

life. And history and biography are full of the most impressive warnings as to the awful fate of those who forget God. History repeats itself. What sin did in past centuries it does to-day. Why should any of us learn the costly lesson in our own sad experience which we might learn from the record of the past?

5. The surest thing in the world is that judgment awaits the unforgiven. There is no escape apart from the acceptance of God's mercy. A Hindoo lad once met a woman weeping bitterly. She explained to him that she had been very wicked and that she was afraid of God's punishment. The boy thought he could help her. "Fling yourself into a deep well," he suggested. "God will never see you there." "Ah, that would not hide me," she said. "Well, throw yourself into the deep sea," urged the boy. "God

would find me even in the depths of the sea," she said. The boy, terrified by such thoughts, fled to the mission school he attended. In the Bible lesson that day, the scholars read: "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" The words went home to the lad's heart and he turned to Christ as his refuge.

6. And yet God does not send judgment until there is no help for it. The animal is dead before the eagles gather about it. And it was not until Israel had repeatedly turned away from God that Jerusalem was destroyed. God gave Israel every chance to repent. And that is God's way with us as individuals, too. He gives us every chance. He pleads with us to turn to Him. He assures us of His readiness to forgive us the moment we repent. But the day of grace does not last forever. It ended for Jerusalem. It ended for the Rich Man in the parable. It may end for us.

THE LESSON GRADED

This section embraces teaching material for the various grades in the School.

For Teachers of Bible Classes

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Begin by referring to the Pharisees' belief that the setting up of the Messianic kingdom would be accompanied by certain marvelous signs. Guide the class discussion along the following lines:

1. *Jesus' answer to the Pharisees.* When the kingdom comes, it will not be by physical signs. Go on to a consideration of Jesus' view as given in v. 21. Deal with the two views: First, that the kingdom is internal, in the human spirit. Second, that it is "in the midst of you" as seen by its spiritual energy. It is therefore not to be political, but is to do its work along moral and spiritual lines. Discuss the relation of the visible church to this invisible kingdom.

2. *Jesus' teaching concerning His own coming,* vs. 22-37. As many lines of instruction centre here, select the following: (a) The certainty of it. (See Acts 1:9-11.) To show the reality of this conviction take up the reference to it in the writings of the apostles, especially Paul. (b) It will be preceded by such tribulation as will make men long for His appearing. Question, Is

there any reason for believing that the moral order of the world will reach its ideal state before Christ comes? Is the coming merely the logical outcome of a redeemed world, or the sudden appearance of the Lord in His kingly power? Show that the tribulation includes delayed hopes giving occasion for the spreading of false reports and a sad disappointment. Take up v. 25 as showing that the crucifixion of Jesus must precede the coming glorious events. (c) It will come unexpectedly to the world. Bring out the force of the imperfect tenses in vs. 26-28, as indicating complete engrossment with the things of this world. Dwell upon the illustrations from the days of Noah and Lot. This section deserves special attention as indicating the power of worldliness, materialism and social observances at the moment Jesus returns. Clearly there will be no time when the world will lose its grip or fascination. Urge the wisdom of living above its fascination daily. (d) A word of warning, vs. 31-33. Show that, whilst referring primarily to Jerusalem, it urges readiness at all times, in order to win spiritual victory. (e) A preparation for surprises. Follow out His teaching concerning separation.

The practical lesson to enforce is that the way to prepare for Christ's coming is to live