

## The Sabbath School.

### INTERNATIONAL LESSONS.

March 10th.] B. C. 726. [2 Chron. xxix. 1-11.

#### HEZEKIAH'S GOOD REIGN.

**GOLDEN TEXT.**—"And in every work that he began . . . he did it with all his heart and prospered."—2nd Chron. 31 : 21,

**HOME READINGS.**—M. Isa. 9, 1-21 ; T. 2 Chron. 29, 1-19 ; W. 2 Chron. 29, 2-36 ; Th. 2 Chron. 30, 1-27 ; F. 2 Chron. 31, 1-10 ; S. Isa. 32, 1-20 ; S. Isa. 35, 1-10

**READ** 2 Kings, ch. xviii.—Hezekiah—properly, Hizk-ja or Jeheseki-ja : i.e. *Jehovah will strengthen*. His mother's name **ABUJAH**, is given in 2 Kings in abridged form, *Abi*—a daughter of *Zechariah*, a man "having understanding in the vision (or sight) of God." 2 Chron. 26 : 5. not the prophet whose writings bear his name, nor that one stoned to death by Joash, ch. 24 : 21, but evidently a man of discernment, Isa. 8 2. Hezekiah's character is one of the most exemplary in scripture, 2 Kings, 18 : 5. He "did that which was right." (1) He opened the doors of the House of God, which Ahaz had closed, ch. 23 : 24. (2) He brake in pieces the instruments of image worship,—even the brazen serpent of the wilderness, which had been preserved as a sacred relic, he destroyed, calling it *Nehushtan*, (i.e. a bit of brass, neither more nor less, 2 Kings, 18 : 4. (3) He got the Priests and Levites together with the purpose of restoring public worship, v. 4. (4) He made them cleanse the Temple of the accumulated dust and cobwebs of 8 or 10 years. But they must first cleanse themselves, Isa. 52 : 11. These abominations were evident, v. 8.—the causes of all Judah's troubles. (5) Vast preparations were made for the Passover. So great was the popular enthusiasm, the customary seven days were not enough : it was prolonged for seven days more, ch. 30 : 21-23. The disciples on the mount would fain remain, Matt. 17 : 4. When all was over, the people went home rejoicing, everywhere breaking the images, cutting down the idolatrous groves, overturning the altars of Baalam until they had utterly destroyed them all ! ch. 31 : 1. In the same spirit, the people of Scotland rose up at the voice of Knox, who is reported to have said—"Down with the crow's nests, or the crows will build in them again !"

**LEARN** to begin work for God early in life ; that as the Priests must first sanctify themselves, so must we seek first *personal holiness*, Matt. 6 : 33 that neglect and decay of religion in nations are always opposed even to temporal prosperity. Righteousness alone exalteth a nation, Prov. 14 : 34.

March 17th.] B. C. 710. [2 Chron. xxxii : 9-21.

#### HEZEKIAH AND THE ASSYRIANS.

**GOLDEN TEXT.**—"With him is an arm of flesh ; but with us is the Lord our God to help us, and to fight our battles."—Verse 8.

**HOME READINGS.**—M. 2 Chron. 32, 1-23 : T. Isa. 10, 5-34 : W. Isa. 36, 1-22 ; Th. Isa. 37, 1-20 ; Fri. Isa. 37, 21-25 : S. Ps. 76, 1-12 ; S. 2 Kings, 20, 1-21.

**PARALLEL HISTORY.**—2 Kings, 18 : 17-37. Having abolished idolatry, Hezekiah attempts to repudiate the payment of the tribute ignominiously conceded by Ahaz, 2 Kings, 16 : 7. Esasier said than done. He had to strip the gold from the temple doors to appease the tyrant of Assyria, 2 K. 18 : 16. "After this" v. 9, for date see 2 K. 18 ; 13. and Isa. 36 : 1. **SENNACHERIB** again invaded Judah, took Libnah and Lachish, and besieged Jerusalem, v. 10. Modern explorations shew Sennacherib to have been a very great warrior, with enormous resources. The Nineveh inscriptions tell how he built the palace of Koyunjik, surpassing in magnificence all the buildings of his predecessors. They also confirm the bible statement of Hezekiah paying him tribute. He was proud, boastful, and unscrupulous, v. 15 : Isa. 10 : 13-14. Wrote blasphemous letters himself, v. 17, and instigated his followers to rail against God and the King, v. 16.

**ISAIAH** the son of Amos—the greatest of the Old Testament prophets. First mentioned in the year that King Uzziah died, 758 B.C. About the time that Rome was founded. The historian, preacher, and psalmist of his day. *The prophet* who plainly foretold the coming of the Messiah, Isa. ch. 53. Frequently quoted in the New Testament ; read by Christ, Luke 4 ; 17 : by the Ethiopian, Acts 8 ; 27-28 : quoted by St. Paul, Rom. 9 ; 27. 10 ; 16. 15 ; 12, &c. To him Hezekiah went in his trouble, and, with him, "prayed and cried to heaven," v. 20. Their prayer was answered, v. 21. The precise way in which God came to their rescue is not stated. In 2 Kings, 19, 7, "a blast" is spoken of. Other than human agency was employed, Isa 31 : 8. "An angel," v. 21. There are Angels of Mercy, Heb. 1 ; 14 : Luke 22 ; 43 : also, Destroying Angels, Exo. 12 ; 23 : 2 Sam. 24 : 16 : Matt. 13 ; 41. Similar instances of miraculous interference, as the overthrow of Pharaoh and his hosts ; the fall of Jericho ; the slaughter of the Midianites, (Jud. ch. 7) and Jehoshaphat's victory over the Moabites, 2 Chron. 20 : 23-25. Sennacherib returned to Nineveh, where he lived for 17 years, after his defeat in Judea. He was murdered by his own sons, v. 21, and 2 K. 19 : 37. For particulars of Hezekiah's alarming sickness and recovery, of his subsequent indiscretion and meek submission to rebuke, see 2 Kings, ch. 20.

**LEARN** that God is the hearer and answerer of prayer. Though he does not now interfere miraculously in the affairs of nations and individuals, His works of providence are still most holy wise and powerful. "preserving and governing all his creatures and all their actions." "The very hairs of your head are all numbered, Matthew 10 : 30.