

LESSON NOTES

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE KING AND PROPHETS.

B.O. 884.] LESSON III. [Oct. 18.

Jehu's False Zeal.

2 Kings 10. 15-31. Comm. vs. 28-31.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly.—Ps. 1. 1.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

Jesus Christ gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.—Titus 2. 14.

DAILY READINGS.

M. 2 Kings 9. 1-7; Th. 2 Kings 10. 15-36. 11-15.

T. 2 Kings 9. 16-37. F. Jer. 35. 1-19.

W. 2 Kings 10. 1-14. Sa. 2 Kings 23. 1-25. Su. Ps. 1. 1-6.

TIME.—B.C. 884. The commencement of Jehu's reign; 7 years after the last lesson.

PLACE.—Samaria and Jezreel, the capitals of Israel.

RULERS.—Jehu, king of Israel, B.C. 884-850. Athaliah, daughter of Ahab, occupying the throne of Judah, B.C. 884-878. Hazael, king of Syria, B.C. 885. Elisha, the prophet, B.C. 896-838.

INTRODUCTION.—Several years pass away since the siege of Samaria. Both kingdoms were under the influence of the Baal worship of Ahab and Jezebel. Jehoram, their son, was king of Israel, and Athaliah, their daughter, was the wife of Jehoram, king of Judah. Time now drew nigh for the extinction of this wicked house.

THE NEW KING, JEHU.—Jehu was the son of Nimshi. He was a general in the army of king Jehoram of Israel. He was a good soldier, brave, of intense energy, and positive character, but selfish, ambitious and cruel. Jehoram was wounded in a battle with the Syrians in Ramoth-Gilead, beyond Jordan, and returned to Jezreel. While at Ramoth-Gilead, Jehu was anointed king of Israel by order of Elisha; and he drove immediately to Jezreel and slew Jehoram, and assumed the government. He ordered the 70 sons of Ahab to be slain at Samaria, and their heads sent to him at Jezreel.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—15. And when he was departed thence—Jehu was on his way from Jezreel to Samaria, the capital, and at "the shearing house" on the way he had slain 40 more of Ahab's relatives. He had just seen this place. Jehonadab the son of Rechab—See Jer. 35. 6-10. 17. The saying of the Lord to Elijah—Sixteen years before (1 Kings 21. 17-19). 21. The house of Baal was full—The house was the temple Ahab built at Samaria, with its courts and surrounding rooms. 22. Vestments—Garments in which the priests sacrificed to Baal. This would distinguish them from all others. 25. The city of the house of Baal—The temple itself as distinguished from its court and porches. 29. The golden calves—See 1 Kings 12. 28-33. Les. 2. 3d Quar. 30. The Lord said—He commanded the work done, but not the way it was done. Jehu was God's executioner of the criminals who were ruining Israel.

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—The intervening history.—Jehu's life.—Jehu's character.—Jehonadab, the son of Rechab.—The right and the wrong in the slaughter of Ahab's household and of the servants of Baal.—The good qualities in Jehu's zeal.—The qualities that made it false.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—How many years intervene between the events of the last lesson and those of this? What were some of the events which occurred during these years? What two things revealed to Elijah were performed at this time? (1 Kings 19. 15-17.)

SUBJECT: TRUE AND FALSE ZEAL.

I. THE NEW KING—JEHU.—What account can you give of Jehu? (2 Kings 9. 20.) Who anointed him king over Israel? (2 Kings 9. 1-3.) Who was king at this time? Where was he? (8. 28, 29.) Where was Jehu when he was anointed to be king? (9. 4.) What position had he held? (9. 5.) What did he do in order to obtain the kingdom? (2 Kings 9. 11, etc.)

II. FIRST EXHIBITION OF ZEAL—DESTRUCTION OF THE HOUSE OF AHAH (vs. 15-17).—What command had been given to Jehu? (2 Kings 9. 7.) Why was this command given? (1 Kings 21. 23-26.) Is it right to execute

criminals? Why? How did Jehu begin to fulfil this command? (2 Kings 10. 1-14.) Whom did he meet on the way to the capital? Give some account of Jehonadab. (Jer. 35. 6-10.) How did Jehu greet him? Why did he want him with him? What did Jehu do in Samaria? What political motives could he have had in this? What good elements do you find in this zeal of Jehu? What bad elements?

III. SECOND EXHIBITION OF ZEAL—DESTRUCTION OF THE WORSHIPPERS OF BAAL (vs. 18-28).—What reform did Jehu next plan? On what pretence did he assemble the worshippers of Baal? In what place? How did he separate them from all others? How did he destroy them? What was the result of this work of Jehu? What elements of good and what of evil do you find in this exhibition of zeal?

