

The Sunday School

BIBLE LESSON.

Abridged from Peloubet's Notes.

Fourth Quarter, 1902.

OCTOBER TO DECEMBER.

LESSON VIII. November 23. Isa. 28:1-7.

WORLD'S TEMPERANCE LESSON.

GOLDEN TEXT.

They also have erred through wine.—
Isa. 28:7.

EXPLANATORY.

I. THE HISTORICAL SITUATION.—Isaiah prophesied about sixty years, from B. C. 759-698, from the last years of Uzziah till toward the close of Hezekiah's reign. This prophecy was spoken about B. C. 725, three years before the fall of Samaria. It was spoken to the people of Judah and Jerusalem in view of the character of the neighboring kingdom of Israel and the punishment for their sins that was rapidly approaching.

II. THE MORAL CONDITION THAT WAS RUINING THE NATION.—Vs. 1, 8. Their opportunity. I. God has set them apart for his service, to be trained for his kingdom, to be a righteous and glorious nation whose God is the Lord, and to be the means of leading all nations into the light and blessing of true religion and heavenly morality.

THEIR SIN I. WORK. Not a wish or a prayer for woe, but a warning that woe was coming. TO THE CROWN OF PRIDE. The capital, so called because it crowned the hill, or because its battlemented walls resembled a crown. To (better, "of") THE DRUNKARDS OF EPHRAIM, put for the whole kingdom, because Ephraim was the leading tribe. WHOSE GLORIOUS BEAUTY. The "glorious beauty" of Samaria was a beauty of magnificent luxury. "Summer" and "winter houses," distinct each from the other (Amos 3:15); "Ivory palaces" (1 Kings 22:39; Amos 3:15); a wealth of "gardens," vineyards, fig-orchards, and oliveyards (Amos 4:9); residence of "hewn stone" (Amos 5:11); feasts enlivened with "the melody of viols" (Amos 5:23); "beds of ivory" (Amos 6:4); "wine in bowls" (Amos 6:6); "chief ointments" (Amos 6:6); constituted a total of luxurious refinement beyond which few nations had proceeded at the time. IS A FADING FLOWER. It was a kind of beauty that was liable to fade. It had nothing of the riches that endure, and which no power of man can take away. It was soon to wither before the "Sirocco of Assyrian invasion." WHICH ARE (rather "is") ON THE HEAD (or decks the head) OF THE FAT VALLEYS. "Samaria was built on a hill of an oval form, which rose up in the midst of a fertile valley shut in by mountains."

7. BUT THEY ALSO, even those in Judah, who saw the destruction of the neighboring kingdom. So even those in temperance families and communities are sometimes led astray.

First. They HAVE ERRED THROUGH WINE. Like a drunkard, their steps were unsteady, they reeled from side to side, they could not walk in a straight line of duty, but erred from God's commandments. They have gone to forbidden places, they have wandered into sins of all kinds, through the influence of intoxicating liquors. Men will do things under their influence that they would never dream of doing when they are themselves.

SCHOOL TEACHERS LEARN

Just Like Other People.

Bad food and overwork wreck many a life, but the right food makes sure and complete happiness, for one must be happy if perfectly well.

"Grape-Nuts saved my life and changed me from a nervous, sick, despondent woman to a healthy, strong and cheerful one," writes Mrs. Alice Riegel of Pontiac, Ills. "I had not been well for several years and I thought, as did my friends, that 'my days were numbered.' My all health was caused from drinking coffee, eating improper food and overwork in the schoolroom; I had become very weak, tired and nervous and nothing I ate agreed with me. Medicine made me more nervous and impaired my digestive organs. It was with difficulty that a neighbor induced me to try Grape-Nuts and I liked it from the first with thick cream and sugar. I lived on it exclusively with Postum Food Coffee until my digestion was so much improved I could eat other foods. My friends soon noticed the improvement in my looks, and I am now healthy strong and happy. I attribute the change in my health solely to the change of diet.

Husband and I both like Grape-Nuts and Postum. I think they are the most healthful and strengthening of all foods and drinks and suitable for the weak as well as for the strong.

Second. THE PRIEST AND THE PROPHET HAVE ERRED. Strong drink biases and leads astray even the religious teachers of the land. The highest, the best, are not safe when they use intoxicating liquors. Many have fallen in this way.

Third. THEY ARE SWALLOWED UP OF WINE. "Men sometimes say that they swallow their wine; it were truer to say that their wine swallows them."

Fourth. THEY ERR IN VISION. They cannot see things as they are.

Fifth. THEY STUMBLE IN JUDGMENT. They cannot judge anything correctly. Intoxicating liquors destroy the business judgment, and the clear decisions of conscience.

III. THE OVERWHELMING SCOURGE.—Vs. 2-4. 2. BEHOLD THE LORD HATH. He used the Assyrians as a rod wherewith to punish these wicked people. Had they been good, he could have saved them, for the Lord wielded the rod. A STRONG ONK, the Assyrian power. A TEMPEST OF HAIL. . . . A DESTROYING STORM. . . . A FLOOD OF MIGHTY WATERS. describe in vivid speech the irresistible violence, the devastating force with which the Assyrians were about to overwhelm them.

