

people were deported, and the kingdom of Israel was never revived. But instead of proceeding immediately to Jerusalem the Assyrian forces busied themselves for five years with the siege of Tyre. In the fourteenth year of Hezekiah the long-threatened blow came. The Assyrians captured "all" of the "fenced cities" of Judah. Hezekiah paid a crushing ransom (2 Kings 18, 14-16), apparently against the advice of the prophet Isaiah. It has been supposed that Isa. 22 fits in here. Shebna, who is there denounced, was at that time Hezekiah's chief officer and adviser. Isaiah himself had foretold the Assyrians' conquering march (Isa. 10, 28-32), but urged his people to "be not afraid of the Assyrians" (verse 14). Hezekiah's illness, the subject of next Sunday's lesson, also took place in the fourteenth year of his reign, apparently before the Assyrians' overthrow. The invasion

described in our lesson passage is believed by some authorities to have come later (see WORD STUDIES); but this chronological question has no bearing on the moral and spiritual teachings.

The words of Hezekiah show a strong heart: "Be strong and courageous, be not afraid nor dismayed for the king of Assyria, nor for all the multitude that is with him; for there be more with us than with him. With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the Lord our God to help us, and to fight our battles." No wonder the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah (2 Chron. 32, 7, 8).

The secret of Christian courage: Spreading our difficulties before the Lord: for "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." When we are brave and trust in God others will rest upon us.

The Responsive Review

1. What city did Sennacherib come to capture? *Jerusalem.*
2. What had Hezekiah, king of Jerusalem, done? *He had destroyed idol worship.*
3. What did Sennacherib say about Hezekiah? *He tried to make the people believe that Hezekiah displeased the Lord.*
4. What did the Lord do in answer to the prayer of Hezekiah and Isaiah? *He sent an angel to defeat the Assyrians.*
5. What happened to Sennacherib when he returned home? *He was killed by his own sons.*
6. What is the GOLDEN TEXT? *"With us is," etc.*

The Church Catechism

44. How doeth our Lord set forth our duty to God and our fellow-men? *Our Lord sets forth our duty to God and our fellow-men in these words: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself." Luke x, 27. And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.*

LESSON II. Hezekiah's Prayer

GOLDEN TEXT. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psal. 46, 1.

[July 9]

AUTHORIZED VERSION

[Study Isa. 38, 1-22]

Isa. 38, 1-8

[Commit to memory verses 4-6]

1 In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amos came unto him, and said unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live.

2 Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed unto the Lord.

3 And said, Remember now, O Lord, I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore.

4 Then came the word of the Lord to Isaiah, saying,

5 Go, and say to Hezekiah, Thus saith the Lord, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will add unto thy days fifteen years.

6 And I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria: and I will defend this city.

7 And this shall be a sign unto thee from the Lord, that the Lord will do this thing that he hath spoken:

REVISED VERSION.*

1. In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amos came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith Jehovah, Set thy house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live. 2 Then Hezekiah turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto Jehovah, 3 and said, Remember now, O Jehovah, I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore. 4 Then came the word of Jehovah to Isaiah, saying, 5 Go, and say to Hezekiah, Thus saith Jehovah, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will add unto thy days fifteen years. 6 And I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city. 7 And this shall be the sign unto thee from Jehovah, that Jehovah will do this thing that he hath spoken: 8 behold, I will cause the shadow on the

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