

## I. THE TESTING PERIOD

1. *The gift of prophets*, Lesson I. (compare Amos 2 : 10, 11). Some one has well said that the prophets are the beating heart of the Old Testament. One of the greatest gifts of God to a nation is men of spiritual vision who are bold enough to confront a nation's waywardness in the interests of its highest welfare. How was Isaiah's experience an epitome of his message to the nation ?

2. *The responsibility of leaders*, Lesson II. The later difficulties of Judah were partly due to the vacillation and faithlessness of Ahaz. Politics is too sacred a field for corrupt and unspiritual men to occupy. Point out the growing seriousness of the public mind in this direction to-day.

3. *A second chance*, Lessons III., IV. The fate of Samaria almost overtook Judah. How was Judah saved ? What spirit of thankfulness did the nation show ?

4. *The challenge of sin*, Lesson VI. The evils which men believed Hezekiah had destroyed, reappeared with fresh vigor in the days of Manasseh. What were these evils ? The price of national liberty is eternal vigilance. Let us not forget that the liquor evil has not yet been destroyed in this land. With what fresh potency it has reappeared in Russia. Let us be warned.

5. *Reform by law*, Lessons VII., VIII. The Book of Deuteronomy has a great ideal. In what sense did it embody the teachings of the prophets ? Point out the value of the youth with his ideals to the state. But no country can be properly reformed until the hearts of the people have been touched (see Jer. 31 : 33). Deuteronomy could effect only an external reformation.

## II. PURGED TO SERVE

1. *The appeal of national humiliation*, Lesson IX. The fall of Jerusalem was a stunning blow. In what false dogmas had the people been trusting ? How did the Exile spiritualize the Jewish religion and people ? The Hebrew people never practised idolatry after the Exile.

2. *The new merchandise*, Lesson V. In this lesson, which comes from the period of the Exile, we are given a glimpse of the new vocation which the redeemed nation will follow. Its greatness will lie in its spiritual wares rather than its material traffic.

3. *The new state*, Lesson X. What are the features which the prophet believes will be realized in the ideal state ?

## III. MEN OF THE COMING KINGDOM

Lessons XI., XII., XIII. During the Exile, those who believed in the promises of a restoration lived as seeing that which was still invisible. Some of the qualities of the citizens of that kingdom which, rising out of the ruins of Judah, will endure forever are given in these lessons.

## THE QUARTERLY REVIEW

## FOR SENIOR SCHOLARS AND BOYS AND GIRLS : The Decline and Fall of Judah

Remind the scholars that we have studied for the Quarter the decline and fall and captivity of Judah. The lessons have covered a period of over two hundred years. In spite of everything that God could do to save his people, rising up early and sending his prophets to warn and teach and lead them, as Jeremiah tells us so often, they persisted in their evil doings, till he had to give them up. Point out that if a nation or an individual will not listen to God, that nation or individual must perish. Question the class about the men who played a leading part in the history of their country during this period.

1. *Isaiah*, Lessons I. and V. Make clear that he was the greatest of the prophets and one of the greatest men that ever lived. How did the call to service come to him ? How does the call come to us ? How have we responded ? Ask for familiar quotations from his writings. How many can repeat chs. 53 and 55 ?

2. *Ahaz*, Lesson II. What kind of king was Ahaz ? How was he punished for his evil doings ? Is there any escape from the punishment of sin ? Quote these old, familiar lines :