

Lesson V. **JEHOSHAPHAT'S GOOD REIGN IN JUDAH** January 29, 1911

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—2 Chron., chs. 15: 10 to 16: 14, continues the story of Asa's reign (see ch. 15: 1-15, Lesson III., Jan. 15). He was succeeded by his son Jehoshaphat.

GOLDEN TEXT—Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.—Matthew 6: 33.

Memorize vs. 3, 4. **THE LESSON PASSAGE**—2 Chronicles 17: 1-6, 9-13. Study 2 Chronicles 17: 1-13. Read chs. 17-20.

1 And Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his stead, and strengthened himself against Israel.

2 And he placed forces in all the fenced cities of Judah, and set garrisons in the land of Judah, and in the cities of Ephraim, which Asa his father had taken.

3 And the Lord was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the first ways of his father David, and sought not unto Baalim;

4 But sought to the Lord God of his father, and walked in his commandments, and not after the doings of Israel.

5 Therefore the Lord established the kingdom in his hand; and all Judah brought to Jehoshaphat presents; and he had riches and honour in abundance.

6 And his heart was lifted up in the ways of the Lord: moreover he took away the high places and

Revised Version—the; 2 *Omit* LORD; 3 and furthermore he; 4 the Asherim out of; 5 having the book; 6 they; 7 among; 8 And some; 9 silver for tribute; 10 also; 11 many works; 12 *Omit* the; 13 *Omit* were.

Daily Readings—(Courtesy, I.B.R.A.)—M.—Jehoshaphat's good reign in Judah, 2 Chron. 17: 1-13. T.—Righteous rule, 2 Chron. 19: 4-11. W.—The best refuge, 2 Chron. 20: 1-13. Th.—A battle song, 2 Chron. 20: 14-21. F.—Complete deliverance, 2 Chron. 20: 22-30. S.—The book of the law, Josh. 1: 1-9. S.—The blessed way, Ps. 1.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. GOD FEARED.—1, 2. Jehoshaphat. The name means "whom the Lord judges" or "pleads for". His son; that is, son of Asa, ch. 16: 13, 14. Strengthened himself against Israel; strengthened the defences of his kingdom on the side towards the Northern kingdom of Israel. Ahab's alliance with Sidon, through his wife Jezebel, made his power to be feared. Forces; an army. Fenced cities; fortified places. Garrisons. The Hebrew means either officers or governors set over a garrison, or the garrison itself. Land of Judah; the territory of the Southern kingdom. Cities of Ephraim; that is, of Israel, the Northern kingdom, so named from its most powerful tribe. The reference is to the cities of ch. 15: 8 (compare ch. 13: 19).

3, 4. The Lord was with Jehoshaphat; blessing him with His favor. Walked in; followed the example of. First ways of his father David. Probably "David" should be omitted, and the meaning is that Jehoshaphat followed the example of Asa in his earlier years, before that king had incurred the Lord's displeasure by his sin (see ch. 16). Sought not unto; did not worship or serve. Baalim; plural of Baal. But, the Lord God of his father. Jehoshaphat inherited the faith of his godly ancestry as well as their throne. Walked in his commandments; showing by his obedience that he was really seeking the Lord. Not after the doings of Israel; that is, not following the example of the Northern kingdom in the worship of Baal.

5, 6. Therefore; because Jehoshaphat had worshipped and served the God of his fathers. The Lord

groves out of Judah.

9 And they taught in Judah, and had the book of the law of the Lord with them, and went about throughout all the cities of Judah, and taught the people.

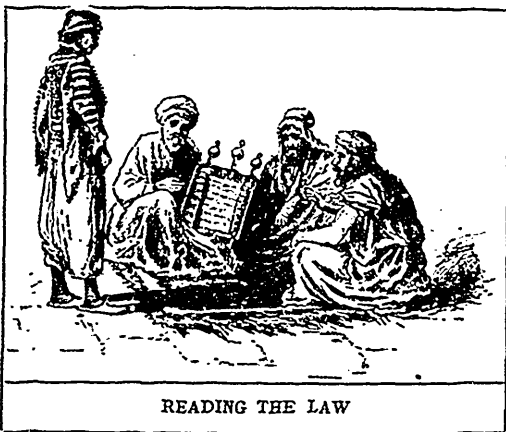
10 And the fear of the Lord fell upon all the kingdoms of the lands that were round about Judah, so that they made no war against Jehoshaphat.

11 Also some of the Philistines brought Jehoshaphat presents, and tribute silver; and the Arabians brought him flocks, seven thousand and seven hundred rams, and seven thousand and seven hundred he goats.

12 And Jehoshaphat waxed great exceedingly; and he built in Judah castles, and cities of store.

13 And he had much business in the cities of Judah; and the men of war, mighty men of valour, were in Jerusalem.

4 the Asherim out of; 5 having the book; 6 they; 7 among; 8 And some; 9 silver for tribute; 10 also; 11 many works; 12 Omit the; 13 Omit were.



READING THE LAW

established the kingdom; made it strong and powerful. All Judah brought presents; voluntary gifts at the king's accession, in addition to the regular taxes. These gifts were proof of the people's love. Riches and honour; the reward of his faithfulness to the Lord. His heart was lifted up; not in pride and forgetfulness of God, but in courage and devotion resulting from trust in the Lord. In the ways of the Lord; in a life of love and obedience to God. The high places; the temples erected for the worship of false gods. The Asherim (Rev. Ver.); images representing the female deity corresponding to Baal.

Vs. 7, 8 give the names of five court officers, nine Levites and two priests sent throughout Judah to