

And after a while the captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came back to Jerusalem with an army, and they burned the house of the Lord, and they burned the palace of the king and all the best houses in Jerusalem. Then the soldiers broke down the walls around the city, and everybody who was found in the city was carried away captive, except the very poorest who were left to take care of the vineyards and fields for the new owners of the land.

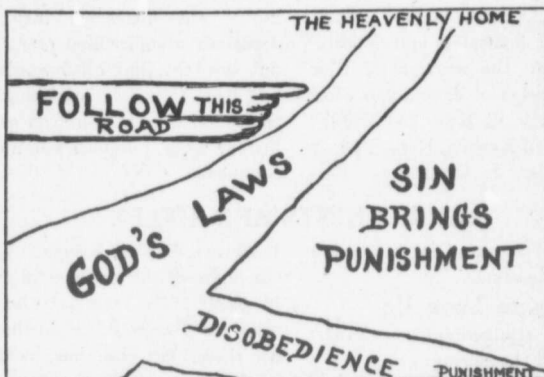
*Punishment for Sin*—All this happened long after good king Josiah died. Other kings had ruled and the people had again forgotten God and his laws, and at last God sent this punishment upon them that he had long been warning them he would send if they did not turn from their sins.

*Golden Text*—Repeat Golden Text.

*Warnings*—Perhaps you wonder why we should have these sad, sad stories of war and trouble that came upon God's people. Well, they are warnings for us to keep away from sin, for sin is sure to bring trouble and punishment

sooner or later, even the tiny little sins.

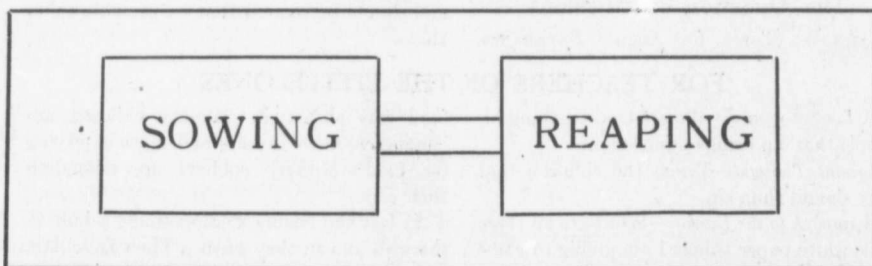
If you were driving or motoring along a road and saw a sign like this "Danger!" (outline) how quickly the driver would stop and turn and go another road. That is just what God means all these



stories to teach us,—"THERE IS DANGER IN WRONG-DOING. We must keep away from sin of all kinds and take another road. This road we'll name OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S LAWS. Now we are on a safe and right road which we should follow to the end of our life journey.

*What the Lesson Teaches Me*—I SHOULD SHUN SIN.

### FROM THE PLATFORM



Draw two squares on the board as above before beginning the talk from the platform. Ask the School what the farmers and those who had gardens were busy doing in the springtime. They were busy SOWING (Print in the left-hand square) the seed. What will they be busy doing this autumn? They will be busy REAPING (Print in the right-hand square) their harvest. Now point out how there is a law in nature connecting these two processes, and draw lines, as above, connecting the two squares. Is there any such law which works out in the history of nations? Is it true of a nation that it reaps what it has sowed? Use one or two illustrations from modern history. Was it true that the people of Judah reaped as they had sowed? Had the captivity of the nation anything to do with the sins of the nation?