

Lesson III. MANASSEH'S WICKEDNESS AND PENITENCE July 16, 1911

2 Chronicles 33 : 1-13. Commit to memory vs. 12, 13. Study 2 Chronicles 33 : 1-20.

GOLDEN TEXT—Cease to do evil ; learn to do well.—Isaiah 1 : 16, 17.

1 Manas'seh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and five years in Jeru'salem :

2 ¹ But did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord, ² like unto the abominations of the heathen, whom the Lord ³ had cast out before the children of Is'rael.

3 For he built again the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down, and he reared up altars for ⁴ Ba'alim, and made ⁵ groves, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them.

4 ⁶ Also he built altars in the house of the Lord, whereof the Lord ⁷ had said, In Jeru'salem shall my name be for ever.

5 And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the Lord.

6 And he caused his children to pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hin'nom : ⁸ also he observed times, and used enchantments, and ⁹ used witchcraft, and dealt with a familiar spirit, and with wizards : he wrought much evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke him to anger.

7 And he set ¹⁰ a carved image, the idol which he had made, in the house of God, of which God ¹¹ had said to Da'vid and to Sol'omon his son, In this house,

Revised Version—¹ And he did : ² after the ; ³ Omit had ; ⁴ the ; ⁵ Asheroth ; ⁶ And he ; ⁷ He also made his ; ⁸ and he practised augury and ; ⁹ practised sorcery, and dealt with them that had familiar spirits ; ¹⁰ the graven image of the ; ¹¹ out of all ; ¹² off the ; ¹³ if only they will observe to ; ¹⁴ even all the law ; ¹⁵ And Manasseh ; ¹⁶ so that they did evil more than did the nations, whom ; ¹⁷ gave no heed ; ¹⁸ in chains, and ; ¹⁹ distress ; ²⁰ he.

LESSON PLAN

I. Manasseh's Sin, 1-9.

II. Manasseh's Punishment, 10, 11.

III. Manasseh's Repentance, 12, 13.

DAILY READINGS

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

M.—Manasseh's wickedness and penitence, 2 Chron. 33 : 1-9. T.—Manasseh's wickedness and penitence, 2 Chron. 33 : 10-20. W.—Sin and its punishment, 2 Kgs. 21 : 9-16. Th.—God's hatred of sin, Jer. 44 : 1-10. F.—Promise of mercy, Deut. 30 : 1-10. S.—A sinner's cry, Ps. 51. S.—Repentance and returning, Luke 15 : 11-24.

Shorter Catechism—*Ques.* 98. *What is the Lord's supper ?* A. The Lord's supper is a sacrament, wherein, by giving and receiving bread and wine, according to Christ's appointment, his death is showed forth ; and the worthy receivers are, not after a corporal and carnal manner, but by faith,

and in Jeru'salem, which I have chosen ¹¹ before all the tribes of Is'rael, will I put my name for ever :

8 Neither will I any more remove the foot of Is'rael from ¹² out of the land which I have appointed for your fathers ; ¹³ so that they will take heed to do all that I have commanded them, ¹⁴ according to the whole law and the statutes and the ordinances by the hand of Mo'ses.

9 ¹⁵ So Manas'seh made Ju'dah and the inhabitants of Jeru'salem to err, ¹⁶ and to do worse than the heathen, whom the Lord ¹⁷ had destroyed before the children of Is'rael.

10 And the Lord spake to Manas'seh, and to his people : but they ¹⁷ would not hearken.

11 Wherefore the Lord brought upon them the captains of the host of the king of Assyria, which took Manas'seh ¹⁸ among the thorns, and bound him with fetters, and carried him to Bab'ylon.

12 And when he was in ¹⁹ affliction, he besought the Lord his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers,

13 And ²⁰ prayed unto him : and he was intreated of him, and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jeru'salem into his kingdom. Then Manas'seh knew that the Lord he was God.

made partakers of his body and blood, with all his benefits, to their spiritual nourishment, and growth in grace.

The Question on Missions—3. What work is our church doing amongst the Jews ? A mission to the Jewish people of Canada was begun by the General Assembly in 1908. Work is being carried on in Toronto, and a new mission has just been started in Winnipeg.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 97 (Supplemental Lesson) ; 152 ; 154 ; 41 (Ps. Sel.) ; 123 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY) ; 151.

Special Scripture Reading—Ps. 107 : 7-22. (To be read responsively or in concert by the whole School.)

Lantern Slides—For Lesson, B. 1093, "Manasseh...built again the high places." For Question on Missions, J. M. 20, The Staff of Our Mission to the Jews in Toronto.

Stereograph—For Lesson, Jerusalem From Across the Valley of Hinnom to Olivet, Looking Northeast (Underwood & Underwood, see page 317).

EXPOSITION

Time and Place—Manasseh's reign extended from about B.C. 695 to about B.C. 640. The events of vs. 11-13 belong perhaps to B.C. 648 or 647. Jeru'salem.

Connecting Links—Hezekiah attempted to reform the religion of his day, to abolish all the sanctuaries outside of Jerusalem and to rid the temple of some idolatrous practices. A reaction followed his death. The people went back to their old superstitious customs ; the "high places" throughout the land revived. The boy king Manasseh was a devotee of foreign manners. Judah was a vassal state subject to Assyria, and the young Judeans began to ape their masters.

I. Manasseh's Sin, 1-9.

Vs. 1, 2. *Manasseh...reigned fifty and five years* ; the longest reign in Israel or Judah. To be allowed to reign so long was accounted a sign of the divine favor, which in the case of Manasseh was sadly undeserved. *Did...evil.* His wickedness was the more inexcusable because of the example of his father, the good Hezekiah (see ch. 31 : 20, 21). *After the abominations of the heathen* (Rev. Ver.) ; the vile and degrading idol worship of the Canaanites who had preceded Israel in Palestine. Judah had taken no warning from Israel's fate ; Samaria had been overthrown in B.C. 722 by the Assyrians under Sargon.