

Lesson XII.

DEFEAT THROUGH DRUNKENNESS—
TEMPERANCE LESSON

March 19, 1911

1 Kings 20 : 12-21—Memory Verse, 13.

Golden Text—It is not for kings to drink wine ; nor for princes strong drink.—Proverbs 31 : 4.

12 And it came to pass, when *Ben-ha'dad* heard this message, as he *was* drinking, he and the kings in the pavilions, that he said unto his servants, Set *yourselves* in array. And they set *themselves* in array against the city.

13 And, behold, there came a prophet unto *A'hah* king of *Is'rael*, saying, Thus saith the Lord, Hast thou seen all this great multitude ? behold, I will deliver it into thine hand this day ; and thou shalt know that *I am* the Lord.

14 And *A'hah* said, By whom ? And he said, Thus saith the Lord, *Even* by the young men of the princes of the provinces. Then he said, Who shall order the battle ? And he answered, Thou.

15 Then he numbered the young men of the princes of the provinces, and they were two hundred and thirty two : and after them he numbered all the people ; *even* all the children of *Is'rael*, *being* seven thousand.

16 And they went out at noon. But *Ben-ha'dad* *was* drinking himself drunk in the pavilions, he and the kings, the thirty and two kings that helped him.

17 And the young men of the princes of the provinces went out first ; and *Ben-ha'dad* sent out, and they told him, saying, There are men come out of *Samar'ia*.

18 And he said, Whether they be come out for peace, take them alive ; or whether they be come out for war, take them alive.

19 So these young men of the princes of the provinces came out of the city, and the army which followed them.

20 And they slew every one his man : and the *Syr'ians* fled ; and *Is'rael* pursued them : and *Ben-ha'dad* the king of *Syr'ia* escaped on an horse with the horsemen.

21 And the king of *Is'rael* went out, and smote the horses and chariots, and slew the *Syr'ians* with a great slaughter.

THE LESSON RETOLD

It happened, when *Ahab* was king of *Israel*, that *Ben-hadad*, the king of a country called *Syria*, gathered a great army together and went up to fight against *Samaria*, the city where the king lived. And *Ben-hadad* sent several messages to *Ahab*, saying first that he would take away from him all his wealth and even his wives and children ; and afterwards, that he would also send his servants to search *Ahab's* palace that they might take anything from it that they desired.

Ahab was afraid when he heard the first message, and hastily sent messengers to *Ben-hadad*, saying that he might take whatever he wished. But when the second one came, threatening to search even his palace,

and take all its treasures, he grew angry.

Ahab then called the chief men of *Israel* together, and told them what *Ben-hadad* had said. The elders and all the people at once answered, " Do not yield to *Ben-hadad*." But when this answer was brought to *Ben-hadad*, he sent still another message to *Ahab*, saying that he had a great army behind him, and with it he would come up immediately and take the city of *Samaria*. But *Ahab* answered proudly, " Do not boast beforehand as if you had already gained the victory."

When *Ben-hadad* heard this second message, he and his captains were drinking together in their tents. And the king cried, " Make ready for the battle !" So the sol-