

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE LESSONS.

FOURTH QUARTER.

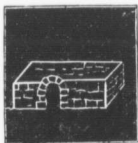
LESSON I. (October 2.)

REFORMATION UNDER ASA. 2 Chron.
14. 2-12.

GOLDEN TEXT. "Help us, O Lord our God; for we rest on thee." 2 Chron. 14. 11.

Primary Notes.

BY MARTHA VAN MARGER.



Do you know the story of the foolish little lamb that would not go into the fold? It wanted to wander around in the fields by itself and see what it could find, and so it slipped away when no one saw it and was not missed until the shepherd counted to see if his sheep and lambs had all come home. When he found that a lamb was gone he was sorry, for he knew that it was not safe out in the fields alone, and so he went looking for it until he found it. Do you know why he was sorry to have the little lamb outside the fold? It was for the same reason that the Good Shepherd—what is his name?—feels sorry to see his lambs running away from him, and so always keeps calling to them to come home. This lesson is a story of a good king who called his people to come back to God and be safe and happy again. No one is safe or happy away from God?

Introductory. This is the first lesson of the fourth quarter. What month is this? Yes, it is October, and the quarter begins with October. The third quarter's lessons began with July, and the first lesson in July told of something that was broken into two parts. Who can tell what it was? Yes, it was the kingdom—the kingdom of David and Solomon, the kingdom of God on the earth. It was divided into two parts, and all the last quarter we studied about the part called "Israel." Now we are going to learn about "Judah," the other part. Israel had great trouble, and at last went away into captivity. Who can tell what caused the trouble? Yes, it was going away from God. We shall find in the lessons about Judah that sin always brings pain and loss.

A wise king. His name was Asa. Let us see what God says about him. [Read the first verse of the lesson.] When some good friend praises

you and says you have done right it makes you glad. But how much better it is to have God say you have done that which was "good and right in the eyes of the Lord!" This is what he said about Asa, and what he will say about you if you try to please him in all your ways.

When Asa became king of Judah he found a great deal to do to bring the people back who had gone away from God. Why did he want to bring them back? Because he knew they would get into trouble if they did not come back, just as the shepherd knew the little lamb would be lost and die if it did not get into the fold. Do you wonder how they had gone away from God? They had made images and set them up to worship instead of worshipping the God of heaven. What has God said about worshipping images? [Drill on the second commandment.] When Asa had brought all his people back to God he said to them, "Now, we will make our cities strong, so that an enemy cannot come into them," and they built walls around them and made strong gates and high towers, and now they felt safe because they were doing right, and had done what they could to keep enemies away.

What to do when enemies come. Asa was a good king, and he taught his people to do right, but enemies came to trouble them; and so, even when we are trying to love and serve God, enemies will come to trouble us. Asa teaches us in this lesson how to meet them. He had a great army, but a much greater army came against him. What could he do? Just what we can do when our heart enemies come and seem so much stronger than we are. He called God to help them, and said, "We rest on thee, and in thy name we go." That is the way to meet enemies.

Who wants to be like Asa? There is a safe place for every child of God. It is just such a place



as Asa was in—a right place, a true place, a trustful place. Who will come into this safe fold right away?