

Lesson IV.

JOSIAH'S DEVOTION TO GOD

July 23, 1911

2 Chronicles 34 : 1-13. Commit to memory vs. 1, 2. Read 2 Kings, ch. 22.

GOLDEN TEXT—Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth.—Ecclesiastes 12 : 1.

1 Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in ¹ Jeru'salem one and thirty years.

2 And he did that which was right in the ² sight of the Lord, and walked in the ways of Da'vid his father; and ³ declined neither to the right hand, ⁴ nor to the left.

3 For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of Da'vid his father; and in the twelfth year he began to purge Ju'dah and Jeru'salem from the high places, and the ⁵ groves, and the ⁶ carved images, and the molten images.

4 And they brake down the altars of ⁷ Ba'alim in his presence; and the ⁸ images, that were on high above them, he ⁹ cut down; and the ¹⁰ groves, and the ¹¹ carved images, and the molten images, he brake in pieces, and made dust of them, and strowed it upon the graves of them that had sacrificed unto them.

5 And he burnt the bones of the priests upon their altars, and ¹⁰ cleansed Ju'dah and Jeru'salem.

6 And so did he in the cities of Manas'seh, and E'phraim, and Sim'eon, even unto Naph'tali, ¹¹ with their mattocks round about.

7 And ¹² when he had broken down the altars and the groves, and had beaten the graven images into powder, and ⁹ cut down all the ⁸ idols throughout all the land of Is'rael, ¹³ he returned to Jeru'salem.

8 Now in the eighteenth year of his reign, when

Revised Version—¹ thirty and one years in Jerusalem; ² eyes of; ³ turned not aside to; ⁴ or; ⁵ Asherim; ⁶ graven; ⁷ the; ⁸ sun-images; ⁹ hewed down; ¹⁰ purged; ¹¹ in their ruins round; ¹² he brake down the altars, and beat the Asherim and the; ¹³ and returned; ¹⁴ Omit when; ¹⁵ and delivered; ¹⁶ the keepers of the door; ¹⁷ of the inhabitants of Jerusalem; ¹⁸ delivered it into the; ¹⁹ Omit four words; ²⁰ gave it to amend and repair the house; ²¹ carpenters; ²² to the; ²³ make beams for the houses; ²⁴ music; ²⁵ set forward all that did the work; ²⁶ every manner.

LESSON PLAN

- I. Sought God, 1-3.
- II. Destroyed Idols, 4-7.
- III. Repaired the Temple, 8-13.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association)

M.—Josiah's devotion to God, 2 Chron. 34 : 1-13.
T.—Prophecy of Josiah, 1 Kgs. 13 : 1-6. W.—The prophecy fulfilled, 2 Kgs. 23 : 15-20. Th.—Young Samuel, 1 Sam. 3 : 1-10. F.—"Come ye children," Ps. 34 : 1-14. S.—Christ and the children, Luke 18 : 9-17. S.—Seeking wisdom, Prov. 2 : 1-9.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 97. What is required to the worthy receiving of the Lord's supper? A. It is required of them that would worthily partake of the Lord's supper, that they examine themselves of their knowledge to discern the Lord's body, of

he had purged the land, and the house, he sent Sha'phan the son of Azali'ah, and Maasei'ah the governor of the city, and Jo'ah the son of Jo'ahas the recorder, to repair the house of the Lord his God.

9 And ¹⁴ when they came to Hilki'ah the high priest, ¹⁵ they delivered the money that was brought into the house of God, which the Le'vites ¹⁶ that kept the doors had gathered of the hand of Manas'seh and E'phraim, and of all the remnant of Is'rael, and of all Ju'dah and Ben'jamin; and ¹⁷ they returned to Jeru'salem.

10 And they ¹⁸ put it in the hand of the workmen that had the oversight of the house of the Lord, and ¹⁹ they gave it to the workmen that wrought in the house of the Lord, ²⁰ to repair and amend the house:

11 Even to the ²¹ artificers and ²² builders gave they it, to buy hewn stone, and timber for couplings, and to ²³ floor the houses which the kings of Ju'dah had destroyed.

12 And the men did the work faithfully; and the overseers of them were Ja'hath and Obadi'ah, the Le'vites, of the sons of Merari; and Zechari'ah and Meshul'am, of the sons of the Ko'hathites, to set it forward; and other of the Le'vites, all that could skill of instruments of ²⁴ music.

13 Also they were over the bearers of burdens, and ²⁵ were overseers of all that wrought the work in ²⁶ any manner of service; and of the Le'vites there were scribes, and officers, and porters.

their faith to feed upon him, of their repentance, love, and new obedience; lest coming unworthily, they eat and drink judgment to themselves.

The Question on Missions—1. What is the message of the missionary to the Jews? First, that the gospel is able to save Jews and Gentiles alike; and that they can be saved only by accepting Him as the true Messiah.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 97 (Supplemental Lesson); 388; 385; 98 (Ps. Sel.); 584 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 389.

Special Scripture Reading—Ps. 84. (To be read responsively or in concert by the whole School.)

Lantern Slides—For Lesson, B. 1095. "And they brake down the altars of Baalim." For Question on Missions, J. M. 50, Open Air Meeting in Front of a Jewish Theatre in Toronto.

Stereograph—For Lesson, Solomon's Temple, Reproduction of the Famous Schick Model, Used with Lesson for April 23 (Underwood & Underwood, see page 317).

EXPOSITION

Time and Place—Josiah reigned from B.C. 639 till 608; Jerusalem.

Connecting Links—Amon, the son of Manasseh, who succeeded his father as king, reigned only two years, and then Josiah came to the throne. (See ch. 33 : 20-25.)

I. Sought God, 1-3.

Vs. 1, 2. Josiah was eight years old; and therefore, for some years, he would of necessity be under the control of his mother or his counselors, who would also govern his kingdom. Did. right. He was conspicuous amongst the kings of David's line for his

faithfulness and zeal in God's service. In the sight of the Lord. Josiah's was no formal service, but was from the heart. In the ways. 2 Kgs. 22 : 2 says "all the way". Of David his father; his ancestor, the pattern of kingship in Judah. Turned not aside, etc. (Rev. Ver.); but kept right on in obedience to God's law.

V. 3. Eighth year; now sixteen, the age at which by far the greater number of decisions for God are made. Began to seek. God, as the pressure of kingly duties caused him to feel his need of divine wisdom and help.