

shoe-leather, consuming also the nettles and grass from the church-yards. At Leyden men and women quarreled with dogs for scraps of food to be found in the gutter, and the pestilence there carried off six or seven thousand people. A description of the famine at Jerusalem is given in Lam. 2. 11, 12, 19; 4. 4, etc.; 5. 10.

3. *The flight*—predicted Ezek. 12. 1-12. At last the city can hold out no longer, and the enemy pours in. The gate "by the king's garden" (supposed to be at the south-eastern corner of the Tyropean valley) is perhaps less watched in the moment of victory, and king and soldiers try to save themselves this way. But in vain. There follows,

4. *The sword*—predicted Jer. 9. 16; Ezek. 5. 12. First, the sons of Zedekiah, later on the principal men of the city, fall by the hands of the Chaldeans, besides further slaughter at a still later period. See Jer. 41. 42.

5. *The carrying away captive*—predicted Jer. 9. 16. The city they loved and the temple on which they prided themselves have been destroyed by the flames. And now the old familiar scenes must be left, the inheritance of their fathers given up, and they who had been a separate people, distinct from and unlike the nations round about, go into captivity in a strange land. The fall of Jerusalem, the ruin of the kingdom of Judah, is complete.

Thus the word of God in its threatenings of judgment was fulfilled.

Was that the end of Judah and Jerusalem? No. At the very time that these things began to come to pass the promise of future restoration was given. Jer. 32. 36, 37, etc. After seventy years had passed this word was also fulfilled, as we shall read later on. But where are the Jews now? Scattered—far more widely than during that first captivity, in some countries even now treated with contempt and cruelty, while their city and country are in the hands of strangers. Again in their case the threatenings of God's word have been fulfilled. The Jew is a living, universal witness to the faithfulness of that word. Dare we trifle with such a word—a word that tells us plainly that the "wages of sin is death," and that "whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap?"

But as surely as those seventy years of captivity passed away, so shall also the centuries of dispersion and suffering for the Jews have an end. The word of the Lord is pledged to restore them. Isa. 43. 5, 6. The Bible tells of a glorious future for them. And yet more glorious are the promises to the Church of Christ, "where there is neither Greek nor Jew." Col. 3. 4, 11. Read the last two chapters of Revelation, and say, would you not like to make these promises your own?

Berean Methods.

Hints for the Teachers' Meeting and the Class.

In connection with this lesson, it might be well to review the names of all the twenty kings of Judah. Write their initials, and have them repeated, if there is time for a preliminary lesson—R. A. A. J. J. A. Q. A. A.

J. A. U. J. A. H. M. J. J. J. J. Z. . . . Draw a map; locate Babylon, Riblah, Jerusalem; show the route of Nebuchadnezzar's march, and that of the captives to Babylon. . . . Show the immediate crimes of Zedekiah leading to his dethronement and captivity: 1.) Ambition; 2.) Following evil counsel; 3.) Falsehood; 4.) Distrust of God. . . . Show the results of sin in this life, from the Analytical and Biblical Outline. . . . Do not fail to notice that the innocent children of Zedekiah suffered for his crimes, and illustrate the same principle now. . . . The judgment of Zedekiah a type of another judgment to come. . . . How God brought good out of the evil of the captivity. . . . Tell about another Jerusalem, the city of God, which shall never be destroyed, and of which we may all be citizens.

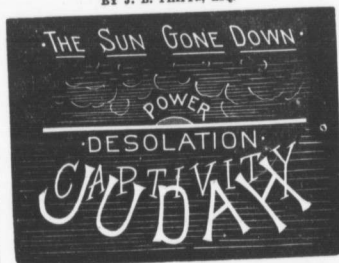
References. FREEMAN'S HAND-BOOK. Verse 1: The "fort," 565. Ver. 4: Fortifications, 366. Ver. 7: Prisoners blinded, 360; Fetters, 360. Ver. 8: The captain of the guard, 71. Ver. 11: Deportation, 352.

Songs from the Epworth Hymnal.

- 133. How firm a foundation.
- 109. Depth of mercy.
- 180. He leadeth me.
- 163. My Jesus, as thou wilt.
- 162. Art thou saddened?

Blackboard.

BY J. B. PHIPPS, ESQ.



This blackboard sketch is intended to illustrate the loss of power, strength, and glory of the kingdom of Judah. Their sun has gone down; darkness and desolation is over the land. Captivity is the condition of the people. Jerusalem is destroyed. Will the sun rise again?

SUGGESTION. Make the sketch before the session of the school, and, if you use colored chalk, make the word Judah in brown or blue, and the other words in stronger, brighter colors.

JERUSALEM DESTROYED,

468 years after David's reign began.

424 years after Solomon's Temple.

388 years after Revolt of Ten Tribes.

Lesson Word-Pictures.

O sad, sad day! Stand on Jerusalem's walls and look off. On every side is an armed host! Toward the Great Sea, along the roads to Damascus, Jericho, Hebron, all around the deep, rugged ravines, wherever any important position is to be covered, there is the grim Chaldean. See the "forts" that stubborn and defiant have been "built against" the city "round about." And hark! With what a crashing sound the huge battering-rams are driven against the walls! How the