

GOLDEN TEXT

Isa. 28 : 7. *They also have erred through wine.*

DAILY READINGS

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| M.—Isa. 28 : 1-13. | World's Temperance Lesson. |
| T.—Prov. 20 : 1-13. | The mocker. |
| W.—Prov. 23 : 15-25. | Good counsel. |
| Th.—Isa. 5 : 11-24. | Voe to the drunkard. |
| F.—Amos 6 : 1-11. | Danger of drink. |
| S.—Nahum 1 : 1-10. | God's punishment. |
| S.—1 Cor. 6 : 1-11. | Drunkards shut out. |

CATECHISM

Q. 51. *What is forbidden in the second commandment?*
 A. The second commandment forbiddeth the worshipping of God by images, or any other way not appointed in his word.

TIME AND PLACE

Time, 725 B.C., three years before the fall of Samaria, in the reign of Hezekiah, King of Judah and Hoshea, King of Israel. Like most of Isaiah's prophecies, it was probably uttered in Jerusalem.

LESSON PLAN

- I. *The Slaves of Passion*, 1-4.
 Whose appetite for drink was their ruin.
- II. *The Heroes of Righteousness*, 5, 6.
 Who displayed justice and valor.
- III. *The Mockers of Instruction*, 7.
 Who despised the message of the prophet.

LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise, 251 ; 91 (Ps. Sel.) ; 260 ; 529 ; 263 ; 530.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Juniors—1, 2 To whom was the prophet speaking? How many kingdoms were there? Their names? Why was the kingdom of Israel sometimes called Ephraim? What city was the capital of Israel? How is it here described? Whom did God send against Samaria? (2 Kings 18 : 10, 11). From what direction? To what are the invaders compared?

3, 4 What fate was to fall upon Samaria and its drunken inhabitants? To what is its departing glory compared? Its sudden destruction?

5, 6 What gracious assurance to the few who were faithful to the Lord? What special assurance to the judges? To the soldiers?

7-9 What was the great sin of Samaria? What is meant by "wine"? By "strong drink"? What leaders were overcome with drink? What was its effect upon them? How is the folly of drunkenness shown? (Ps. 107 : 27). What of its punishment? (Isa. 5 : 22). What is the doom of those who will not turn from it? (1 Cor. 6 : 9, 10).

10-13 What is the only safe rule? Give another reason? (1 Cor. 8 : 13.) With what must the soul be filled to keep intemperance out? (Gal. 5 : 22-26.)

Seniors and the Home Department—1-4 What special sin here reproved? By whom? To whom were wine and strong drink specially forbidden? (Lev. 10 : 8, 9.) Who should avoid them? (Prov. 20 : 1 ; 23 : 3.) What produces drunkenness? (Isa. 5 : 11 ; Eph. 5 : 18.) To what does it lead? (Prov. 21 : 17 ; Rom. 13 : 13 ; Prov. 23 : 29, 30.) What is the best safeguard? When should we begin? Have you done so?

5-13 How does God regard tempting others to this sin? (Heb. 2 : 15.)

Who is our great example of self denial? (Matt. 4 : 8-10 ; Rom. 15 : 3 ; 2 Cor. 8 : 9.) How should self denial

be practised? (Cor. 3 : 5 ; Rom. 6 : 12.) What will follow? (2 Pet. 1 : 4.)

Prove from Scripture—That God teaches us patiently.

Practical Points—1. "WOE"—the danger signal that God displays against every sin.

2. The echo of the drunkard's merriest song is a wail.

3. It is not a fine site for the city, nor a fine city on the site that calls for pride in it ; but the sober, godly lives of the inhabitants. Some of the most beautiful cities have been the vilest.

4. Samaria's vices brought Samaria's downfall.

5. As a cricketer, Grace says, Abstain ; as a walker, Webster says, Abstain ; as an oarsman, Hamlin says, Abstain ; as a swimmer, Webb says, Abstain ; as a missionary, Livingstone says, Abstain ; as a doctor, Clark says, Abstain ; as a preacher, Farrar says, Abstain. (Youth's Companion.)

6. Strong drink sells the strongest. Seneca says of Alexander the Great : "He was in Babylon in banquet after banquet, entertainment after entertainment. Having spent a whole night in carousing, a second entertainment was proposed. There were twenty guests at the table. He drank to the health of everyone, and then pledged them severally. After this, calling for Hercules' cup, which held six bottles, it was filled, when he poured it all down, drinking to Proteas, and afterward pledged him again in the same enormous bumper. He had no sooner swallowed it than he fell upon the floor. Here then, is this hero, invincible by all the toils of prodigious marches ; by the dangers of sieges and combats ; by the most violent extremes of heat and cold—here he lies, conquered by his intemperance."

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What was Samaria's besetting sin?

2. Whence did the punishment come?

3. Give two good reasons for total abstinence.