

my own, and imposed on them the same tribute as had formerly been paid. In place of those taken into captivity, I sent thither

inhabitants of lands conquered by me, and imposed the tribute upon them which I required from the Assyrians.

### APPLICATION

*Did that which was evil*, v. 2. Arthur Stringer has pictured very vividly in one of his poems the madness of the man who runs full speed along God's track regardless of all signals and indifferent to all orders.

"Down the open grade I thunder, and around the curve I swing,  
For my hand is on the throttle and my heart shall have its fling."

Yes, but soon the crash must come, for the God who owns the rail will permit none to block His track. The defiant fling issues in the terrible wreck.

"Light lost! Life lost! Flag, O flag the others back!

Switch the wreck! Ditch the wreck!  
Dare any block God's track?"

When we are tempted to do evil, to assert our independence of God, to yield to the glittering charm of the world, let us keep the consequences in the foreground. At the last, sin always issues in disappointment and shame and death. Hoshea "did that which was evil": we know at once that the after story of this man will be dark. The man that sins must suffer.

*Which had brought them up out of . . . Egypt*, v. 7. A public speaker one time described to his audience, as the meanest man he ever knew, a college student who was depending for his education on his widowed mother. She boarded several of his fellow students, that she might buy his books and pay his fees. Yet, though he lived under her roof, ate at her table, studied the books that her hard labor had bought, profited by her sacrifices, he kept up an ostentatious silence in her

presence, refusing to speak to her because of some trifle that had offended him. Surely no sin is so black as that against love. How can we have the heart to sin against God, for He is so gracious, our Saviour, our Father?

*Did secretly those things that were not right*, v. 9. Engineers tell us that the great cables which support suspension bridges are en-

dangered not so much by projectiles hurled against them as by the impact of heat and cold, and the strokes of many falling feet, which at last cause the atoms to lose their grip upon each other. So, it is the little sins, the secret indulgences, the petty vices that seem so unimportant, that we need to fear most. These will surely be our ruin unless they are faced and overcome.

*Notwithstanding they would not hear*, v. 14. In a landslide in the village of Haverstraw on the Hudson many lives were lost. A pit had been dug by brickmakers until the bluff above was partly undermined. Several times the owners of houses above were warned that they must move. On the day the misfortune occurred, the chief of police noticed a wide crack in the street, and he went to each house and warned the inmates to leave at once. "Oh, I guess the bank will hold a little longer", he was told again and again. Even after some houses had collapsed, people rushed into houses already tottering to their fall to save some of their property, and perished miserably. So men in their mad infatuation disregard every warning God has given against evil, and hasten on to their doom. And yet, even at the last hour, there is pardon for the penitent, as the thief found on the cross.

### TEACHING HINTS

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

#### For Teachers of Bible Classes

Help the scholars, by a glance through

chs. 15 and 16, to realize the repetition, in reign after reign of Israel's kings, of conspiracies, cruelties, weakness and hypocrisy.

1. Bring out the details of the history of the last king of Israel, vs. 1-4. Emphasize