3. THE CROWN OF PRIDE (of) THE DRUNKARDS. Their capital, their riches, all they most rejoiced in would be TRODDEN UNDER FEET. Samaria became a heap of ruins.

4. AS THE HASTY FRUIT. R. V. "the first ripe fig before the summer," before the usual season for figs.

IV. GOD'S PROMISES OF HELP.—Vs. 5, 6. "To show the slaves of Circe the physical disaster impending—which you must begin by doing, if you are to impress their brutalized minds—is not enough. The lesson of Tennyson's "Vision of Sin" and Arnold's "New Sirens" is not enough. . . . When you have made the sensual shiver before the disease that inevitably awaits them, you must go on to show there are men who have the secret of surviving the most terrible judgments of God, and lift their figures calm and victorious against the storm-washed sky. . . . It is Isaiah's health as a moralist that he combines the two. No prophet ever threatened judgment more inexorable and complete that he. Yet he never failed to tell the sinner how possible it was for him to be different."

5. IN THAT DAY. The day when the drunkards of Ephraim perished because they would not take warning and repent. SHALL THE LORD OF HOSTS BE FOR A CROWN OF GLORY. He will sustain, defend, and bless, beyond the power of the heart to conceive, those who obey him. He will be a crown of glory and a diadem of beauty, both spiritually and outwardly. UNTO THE RESIDUE. The remnant so often referred to by Isaiah, who served the Lord.

6. FOR A SPIRIT OF JUDGMENT. Of discerning the right, and governing with justice and equity. There is nothing like a supreme love of God, and trust in God, for clearing the mind and guiding the judgment. FOR STRENGTH TO THEM THAT TURN AND BATTLE TO (R. V. "at") THE GATE. "These words are applied by all the later writers to those who drive the war back to the enemy's own gates, or, as it were, carry it into his own country. The two great requisites of civil government are here described as coming from Jehovah.

Application to Temperance. God would persuade men to a life of temperance by showing not only the evils of intemperance, but the heavenly blessings of temperance. To those who are truly temperate, who bring every passion and appetite under the control of conscience and reason and the divine law, God will bring blessings beyond all that those who yield to appetite can conceive.

"SHOW YOUR LOVE "NOW."

"I have a little story to tell you, boys," our old neighbor said to the young people the other evening. "One day,—a long, hot day it had been, too—I met my father on the road to town.

"I wish you would take this package to the village for me, Jim," he said hesitating.

"Now, I was a boy of twelve, not fond of work, and just out of the hayfield, where I had been at work since daybreak. I was tired, dusty, and hungry. It was two miles into town. I wanted to get my supper, and to dress for singing-class.

"My first impulse was to refuse, and to do it harshly; for I was vexed that he should ask me after my long day's work. If I did refuse, he would go himself. He was a gentle, patient old man. But some-

thing stopped me—one of God's good angels, I think.

"Of course, father, I'll take it," I said heartily, giving my acythe to one of the men. He gave me the package.

"Thank you, Jim," he said, "I was going myself, but somehow I don't feel very strong today."

"He walked with me to the road that turned off to the town, and as he left he put his hand on my arm, saying again, 'Thank you, my son. You've always been a good boy to me, Jim.'"

"I hurried into town and back again. When I came near the house I saw a crowd of the farm-hands at the door. One of them came to me, the tears rolling down his face.

"Your father!" he said. "He fell dead just as he reached the house. The last words he spoke were to you. I am an old man now, but I have thanked God over and over again, in all the years that have passed since that hour, and those last words were, 'You've always been a good boy to me.'"

No human being ever yet was sorry for love or kindness shown to others. But there is no pang of remorse so keen as the bitterness with which we remember neglect or coldness which we have shown to loved ones who are dead.—Our Sunday Afternoon.

After Three Years

MR. JOSEPH ROCLETTE RELEASED FROM RHEUMATISM.

Suffered Much agony, His Appetite Failed and His Strength Left Him—Hope for Similar Sufferers.

Only those who have suffered from the pangs of rheumatism know how much agony the sufferer has at times to endure. The symptoms often vary, but among them will be found acute pains in the muscles and joints, the latter sometimes much swollen. At times the patient is unable to dress himself, and the slightest jarring sound aggravates the pain. Liniments and outward applications cannot possibly cure rheumatism; it must be treated through the blood, and for this purpose there is no medicine yet discovered can equal Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. When given a fair trial, these pills never fail to cure even the most stubborn cases of rheumatism. Mr. Jos. Rochette, a well known resident of St. Jerome, Que., in an interview with a reporter of L'Avenir du Nord, offers strong proof of the value of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills in cases of this kind. Mr. Rochette says:—"For nearly three years I was a great sufferer from rheumatism. The pains seemed at times to affect every joint, and the agony I endured was terrible. Sometimes I could scarcely move about, and was unfitted for work. The trouble affected my appetite, and in this way my weakness increased and my condition became more deplorable. I tried a number of remedies, but nothing helped me until I was advised to take Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and then relief came. Gradually the pains left me, my appetite improved and I became greatly strengthened. Before I had taken a dozen boxes my health and vigor was such that I felt better than I did before the trouble began. I have not since had an ache or pain, and I feel convinced that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are the best medicine in the world for rheumatism."

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