

24. 8-16.) How many captives were taken? To what place? By whom? What great prophet was among them? (Ezek. 1. 1, 2.) Who continued to warn and entreat the people to do better? (Jer. 22. 1-3; Ezek. 2. 1-3.) Why did God send these punishments upon them? Did he want them to suffer? What did he wish for them? (Ezek. 18 30-32.)

II. THE GREAT SIEGE (vs. 1-3).—When did the great siege begin? How long ago was it? Who were the besiegers? (Jer. 34. 1.) Describe the siege. How long did it continue? What is said of the famine? (v. 3; Jer. 37. 21; 38. 9; Ezek. 5. 10.)

III. DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM AND THE TEMPLE (vs. 4-12).—Where did the king go when the Chaldean army entered the city? Where was he taken? What was done to him? How long after this was the city destroyed? (v. 8.) What was done to the city? What to the temple? What to the remaining inhabitants?

LESSONS FROM THE CAPTURE OF JERUSALEM.

1. God's object was love, to cure the nation of idolatry.
2. God put every hindrance possible in the way of their sin and destruction,—prophets, warnings, mercies, time for repentance, a vision of the end.
3. God is just, and will surely punish the wicked.
4. God is merciful, and desires that all should turn and be saved.
5. God makes the way of sin hard, that men should not walk in it.
6. Those that go on in sin must go against God's love, God's goodness to them, warnings, entreaties, Bibles, Sabbaths, the Holy Spirit, the certainty of punishment at last.

REVIEW EXERCISE.

16. What great event had Jeremiah foretold to the Jews? Ans. 70 years' captivity on account of their sins. 17. When did this captivity begin? Ans. B.C., 604. 18. Who made them captives? Ans. Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. 19. What did he do with them? Ans. He took their treasures, and sent the people to Babylon. 20. What more did he do? Ans. He utterly destroyed their city and the temple.

B.C. 605-3.] LESSON V. [Jan. 31.

DANIEL IN BABYLON.

Dan. 1. 8-21. Commit to mem. vs. 20, 21.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.—Ps. 109. 9.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

Faithfulness to principle the way to usefulness and success.

DAILY READINGS.

M. Dan. 1. 1-7. T. Dan. 1. 8-21. W. James 1. 1-15. Th. Prov. 3. 1-22. F. 1 Kings 3. 5-15. Sa. 1 Cor. 3. 11-23. Su. Matt. 4. 1-11.

TIME.—B.C. 605-3, 18 years before the last lesson. The beginning of the 70 years' captivity.

PLACE.—Babylon, on the Euphrates, 500 miles east of Jerusalem.

DANIEL.—At this time 14 years old, born at Jerusalem, of noble parentage, carried captive to Babylon, where he lived all the 70 years' captivity. A great statesman, a learned scientific man, a true prophet of the noblest character, lived at least till B.C. 534, 85 years old.

CIRCUMSTANCES.—We now turn back a little way into the history, to the beginning of the 70 years' captivity, and take up the study of Daniel, who here finds his place in the history.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—THE FOUR CAPTIVES. About the time of Lesson 2, a number of captives were carried from Jerusalem to Babylon. Among them were four boys who became noted in history,—Daniel, and the three who were cast into the fiery furnace. These four were selected to be trained for the official service of King Nebuchadnezzar. They were taught in the Chaldean learning, and fed with the luxuries provided by the king. 8. Purposed not to defile himself with the king's meat—i.e. Food. Some of the flesh was that forbidden to Jews. See Lev., chap. 11; Deut. 12. 23-25. Often it was consecrated to idols. It was too luxurious for their best health. 9. God brought Daniel into favour—By direct influence, and by giving Daniel a lovable, noble character. 10. Endanger my head—

Least his head be cut off for disobedience. 11. Melzar.—The melzar, one steward; not a proper name. He had charge of their food. This plan was doubtless by permission of the prince of the eunuchs. Hananiah, etc.—See their other names in v. 5. 12. Pulse.—Vegetable food, grains. Pulse, originally meant leguminous seeds, as beans, peas. 13. Stood before the king—As his officers and advisers. Servants always stood when in the presence of the monarch. 20. Better than all the magicians—The priestly, learned class. Astrologers—Wise men, magi, scientific men. All used and believed in magic and astrology. The Chaldeans were at this time the most learned people in the world. 21. First year of Cyrus—B.C. 534, the end of the 70 years' captivity. Cyrus conquered Babylon.

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—The book of Daniel.—The life of Daniel.—The character of Daniel.—How he was tempted.—How he overcame.—The way he reached success.—Principles of temperance.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—What book of the Bible do we now study? Why do we change to this? Give the date and place of this lesson. The events of what other lesson occurred about the same time? What great captivity began at this time?

SUBJECT: VICTORY OVER TEMPTATION.

I. THE FOUR CAPTIVES.—Who at this time conquered Judah and Jerusalem? (v. 1.) What four boys were among the captives? (v. 6.) Who was the chief? What do you know of the others? (Dan. 3. 14-23.) Give some account of Daniel's life. His appearance and talent. (v. 4.) How old was he at this time? For what were these four selected? (vs. 3-5.)

II. THEIR TEMPTATION (v. 8).—What purpose did Daniel have in his heart? What was the king's meat? Why did he not wish to eat it? How would it defile him? Why would he refuse the wine? What temptations would he have to eat as the other boys did? What temptation from his youth? His love of pleasure? His desire of success? The customs around him? His absence from home restraints?

III. THEIR VICTORY OVER TEMPTATION (vs. 8, 14).—What was the first thing Daniel did to overcome the temptation? (v. 8 f.c.) What did he do next? (v. 8 l.c.) How did God help him? (v. 9.) How would Daniel's previous character help him? How his early training? What did he ask of the prince over him? What objection was made? What test did Daniel propose? What help have we in overcoming temptation? (James 1. 1-3; Heb. 4. 15; Matt. 6. 13; 26. 41; 1 Cor. 10. 13.)

IV. THE FRUITS OF VICTORY (vs. 15-21).—What was the effect of Daniel's course on his health? (v. 15.) Was this natural, or a miracle from God? What would be the effect on his character? What did God give him? (v. 17.) Does this imply that he was diligent and faithful in study? How long did the training continue? (vs. 15, 5.) What position was given these four men? (v. 19.) What were the elements of Daniel's success?

LESSONS FROM THE BOYHOOD OF DANIEL.

1. Victory over Temptation: (1) he had the same temptations as we; (2) he overcame, therefore we can; (3) God opens the way of escape; (4) religious principle, trust in God, courtesy, firmness, looking to Jesus, prayer, watching, will help us to escape.

2. Temperance: (1) temperance is total abstinence from all that defiles, and right use of all appetites and desires; (2) strong drink, tobacco, etc., defiles our bodies, which are the temples of God; (3) we should care for our health; (4) the effect of temperance has been tested; (5) religion is the basis of temperance.

3. Success in Life: (1) by God's favour; (2) by temperance; (3) by care for health; (4) by overcoming temptations; (5) by religious principle; (6) by faithful study; (7) by faithfulness to those over us; (8) by true and noble character; (9) by amiability, and courtesy.

REVIEW EXERCISE.

1. Who was Daniel? Ans. A Jewish prince, carried captive when a boy to Babylon. 2. How was he tempted? Ans. To luxurious living, intemperance, and irreligion. 3. What did he do? Ans. He overcame the temptations by the grace of God. 4. What was his character? Ans. He was faithful, religious, diligent, temperate, studious, wise, favoured of God. 5. What was the result? Ans. He lived a most useful and successful life.

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