

Lesson IX.

WORLD'S TEMPERANCE SUNDAY

November 27, 1904

Isaiah 28 : 1-13. Commit to memory vs. 3, 4.

GOLDEN TEXT—They also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way.—Isa. 28 : 7.

1 Woe to the crown of pride, ¹ to the drunkards of Eph'raim, ² whose glorious beauty ^{is} a fading flower, which ^{are} on the head of the fat ⁴ valleys of them that are overcome with wine!

2 Behold, the Lord hath ⁶ a mighty and strong one ⁷ which ^{as} a tempest of hail ⁸ and a destroying storm, as ^a flood of mighty waters overflowing, shall ⁹ cast down to the earth with the hand.

3 The crown of pride, ⁹ the drunkards of Eph'raim, shall be trodden under ¹⁰ feet :

4 And ¹¹ the glorious beauty, which ^{is} on the head of the fat valley, shall be ¹² a fading flower, and as the ¹³ hasty fruit before the summer; which ^{when} he that looketh upon it seeth, while it is yet ⁱⁿ his hand he eateth it up.

5 In that day shall the Lord of hosts be for a crown of glory, and for a diadem of beauty, unto the residue of his people.

6 And for a spirit of judgment to him that sitteth in judgment, and for strength to them that turn ¹⁴ the battle ¹⁵ to the gate.

7 But ¹⁶ they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are ¹⁷ out of the way; the priest

and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are ¹⁷ out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment.

8 For all tables are full of vomit and filthiness, so that there is no place clean.

9 Whom ¹⁸ shall he teach knowledge? and whom ¹⁸ shall he make to understand ¹⁹ doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.

10 For ²⁰ precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, ²¹ and there a little :

11 ²¹ For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.

12 To whom he said, This ^{is} the rest ²² wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this ^{is} the refreshing; yet they would not hear.

13 ²³ But the word of the Lord was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, ²⁴ and there a little; that they ²⁴ might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.

Revised Version.—1 of; ² and to the fading flower of his glorious beauty; ³ is; ⁴ valley; ⁵ Omit which; ⁶ Omit and; ⁷ tempest; ⁸ he; ⁹ of; ¹⁰ foot; ¹¹ the fading flower of his glorious beauty; ¹² Omit a fading flower, and; ¹³ first ripe fig; ¹⁴ back; ¹⁵ at; ¹⁶ these; ¹⁷ gone astray; ¹⁸ will; ¹⁹ the message; them that are weaned; ²⁰ it is precept upon precept; ²¹ Nay, but by men of strange lips and with another tongue; ²² give ye rest to him that is weary; ²³ Therefore shall the word of the Lord be unto them; ²⁴ may.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Time and Place—725 B.C.; Jerusalem.

Connection—Samaria, the capital of Israel, will soon fall before the Assyrian invader (see v. 2), on account of its sins, especially the drunkenness of its people. Isaiah sees the same vice practised in Judah, the Southern kingdom, and warns the people against the same doom.

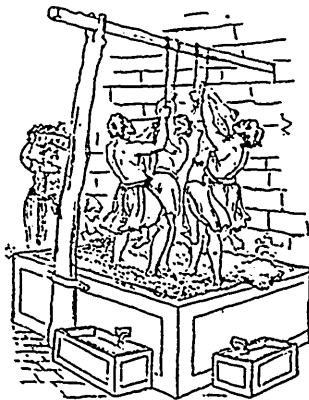
I. A CROWN LOST.—1. **Woe.** The prophet sees Samaria's doom approaching, and sounds a note of warning. To the crown of pride; that is, Samaria, a city of great beauty, crowning a hill in the midst of a fertile valley. It is called a "pride-crown," that is, a crown of which they were proud. The drunkards; "sodden and stunned with wine." Hard drinking was a crying sin of the age. (See Amos 6 : 6.). Of Ephraim; the Northern kingdom or Israel, here named from its chief tribe. And to the fading flower (Rev. Ver.). Samaria is likened to a garland of flowers worn by drunken feasters. The glorious beauty (Rev. Ver.) of this garland would soon fade, through the vices of the people. On the head of the fat (fertile) valleys; referring to the situation of Samaria. Them that are overcome with wine. In the fight with drink the drunkard has been beaten.

2-4. **A mighty and strong one;** Assyria, the most powerful nation of the time, and God's instrument for punishing Israel. **A tempest of hail,** etc. The fearful force of Assyria is likened to (1) a hailstorm; (2) a furious wind; (3) a violent flood. **Trodden under feet;** as a flower is crushed by the storm. Four years later the people were carried into captivity, 2 Kgs. 17 : 6. **The first ripe fig** (Rev. Ver.); a fig which ripened in June, counted a great luxury, the proper fig season being in August. While it is yet in his hand, etc. "To see, to snatch, to

swallow is the work of a moment. So greedily and hastily and easily shall the Assyrians devour Samaria!"

II. A CROWN GAINED.—5, 6. **In that day;** of terrible judgment on Samaria. **The Lord of hosts;** strong to save, as to smite. **A crown of glory;** as Samaria's crown should have been to it. **A diadem of beauty;** which shall not fade like that of Samaria, v. 1. **The residue;** those who remain when the pride and beauty of the drunkards have perished. God will crown the obedient with the joy and delight of His presence. **For a spirit of judgment.** He will inspire them with a spirit of justice. **That sitteth in judgment;** that is, to administer the laws, Ps. 9 : 4. **And for strength.** He will give them manly vigor and valor. **That turn the battle to the gate;** of the enemy, carrying the war into his territory. Beauty, righteousness, strength, form the crown gained by obeying God.

III. A CROWN DESPISED.—8-13. **But they also;** the people of Judah. Samaria is a mirror re-



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