

Lesson III.

ASA'S GOOD REIGN IN JUDAH

January 15, 1911

2 Chronicles 15 : 1-15—Memory Verses, 1, 2.

Golden Text—Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak : for your work shall be rewarded.—2 Chronicles 15 : 7.



the reign of A'sa.

11 And they offered unto the Lord the same time, of the spoil *which* they had brought, seven hundred oxen and seven thousand sheep.

12 And they entered into a covenant to seek the Lord God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul ;

13 That whosoever would not seek the Lord God of Is'rael should be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman.

14 And they swore unto the Lord with a loud voice, and with shouting, and with trumpets, and with cornets.

15 And all Ju'dah rejoiced at the oath : for they had sworn with all their heart, and sought him with their whole desire ; and he was found of them : and the Lord gave them rest round about.

THE LESSON RETOLD

One of the good kings of Judah was named Asa. He was the grandson of Rehoboam, the son of the great King Solomon. Asa loved God with all his heart, and tried to please Him in everything he did ; and because Asa, the king, loved and served God, his people loved and served Him too. And God blessed the people of Judah and they prospered and grew strong. And when their enemies came up to fight against them, God helped the people of Judah in the battle and gave them the victory.

Once the enemies of Asa came up against him, and he went out to meet them with only half as many soldiers as they had. But Asa prayed, and the Lord gave him the victory.

One day after this, the Lord sent one of His prophets, named Azariah, with a message to king Asa. This was the message that

1 And the Spirit of God came upon Azari'ah the son of O'ded :

2 And he went out to meet A'sa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, A'sa, and all Ju'dah and Ben'jamin : The Lord *is* with you, while ye be with him ; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you ; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you.

3 Now for a long season Is'rael *hath been* without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law.

4 But when they in their trouble did turn unto the Lord God of Is'rael, and sought him, he was found of them.

5 And in those times *there was* no peace to him that went out, nor to him that came in, but great vexations *were* upon all the inhabitants of the countries.

6 And nation was destroyed of nation, and city of city : for God did vex them with all adversity.

7 Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak : for your work shall be rewarded.

8 And when A'sa heard these words, and the prophecy of O'ded the prophet, he took courage, and put away the abominable idols out of all the land of Ju'dah and Ben'jamin, and out of the cities which he had taken from mount E'phraim, and renewed the altar of the Lord, that *was* before the porch of the Lord.

9 And he gathered all Ju'dah and Ben'jamin, and the strangers with them out of E'phraim and Manas'seh, and out of Sim'eon : for they fell to him out of Is'rael in abundance, when they saw that the Lord his God *was* with him.

10 So they gathered themselves together at Jeru'salem in the third month, in the fifteenth year of

Azariah gave Asa and the people of Judah : "The Lord will be with you to help you as long as you serve Him", he said, "but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you. Many times in the past Israel tried to do without the Lord, and then trouble and misfortune came upon them. But when they turned to the Lord once more, He forgave them and helped them in their need. Therefore let the people of Judah be strong and do what is right, and God will reward them."

When Asa heard these words, he took courage and destroyed all the idols which had been set up in his kingdom, and in some cities which had been taken from the kingdom of Israel ; and he repaired the altar for offering sacrifices, which stood in the court of the temple and which the people had allowed to fall into ruin. Then he gathered all the