

Deuteronomy code, as the reforms made were in keeping with it. (See Deut. 12 : 3 ; 17 : 3, 12 ; 18 : 11.) It became the standard of conduct and guidance. Question as to the way it became authoritative,—by the calling of a popular assembly, reading, and the making of a solemn covenant. Discuss :

1. *The presentation of the book of the law to the king*, vs. 14-18. Bring out the details, which indicate a new interest.

2. *Josiah's reception of the book*, vs. 19-21. The moral elements are pronounced, as contrition, anxiety to do right and sense of dread.

3. *Huldah's prediction concerning Judah and Jerusalem*, vs. 22-28. Bring out the details, and the promise made concerning Josiah himself.

4. *The great reformation*, vs. 29-33. Have the class give the various facts in their order. The section shows how searching had been the thought of the people in view of the reading of the law.

The main lesson is the value and place of God's Word in all true reformation, individual and national. All acknowledge the unsatisfactory condition of life in modern society and even in the church. The question of a remedy is not so readily solved. Many seek a remedy in some human scheme of reform. The position of this Lesson is that only the law of God can do this work. This is the claim of the Bible itself. If it is God's will to man, then, if obeyed, it should save and guide man aright. The trouble is that men do not know and do God's will. How is God's law hidden now? Let the class answer. Materialism, neglect, undue engrossment in newspapers, all help to hide it from human eyes. How is it found? By spiritual vision. Emphasize how a revival of religion is a revival of Bible study. The great work of the church is to lead men back to God through God's Word. Urge systematic, prayerful Bible study.

For Teachers of the Senior Scholars

Review the last Lesson as an introduction to this one. They belong to each other. We are glad to spend two weeks in studying the short life of Josiah.

1. *Josiah found the Bible*, vs. 14-18. (1) How did the Bible get lost? A reference to the heathenish condition of things during the two preceding reigns of Amon and Manasseh will answer this question. Note that this was the pulpit Bible that got lost. In the Middle Ages many of the pulpit Bibles got lost. The priests were almost as ignorant of the Bible as the people. It is bad enough for the Bible to get lost in the home,—sometimes it cannot be found when a call is made for it during pastoral visiting,—but it is even worse when the pulpit Bible gets lost, when the house of God is forsaken. Dwell upon some of the ways of losing the Bible,—by neglecting it, by allowing the cares and pleasures of the world to crowd it out of the life. (2) How was the Bible found? When they were engaged in repairing the temple, they found it. In doing what God wants us to do, we are sure to find the lost Book. Dwell upon this thought, that those who do wrong lose interest in the Bible and those who do right take a deeper interest in it.

2. *The Bible found Josiah*, vs. 19-21. Dwell upon the kind of life Josiah was living, how he was living up to the light that was in him. He knew a good deal about the Bible before this. How was it, then, that this newly-found Bible produced such an impression upon him? Did this book contain some things which he had not known before, some chapters like, Deut. 28? Or was it that the old words came that day with new force? When the Bible finds us, when it reveals us to ourselves, we are likely to do like Josiah. Note that Josiah gave the Bible a chance to find him.

3. *A divine revelation*, vs. 22-28. Have some one tell the story of the visit of the king's messengers to Huldah, and her message to the king. What was there in this message to grieve the king? What to comfort him?

4. *A great church gathering*, vs. 29-33. What took the people to church? What was done that day at church?

Dwell, in closing, on the blessings that come from Bible study.