

swer. A closer division is, 1. The Sickness, verse 1; 2. The Prayer, verses 2, 3; 3. The Promise, verses 4-6; 4. The Sign, verses 7, 8.

IV. *Comparative Study of the Lesson Text.* The parallel passage in 2 Kings is nearly a transcription of this. Verse 1: compare 2 Sam. 17. 23. Verse 3: compare Neh. 13. 14, 22, 31; 2 Kings 18. 5, 6; Psa. 26. 3; 1 Chron. 28. 9; 29. 19; Deut. 6. 18. Verse 5: trace the fifteen years in 2 Kings 18. 2, 13. Verses 7, 8: instead of "the shadow of the degrees" read "the shadow on the steps"; instead of "in the sundial of Ahaz ten degrees backward," read "on the dial of Ahaz with the sun to return backward ten steps"; and note similar changes in the last clause of the verse. Study carefully Hezekiah's psalm of gratitude, verses 9-20, and the means of the cure, verses 21, 22.

### The Junior Grade

[For pupils from nine to twelve years, inclusive. Each pupil, if possible, should be supplied with a copy of the Berean Quarterly.]

#### Preparing the Lesson.

For the Lesson Material and Study Material for the Teacher, see paragraph on GENERAL PREPARATORY WORK, above.

Illustrative Material: The sundial pictured in any good Bible Dictionary is probably very unlike the sundial of Ahaz, but it will at least make plain to pupils the purpose of a sundial. The picture of the prophet and the sick king will help in teaching. It will be helpful to have the boys and girls memorize "If We Had But a Day," page 60.

#### Teaching the Lesson.

Suggestions for Developing the Outline:

1. *The Sick Man and His Prayer.* Sickness, always painful and sad, is often God's way of taking good people to their home in heaven. Hezekiah was so sick that everyone was sure he would die. Isaiah, the prophet who had been to God about it, came back without any encouragement that the king could live. Isaiah said, "Set thine house in order;" that means, "Make your will." But really it seemed that Hezekiah could not be spared; the people needed him greatly. So he told God all about it. He could not go into another room, and shut the door to be alone with God, for he was too ill to rise. So he turned his face toward the wall and prayed. I am glad they wrote down his prayer. Some of the most beautiful prayers do not ask for anything. They simply spread our needs before God, and wait for him to do whatever is best. That was the way with Hezekiah's prayer. He just asked God to remember how hard he had tried to do right. It was no shame to him that he wept. He prayed so earnestly that the tears could not be kept back.

2. *God Sent His Answer to Hezekiah* by Isaiah the prophet, of whom Hezekiah was fond. Why did he call himself the God of David? God had heard the king's prayer; he hears every prayer that is offered. He had seen the king's tears; he sympathizes with everyone who is sad. He promised that Hezekiah should live fifteen years longer; and lest anyone should be afraid of fifteen years of hard fighting, he promised to keep the king of Assyria out of Jeru-

salem. And God really did much more than he promised. He always does.

We need no sign that God will keep his promises. But Hezekiah lived before our Saviour came to earth, and he could not know so much about God as we know. So God gave him a sign. We cannot understand how a shadow could go backward, but God, who made both sun and shadow, did it. Hezekiah soon became well; he was greatly honored and became rich. *Home Work for Pupils.*

Review Work: How many years did the Lord add to Hezekiah's life? From whom did God defend Hezekiah? What is the Golden Text for Lesson 11? Let the pupils come to Sunday school next Sunday prepared to answer these three questions.

### The Intermediate Grade

[For pupils from thirteen to sixteen years, inclusive. Each pupil, if possible, should be supplied with a copy of the Illustrated Quarterly, the Intermediate Quarterly, or the Lesson Leaf.]

#### Preparing the Lesson.

For the Lesson Material and Study Material for the Teacher see note on GENERAL PREPARATORY WORK above.

Illustrative Material: The so-called Pool of Hezekiah in Jerusalem is beautifully pictured in the Illustrative Lesson Notes, page 221; note also pictorial illustrations in Illustrated Quarterly.

#### Constructing the Lesson.

1. The Distressed King, verses 1-3. God's servants are not exempted from the troubles of life and death. 2. God *always* comforts his servants; not always by bringing about what they desire, but always by satisfying their souls.

#### Teaching the Lesson.

Develop the Outline descriptively, enlisting the class in an endeavor to make a word-picture of the entire scene. From this event, among other lessons, we should learn that—

1. Life is *valuable*. It is God's good gift; ingratitude to esteem it lightly; sin to throw it away.

2. Life is a *talent*. Hezekiah's life was used for the glory of God and the good of his kingdom. It was a noble title God gave him, "Captain of my people"; a nobler title is within reach of us, "Servant of all" (Mark 10. 44).

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