

## LESSON III.

## ESTHER PLEADING FOR HER PEOPLE

October 15, 1899

Esther 8 : 3-8, 15-17. Commit to memory vs. 15-17. Read chaps. 8-10

3 And Esther spake yet again before the king, and fell down at his feet, and besought him with tears to put away the mischief of Haman the Agagite, and his device that he had devised against the Jews.

4 Then the king held out the golden sceptre toward Esther. So Esther arose, and stood before the king. 5 And said, If it please the king, and if I have found favour in his sight, and the thing seem right before the king, and I be pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews which are in all the king's provinces:

6 For how can I endure to see the evil that shall come unto my people? or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?

7 Then the king Ahasuerus said unto Esther the queen and to Mordecai the Jew, Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman and him they have

hanged upon the gallows, because he laid his hand upon the Jews.

8 Write ye also a for the Jews, as it liketh you, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's ring: for the writing which is written in the king's name, and sealed with the king's ring, may no man reverse.

15 And Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, and with a great crown of gold, and with a garment of fine linen and purple: and the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad.

16 The Jews had light, and gladness, and joy, and honour.

17 And in every province, and in every city, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a good day, and many of the people of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them.

Revised Version.—1 To; 2 To. Margin, concerning; 3 Forth; 4 Robe; 5 Shouted; 6 From among the peoples; 7 Was fallen.

## GOLDEN TEXT

"Commit thy way unto the Lord: trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass." Ps. 57 : 5.

## DAILY READINGS

M.—Esther 8 : 1-8. } Esther plead-  
T.—Esther 8 : 9-17. } ing for her  
                                  } people.

W.—Esther 9 : 20-28. Deliverance commemorated.

Th.—Psalm 31 : 14-24. Joy in deliverance.

F.—Zeph. 3 : 14-20. Promise of help.

S.—Psalm 91. Safety of God's people.

S.—Psalm 37 : 1-17. Trust, and fear not.

## TIME

Same year as last lesson, probably May or June, 478.

## PLACE

The King's palace at Shushan.

## CATECHISM

Q. 75. What is forbidden in the eighth commandment?

A. The eighth commandment forbiddeth whatsoever evil or may unjustly hinder our own or our neighbour's wealth or outward estate.

## LESSON PLAN

## I. The Queen's Petition, 3-6.

At peril of her life and with a flood of tears, that the king would spare her people.

## II. The King's Consent, 7, 8, etc.

That the Jews should be allowed to defend themselves.

## III. The Great Deliverance, 15-17.

The Jews safe and many of the people of the land becoming Jews.

## LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise—23, 50, (Ps.) 11, 404, 232.

## CONNECTING LINKS

The news of the terrible plot soon spread throughout the provinces, and the Jews were filled with dismay. In despair, Mordecai turned to Queen Esther; and the noble queen, taking her life in her hand (4:11), went to intercede with the king. He received her graciously, and at a banquet given to himself and Haman she disclosed the wicked plot of the latter, and secured his downfall. But, the edict against the Jews being still in force, she begged the king to rescind it.

## EXPOSITION

## I. The Queen's Petition, 3-6.

V. 3. And Esther spake yet again before the king. The plot had been completely overthrown; but the decree against the Jewish people had not been revoked. To put away the mischief of Haman; to repeal the edict that that had been issued at his instigation.

V. 4. The king held out the golden sceptre; the usual sign that the king's favor was granted to a suppliant (5:2). There are many illustrations of the golden sceptre of the Persian kings upon the monuments. "In the bas-reliefs of Persepolis, copied by Sir Robert Kay Porter, King Darius carries in his right

hand a slender rod or wand about equal in length to his own height, and ornamented with a small knob at the summit. On the Khorsabad reliefs the rod is painted red, doubtless to represent gold; proving that the golden sceptre was a simple wand of that precious metal." (Jamieson).

V. 5. If it please the king. The queen shows very great tact in presenting her request. She modestly submits to the will of the king, making no reference whatever to the part he had taken in the matter, but throwing the whole blame upon Haman; and upon that ground urges that the decree be revoked.