

LESSON IX—May 31st, 1896.

Destruction of Jerusalem Foretold. LUKE 21: 20-36.

(Commit to memory verses 34-36).

GOLDEN TEXT: "Heaven and earth shall pass away; but my words shall not pass away."
Luke 21: 33.

PROVE THAT—Sin will be punished. Rom. 6: 23.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 61. *What is forbidden in the fourth commandment?* A. The fourth commandment forbiddeth the omission or careless performance of the duties required, and the profaning the day by idleness, or doing that which is in itself sinful, or by unnecessary thoughts, words, or works, about our worldly employments or recreations.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 2, 148, 201, 149.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Trouble and comfort. Luke 21: 5-19. *Tuesday.* Destruction of Jerusalem foretold. Luke 21: 20-36. *Wednesday.* Jerusalem in prosperity. Psalm 122. *Thursday.* Wept over. Luke 19: 37-48. *Friday.* "Ye would not." Luke 13: 31-35. *Saturday.* Jerusalem destroyed. Isaiah 64. *Sabbath.* The heavenly Jerusalem. Rev. 21: 1-7, 22-27. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. After a day spent in teaching and healing—the last day of his earthly service—Jesus retired, as usual, in the evening to Bethany. As they passed out of the temple the disciples drew his attention to the magnificent stones of the building, and this gave occasion for the utterance of the solemn discourse which followed, having for its theme the destruction of Jerusalem and the second coming of Christ. Of this discourse, spoken on the road to Bethany, our lesson forms a part. Parallel Passages, Matt. 24: 15-42; Mark 13: 14-17.

LESSON PLAN. I. Judgment Predicted. vs. 20-24. II. Redemption Promised. vs. 25-33. III. Watchfulness Enjoined. vs. 34-36.

20. *Compassed with armies*—This was seen about 40 years afterwards when the Romans besieged the city. The desolation thereof—This was a sign that Jerusalem was about to be destroyed. The warning was well heeded. It is said that not one Christian perished in that terrible siege. All had noted the sign and fled to Pella, across the Jordan. 21. *The mountains*—Pella was among the mountains of Gilead. Depart out—There was an interval between the sieges which afforded an opportunity of escape. Countries—rather, "country," rural districts. They would be tempted to go into the city for protection from the invading army. 22. *Days of vengeance*—When God was punishing them for their wickedness (Dan. 9: 26, 27). All things which are written—Isa. 20: 2-4; Hos. 10: 14, 15; Deut. 28: 49-57; 1 Kings 9: 6-9; Ps. 79: 1-13; Mic. 3: 8-12. 23. *Great distress*—Pestilence and famine drove the besieged to such distress that Lev. 26: 29; Deut. 28: 56, 57 were literally fulfilled; 500 prisoners were every day crucified by Titus until wood could not be found for crosses. It was the most terrible siege in history. 24. *Fall by the edge of the sword*—1,100,000 are said to have perished at this time. Led away captive unto all nations—They are found amongst every civilized people but have possessed no country of their own since the destruction of Jerusalem. Trodden down of the gentiles—Romans, Saracens, Persians, Franks, Norsemen, Turks, have since then "trodden down" the Holy city. The times of the gentiles—The period allotted for their full evangelization (Rom. 11: 25). 25. *Signs in the sun*—Christ here rises into the poetic style of the prophets and represents the commotions attending his second coming as if the powers of nature and the spirit world were in tumult as well as the nations of men (2 Pet. 3: 7-13). 27. *Coming in a cloud*—The symbol of the divine presence in the desert and at the transfiguration (1 Thess. 4: 16, 17). 28. As the destruction of the Jewish nation delivered the Christians from their persecutors so the coming of Christ at judgment will set his people free, henceforth they shall be "forever with the Lord." 29. The signs which Christ gave were as certain as that the bursting of buds in springtime give promise of summer. 32. *This generation*—The discourse has been mainly about the destruction of Jerusalem, which took place about 40 years after this. 34. *Take heed to yourselves*—Be on the watch. Let not Christ come and find you self-indulgent and worldly (Rom. 13: 13; 1 Pet. 4: 7; 1 Thess. 5: 6). 35. *As a snare*—Eccl. 9: 12. Compare 1 Thess. 5: 2; 2 Pet. 3: 10; Rev. 3: 3; 16: 15. 36. *Watch*—Matt. 24: 42; 25: 13; Mark 13: 33. *Pray*—ch. 18: 1; Eph. 6: 18. *To stand*—As accepted for Jesus' sake. Ps. 1: 5; Eph. 6: 13.

LESSONS. 1. The punishment of sin is sure. 2. Signs of the second coming of Christ. 3. Comfort and hope in the sure triumph of the Gospel. 4. The immutability of the divine word. 5. Take heed, watch, pray.