

gate of Benjamin; a gate in the north wall of the city. Zedekiah showed some courage, for this was the place most exposed to the besiegers. **Spake to the king.** The case is very urgent. The prophet is at the very point of starvation. For there is no more bread in the city. All the provisions belonging to private individuals were consumed. Unless Jeremiah received the rations formerly allowed to him (ch. 37: 21), he would surely die of hunger. **Take thirty men, etc.;** lest the princes should interfere.

11-13. Ebed-melech went with the men to a room under the treasury (store chamber) of the palace. Took . . . old cast clouts, etc.; a thoughtful provision, that with these the prophet might wrap the ropes and so prevent their chafing his armpits and sides. **Drew up Jeremiah;** into the light and fresh air.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association)

M.—Jeremiah imprisoned, Jer. 37: 11-21. T.—Jeremiah in the dungeon, Jer. 38: 1-13. W.—Jeremiah's prophecy, Jer. 21: 1-10. Th.—Jeremiah accused, Jer. 26: 8-16. F.—Reward of the Ethiopian, Jer. 39: 11-18. S.—Boldness for the truth, Acts 5: 17-32. S.—Persecution and comfort, Matt. 10: 11-28.

Prove from Scripture—*That suffering for the right brings blessing.*

Shorter Catechism—*Ques. 92. What is a sacrament?* A. A sacrament is an holy ordinance, instituted by Christ; wherein, by sensible signs, Christ, and the benefits of the new covenant, are represented, sealed, and applied to believers.

The Question on Missions—33. What have the children of our church specially done to help mission work in the New Hebrides? The children of our church have assisted in raising funds to provide native teachers, and to build a vessel for the use of the mission. This vessel, "The Dayspring," sailed from Nova Scotia, October, 1863, carrying three ordained missionaries. A steamer now plies between Australia and the islands.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, Ps. Sel. 97 (Supplemental Lesson); 250; 246; 34 (Ps. Sel.); 255 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 251.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Juniors—What foreign king besieged Jerusalem? Who was now the king of Judah?

1 How many enemies of Jeremiah are mentioned? What were they? What had been done to Jeremiah before? Where had the king ordered him to be kept?

2-4 For whom did Jeremiah speak? To whom had the Lord determined to give Jerusalem? What did Jeremiah's enemies ask?

5, 6 Did Zedekiah give Jeremiah to his enemies? What did they do to him? What did they wish to happen to him?

7-13 Who was Jeremiah's friend? To whom did he speak? What did he say? Was he allowed to help Jeremiah? How did he draw him up?

Seniors and the Home Department—Give a brief account of Zedekiah's reign. How long did the siege of Jerusalem last? Its result?

1-4 What charge was brought against Jeremiah? To whom do we owe supreme obedience? (Acts 5: 29.) The Christian's armor? (Eph. 6: 11-18.)

5, 6 What other rulers did Zedekiah resemble? To whom should rulers be "a terror"? (Rom. 13: 3.) Describe Jeremiah's dungeon. Into what did his brethren cast Joseph? (Gen. 37: 24, 28.)

7-13 What proof of courage did Zedekiah give? How did Ebed-melech show his friendship? What did Christ do for His friends? (John 15: 13, 14.)

THE LESSON IN LIFE

1. If the heart is in any good work, the place does not very much matter. Jeremiah in the Old Testament and Paul in the New, found pulpits in their prisons from which to declare their message from God.

2. What a noble contrast to these petty princelings, hounding to death the man who dared to tell them the truth we have in young Gareth, who told his mother he must—

"Follow the Christ the King,
Live pure, speak true, right wrong, follow the King,
Else, wherefore born?"

3. The true king is the man who "can," the man with power to rule. It is a coward who shirks when difficulty arises, whether he sits on a throne with the rule of many lives, or has only his own poor, petty life to govern.

4. One end of a rope round the man in the dungeon, the other end grasped by friendly hands above! A picture of the way we are saved. Our faith is the rope uniting us to Christ, that His strong hand may deliver us.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What counsel had Jeremiah given?

2. How did he suffer for this?

3. Tell the story of his deliverance.