

Lesson V. THE FINDING OF THE BOOK OF THE LAW July 30, 1911

*2 Chronicles 34 : 14-21, 29-33. Study 2 Chronicles 34 : 14-33—Memory Verse, 21.

Golden Text—Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.—Psalm 119 : 11.



14 And when they brought out the money that was brought into the house of the LORD, Hilki'ah the priest found a book of the law of the LORD given by Mo'ses.

15 And Hilki'ah answered and said to Sha'phan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD. And Hilki'ah delivered the book to Sha'phan.

16 And Sha'phan carried the book to the king, and brought the king word back again, saying, All that was committed to thy servants, they do it.

17 And they have gathered together the money that was found in the house of the LORD, and have delivered it into the hand of the overseers, and to the hand of the workmen.

18 Then Sha'phan the scribe told the king, saying, Hilki'ah the priest hath given me a book. And Sha'phan read it before the king.

19 And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the law, that he rent his clothes.

20 And the king commanded Hilki'ah, and Ahi'kam the son of Sha'phan, and Ab'don the son of Mi'cah, and Sha'phan the scribe, and Asai'ah a servant of the king's, saying,

21 Go, enquire of the LORD for me, and for them that are left in Is'rael and in Ju'dah, concerning the words of the book that is found : for great is the wrath of the LORD that is poured out upon us, because our fathers have not kept the word of the LORD, to do after all that is written in this book.

29 Then the king sent and gathered together all the elders of Ju'dah and Jeru'salem.

30 And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Ju'dah, and the inhabitants of Jeru'salem, and the priests, and the Le'vites,

and all the people, great and small : and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant that was found in the house of the LORD.

31 And the king stood in his place, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments, and his testimonies, and his statutes, with all his heart, and with all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant which are written in this book.

32 And he caused all that were present in Jeru'salem and Ben'jamin to stand to it. And the inhabitants of Jeru'salem did according to the covenant of God, the God of their fathers.

33 And Josi'ah took away all the abominations out of all the countries that pertained to the children of Is'rael, and made all that were present in Is'rael to serve, even to serve the LORD their God. And all his days they departed not from following the LORD, the God of their fathers.

THE LESSON RETOLD

While the temple was being repaired at Jerusalem, Hilkiah, the high priest, found in it an old book. It was not a printed book like one of ours, but was written with pen and ink on a long roll of leather for paper. On this roll or book were the laws which God had given, long, long before, to Moses for His people Israel. The wicked kings and people of Judah had not cared to hear God's laws, and had neglected the book, until it was lost and forgotten. And now the high priest had found it again, and he gave it to Shaphan, one of the king's servants, to carry to the king.

So Shaphan came to the king and told him how the work at the temple was getting on, how the money that had been gathered together by the people had been given to the builders and by the builders to the workmen ;

and, " Here ", he said, " is a book which Hilkiah found in the temple. " And Shaphan read it to the king.

When King Josiah heard God's laws, and heard also of the punishments which God said He would send on the people for not obeying them, he rent his clothes and wept. Then he called the high priest to him and said, " Go and find out for me what the Lord will do for us, for great must be His anger because we and our fathers have not obeyed the commands that are written in this book. "

So Hilkiah went to a prophetess named Huldah and asked her for a message from the Lord ; and Huldah told him that the Lord would indeed send great punishment upon the people of Jerusalem for their sins ; but because Josiah himself had tried to do good and not evil, the Lord would not send these