

Jerusalem, even every great man's house." They destroyed all the houses that were of any importance. **Break down the walls.** The reason for their rebellion was partly to revenge upon the Jews their rebellion, partly to make safe and sure the frontier of the empire toward Egypt, by leaving no strongholds to be held by enemies.

11. The rest of the people. All except the poorest and meanest, who were not considered worth carrying into captivity. **The fugitives that fell away.** There was a party among the Jews who favored the Chaldeans, seeing that opposition was useless. These and others

had deserted to Nebuchadnezzar during the siege. **Carry away.** To Babylon, a journey of nearly twelve hundred miles.

12. Left the poor. There was still a large population of the poorer class; increased after the departure of the Chaldeans by those who had escaped and been in hiding. **To be vine-dressers and husbandmen.** Farm lands were assigned to them (Jer. 39, 10) and they were placed under the rule of Gedaliah, a friend of Jeremiah, and a grandson of Shaphan, who had aided in the reforms of Josiah. (9) *Of sinner than men realize, it is well to be poor and obscure.*

HOME READINGS.

- M.* Captivity of Judah. 2 Kings 25, 1-12.
Tu. The captivity foretold. Jer. 35, 1-14.
W. Jerusalem defaced. 2 Kings 25, 13-21.
Th. The desolation foretold. Ezek. 12, 8-16.
F. The Saviour's mourning for Jerusalem. Matt. 23, 34-39.
S. The desolation of Jerusalem. Psa. 79, 1-13.
S. Mourning for Judah. Psa. 137, 1-9.

GOLDEN TEXT.

By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. Psa. 137, 1.

LESSON HYMNS.

- No. 1, Dominion Hymnal.
 O for a thousand tongues to sing
 My great Redeemer's praise!
- No. 275, Dominion Hymnal.
 God of pity, God of grace,
 When we humbly seek thy face,
 Bend from heaven thy dwelling-place:
 Hear, forgive, and save.
- No. 296, Dominion Hymnal.
 One more hymn we'll sing at parting,
 One more strain of grateful praise.

TIME.—587 B. C. End of kingdom of Judah. In Greece, the 48th Olympiad. Year of Rome, 166.

PLACE.—Same as in Lesson II, also Riblah.

RULERS.—Same as in Lesson II, except Zedekiah, twentieth and last king of Judah, reigning 508-587 B. C.

CONNECTING LINK.—Twenty years have elapsed. Jehoiakim's reign has ended. Nebuchadnezzar has made the country a Babylonian province. Jehoiakim, eight years old, has been made king; his government has rebelled, and Nebuchadnezzar having again appeared before Jerusalem, has carried the king away captive and put Zedekiah in his place. An evil reign has followed, ending in the destruction of the city and the captivity of the people.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The wages of sin.

QUESTIONS FOR SENIOR STUDENTS.

- 1. A Besieged City, v. 1-3.**
 What is meant by the phrase, "A besieged city"?
 What means were taken to "besiege" Jerusalem?
 What were the effects of this siege before the city fell?
 What other sieges did Jerusalem sustain?
- 2. A Captured King, v. 4-7.**
 Did Zedekiah the king surrender?
 What does his escape show as to the completeness of the environment?
 How was his capture effected?
 What changes have the years since then brought in the treatment of captives?
 Were any other kings of Judah ever made captives?
- 3. A Destroyed City, v. 8-10.**
 How much of Jerusalem was destroyed?
 Name some of the "great houses" probably burned by Nebuzar-adan. 2 Sam. 5, 11; 2 Kings 7, 1.
 How many years had been spent in building up this magnificent city?
 Did any other destruction ever come upon this city?
- 4. A Captive People, v. 11, 12.**
 What prophecy was fulfilled by this captivity?
 Are there any other Scripture instances of a people carried away captive?
 How long before had the prophecy of captivity first been made?

How long did this captivity last?
 What pathetic fragment of song composed at this time does our Golden Text give?

Practical Teachings.

- Israel and Judah are types of human life—
1. Sinning early in life.
 2. Tenderly loved even by God's word.
 3. Freely forgiven whenever repentant.*
 4. Terribly punished if persistent in sin.
- How is your life going?

QUESTIONS FOR INTERMEDIATE SCHOLARS.

- 1. A Besieged City, v. 1-3.**
 Who besieged Jerusalem?
 Why? 2 Kings 24, 20.
 With what was the city surrounded?
 How long did the siege last?
 What calamity fell upon the people?
- 2. A Captured King, v. 4-7.**
 How did the siege end?
 What did the defenders of the city do?
 Where was the king captured?
 Before whom was he indicted upon him?
 What punishment was inflicted upon him?
 To what place was he finally taken?
 What prophet predicted Zedekiah's fate? Jer. 32, 4.
- 3. A Destroyed City, v. 8-10.**
 Who was sent to the captured city?
 What havoc did he cause?
 What did his army destroy?
 What spoil was carried away? 2 Chron. 36, 18.
- 4. A Captive People, v. 11, 12.**
 Who were carried away captive?
 To what place were they carried?
 Who were left in the land?
 For what purpose?

Teachings of the Lesson.

Where are we taught from this lesson—1. The danger of evil doing? 2. The cruelty of wicked men? 3. The fate of a people who forget God?

QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER SCHOLARS.

- Who besieged Jerusalem in the reign of Zedekiah?
Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon.
 How long did his army surround it? **A year and a half.**
 What was Zedekiah and his soldiers obliged to do?
To fly by night.
 Who pursued them? **Nebuchadnezzar and his army.**
 What befell Zedekiah? **He was taken prisoner.**
 What was the fate of his sons? **They were killed before his eyes.**
 What was Nebuchadnezzar's command for Zedekiah?
That his eyes be put out and he be thrown into prison.
 What was done to Jerusalem? **The holy temple and all the walls and houses were burned.**
 Why did they do this? **So as to entirely destroy the city.**
 What became of the people? **Many were killed.**
 What of those who were spared? **Nearly all were carried as slaves to heathen lands.** (Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.)
 Why did the people of Judah have such trouble and sorrow? **Because they left the Lord of their fathers and bowed down to idols.**
 Did their idols give them help? **No; they had no power to do so.**
 Could God have helped them? **Yes, if they had trusted in him.**
 What does God always give his people? **Victory over their enemies.**