; and he had riches and honor in abundance.
6. And his heart was lifted up in the ways of the Lord; moreover he took away the high places and groves out of Judah.

7. Also in the third year of his reign, he sent to his princes, even to Ben-hail, and to Obediah, and to Zechariah, and to Nathaneel, and to Michajah, to teach in the cities of Judah.

8. And with them he sent Levites, even Shemaiah, and Nathaniah, and Zebadiah, and Asahel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehonathan and Adonijah, and Tobijah, and Tob-adonijah, Levites; and with them Elishama and Jehoram, priests.

9. And they taught in Judah, and had the book of the law of the Lord with them, and went about throughout all the cities of Judah, and taught the people.

10. And the fear of the Lord fell upon all the kingdoms of the lands that were round about Judah, so that they made no war against Jehoshaphat.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."—Prov. 3: 6.

LESSON PLAN.

1. Strengthening the Defences. vs. 1, 2.
2. Purifying the Worship, 3-6.
3. Educating the People, 7-10.

DAILY READINGS.

- M. Jehoshaphat's good reign, 2 Chron. 17: 1-10.
 T. Good instructions, 2 Chron. 19: 1-11.
 W. Refuge in trouble, 2 Chron. 20: 1-13.
 T. Resting in God, 2 Chron. 20: 14-21.
 F. Deliverance, 2 Chron. 20: 22-30.
 S. The King and the Scriptures, Deut. 17: 14-20.
 S. A joyful Bible reading, Neh. 8: 1-12 —I.B.R.A. Selections.

CATECHISM.

Q. 38. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?

A. At the resurrection, believers being raised up in glory, shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoying of God to all eternity.

LESSON HYMNS.

Nos. 96 (Ps.) 574, 149, 595.

Our lesson tells us how Jehoshaphat pleased God by his plans and purposes, and how in return for his labor God made the people a great and good people, and feared by the nations around.

V. 1. Against Israel.—The bad feeling caused by the dividing of Solomon's kingdom remained for many reigns and every new king of Judah tried to strengthen his kingdom against Israel; so the ambitious young king set himself to fortify his cities and make his people brave in case of war.

2.—He made his people strong by putting **forces**, or bands of soldiers, in the **fenced** or walled cities, and by setting **garrisons** or bodies of troops in different suitable places in the land, and especially in the towns which Asa had captured from **Ephraim**, the leading tribe of the Ten Tribes.

3.—The Lord was with him because he walked in the **first ways** of David his father, i.e., he was good as David his ancestor was in his early and best days, and **sought not unto Baalim**—did not worship idols. Baalim is the plural of Baal (which means Lord or master), a god whose idol the Phœnicians and other heathen nations worshipped. Omri and Ahab, kings of Israel, had taught the northern kingdom to worship this idol with sinful rites, but (verse 4) Jehoshaphat, like a wise man, worshipped the God of his **father Asa**, and did not follow after the **doings** of Israel.

5.—God, as a reward for this faithful service, "**established the kingdom in his hands**;"

men rewarded him by giving him presents and honor.

6.—His heart was lifted up in the **ways of the Lord**.—His heart was full of courage and gladness as he walked in the ways of the Lord. This courage pushed him to the second step which made his kingdom great. He restored the pure worship of God by taking away the **high places**, the altars on hills and mounds, where sinful practices were common, and the **groves**, wooden images of a heathen goddess of wicked character, by name Asherah. So Jehoshaphat saved his people from sin and made them happy and brave.

7.—By the **third year** of his reign Jehoshaphat had found that to make his people great he must have not only, (1) walled cities, and (2) pure public worship, but (3) the ignorant must become intelligent, so he was for setting up schools all through the lands. So he sent to his princes to teach, probably to make arrangements for and to inspect the teaching.

8.—He sent **Levites**—subordinate priests—and two **priests** to help the princes.

9.—But these did not stay in one place teaching school so much, but they passed from city to city and taught the people from the **book of the Law of the Lord**, i.e., the Bible of that day. The book of the Law began with the ten commandments (Exodus 20) and is now contained within the first 5 books of our Bible.

10.—The knowledge of God's law made the people great, and their God feared, by the nations around.