

Lesson I. ISAIAH'S PROPHECY CONCERNING SENNACHERIB July 2, 1911

Isaiah 37 : 21-36. Study Isaiah 37 : 14-38—*Memory Verses, 33-35.

Golden Text—God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.—Psalm 46 : 1.

21 Then Isai'ah the son of A'moz sent unto Hezeki'ah, saying, Thus saith the Lord God of Is'rael, Whereas thou hast prayed to me against Sennacherib king of Assy'ia :

22 This is the word which the Lord hath spoken concerning him ; The virgin, the daughter of Zi'on, hath despised thee, and laughed thee to scorn ; the daughter of Jeru'salem hath shaken her head at thee.

23 Whom hast thou reproached and blasphemed ? and against whom hast thou exalted thy voice, and lifted up thine eyes on high ? even against the Holy One of Is'rael.

24 By thy servants hast thou reproached the Lord, and hast said, By the multitude of my chariots am I come up to the height of the mountains, to the sides of Leb'anon ; and I will cut down the tall cedars thereof, and the choice fir trees thereof ; and I will enter into the height of his border, and the forest of his Car'mel.

25 I have digged, and drunk water ; and with the sole of my feet have I dried up all the rivers of the besieged places.

26 Hast thou not heard long ago, how I have done it ; and of ancient times, that I have formed it ? now have I brought it to pass, that thou shouldst be to lay waste defence cities into ruinous heaps.

27 Therefore their inhabitants were of small power, they were dismayed and confounded : they were as the grass of the field, and as the green herb, as the grass on the housetops, and as corn blasted before it be grown up.

28 But I know thy abode, and thy going out, and thy coming in, and thy rage against me.

29 Because thy rage against me, and thy tumult, is come up into mine ears, therefore will I put my

hook in thy nose, and my bridle in thy lips, and I will turn thee back by the way by which thou camest. 30 And this shall be a sign unto thee, Ye shall eat this year such as growth of itself ; and the second year that which springeth of the same : and in the third year sow ye, and reap, and plant vineyards, and eat the fruit thereof. 31 And the remnant that is escaped of the house of Ju'dah shall again take root downward, and bear fruit upward : 32 For out of Jeru'salem shall go forth a remnant, and they that escape out of mount Zi'on : the zeal of the Lord of hosts shall do this. 33 Therefore thus saith the Lord concerning the king of Assy'ia, He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shields, nor cast a bank against it. 34 By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith the Lord. 35 For I will defend this city to save it for mine own sake, and for my servant Da'vid's sake. 36 Then the angel of the Lord went forth, and smote in the camp of the Assy'ians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand : and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.

THE LESSON RETOLD

While the good Hezekiah was king in Judah, Sennacherib, king of Assyria, besieged Jerusalem with his army, and sent a letter to Hezekiah. "Become my servants", he demanded, "you and your people, and give me your city, and I will not do you any harm. Do not try to fight against me, saying you have God on your side, for I have destroyed other nations, and their gods were not able to save them, and how can your God save you ?" When Hezekiah read this letter, he was in great trouble and prayed earnestly to God to deliver himself and his people from this heathen king.

The Lord heard Hezekiah's prayer, and commanded His prophet Isaiah to send the king this message from God :—"Because

thou hast come to Me and asked My help, I will save My people from being destroyed by the king of Assyria. And these are the Lord's words which you shall speak to Sennacherib : 'You have despised the Lord God of Israel, and boasted of your victories over all lands. Behold, it was I, the Lord, who allowed you to do these things : you have neither gone out to war, nor stayed at home without My knowledge ; and now, because of your pride and vain boasting, I will show you that I can conquer you and will make you return to your own land by the way you came.'"

God also went on to promise Hezekiah, that the king of Assyria would not be able to capture Jerusalem, but would soon go away and leave Judah alone in peace and

*The Scripture Memory Passages of the Supplemental Leaflets are recommended as a substitute for those here given Sabbath by Sabbath. Their recitation leads to the obtaining of a beautiful Certificate or Diploma.