IV. IMPERFECTION OF HIS WORK (vs. 29-31).—In what did Jehu fail? What was the sin of Jeroboam? (1 Kings 12. 26-33). Why did he not remove these sins also? For what was Jehu commended? Does this endorse the way he fulfilled his mission? How was he rewarded? Did he miss the best reward of good deeds? Why? Can we afford to do a good work from bad motives? Will it be rewarded? (Matt. 6. 2.) How?

LESSONS FROM JEHU'S ZEAL.

1. The good elements in his zeal. (1) It was good in itself; (2) it did what God commanded; (3) it did good to his country; (4) it was intense; (5) it was effective; (6) it received temporal rewards.

2. The bad elements. (1) it was selfish; (2) it was boastful; (3) it had wrong motives; (4) it was cruel and treacherous; (5) it was partial, doing only what was advantageous to himself; (6) it was negative—destroying, not building up; (7) it failed of the highest spiritual success and reward.

REVIEW EXERCISE. (For the whole School in concert.)

12. Jehu was the next king of Israel? Ans. Jehu, an energetic, zealous, worldly soldier. 13. What was his first work as king? Ans. He destroyed the house of Ahab, and the worshippers of Baal. 14. Why was this done? Ans. They were criminals, ruining their country. 15. What were the good elements in Jehu's zeal? (Repeat 1. above.) 16. What were the bad elements in his zeal? (Repeat 2. above.)

B.C. 856.] LESSON IV. [Oct. 25.

THE TEMPLE REPAIRED.

2 Kings 12. 1-15. Comm. to mem. vs. 9-11.

GOLDEN TEXT.

I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.—Ps. 122. 1.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

We should labour and give for the upbuilding of the Church of God.

DAILY READINGS.

M. 2 Kings 11. 1-21. Th. 2 Chron. 23. 1-27.

T. 2 Kings 12. 1-12. F. 2 Chron. 24. 1-21.

W. 2 Chron. 22. 1-12. Sa. Ps. 84. 1-12.

Su. Ps. 122. 1-9.

TIME.—The repairs on the temple were made B.C. 856, in the 23rd year of Joash, king of Judah. It was about the time of Jehu's death, 28 years after our last lesson.

PLACE.—Jerusalem, in the kingdom of Judah.

RULERS.—Joash, king of Judah, B.C. 878-841. Jehoahaz, king of Israel, B.C. 855-839. The prophet Elisha still living.

INTERVENING HISTORY.—2 Kings 11; 2 Chron. 22. 23.

CORRESPONDING HISTORY.—2 Chron. 24. 1-27.

CIRCUMSTANCES.—We now turn to the kingdom of Judah. While Jehu was making the reforms in Israel we studied in our last lesson, Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab and mother of Ahaziah, the king of Judah, slain by Jehu, usurped the throne of Judah. She attempted to kill all the children of her son Ahaziah. But one, a babe named Joash, was rescued by his aunt, the wife of Jehoiada, the high priest, and hidden for six years. Then queen Athaliah was slain, and Joash, only seven years old, was made king, with Jehoiada to act in his name.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—1. Jehoash—Usually shortened to Joash. He was the eighth king of Judah, the youngest son of Ahaziah. He reigned 40 years. The first

half of his reign, under the influence of Jehoiada, was good, and included the great reformation described in this lesson. After Jehoiada's death he fell into evil ways. 3. High places—Hill tops and ovens, where God was worshipped, but in an unlawful manner, and one liable to evil. (Lev. 26. 30; Dent. 33. 29.) 4. Money of the dedicated things—i.e., Money dedicated to God. There were three kinds. (1) *That passeth the account*—Or census; a poll tax. (Ex. 30. 13) (2) *Every man is set at*—Or valued at; paid by those who had made vows; a sum dependent on age, sex, and property. (Lev. 27. 28.) (3) *Any man's heart to bring*—Voluntary gifts. 5. *Let the priests take it*—They were to take this money, as well as what was given for their support, and out of their income make the repairs. 6. *Had not repaired*—(1) They were neglectful. (2) There was no money left after they had their own support. 8. *Receive no more money*—Of that given for repairs. Another plan was now adopted. 10. *Told the money*—Kept an account of it.

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—Intervening history.—Joash preserved from Athaliah.—Joash asking.—Jehoiada.—High places.—The need of temple repairs.—The first plan; the second plan.—Contributions in church.—Rejoicing in giving to the Lord.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—To what kingdom do we now turn? At what date? How long after the last lesson? Who were the rulers in the two kingdoms?

SUBJECT: REPAIRING THE HOUSE OF GOD.

I. THE REIGN OF JOASH (vs. 1-3).—Who were the father and mother of Joash? (2 Kings 11. 2; 12. 1.) What narrow escape from death did he have in his childhood? (12. 2.) Who brought him up? (2 Chron. 22. 10-12.) How old was he when he began to reign? (11. 21.) How long did he reign? Who was his chief guide the first half of his reign? What was his character during this period? (2 Chron. 24. 2.) In what did he fail during this time? What were the high places? What change came over him after Jehoiada's death? (2 Chron. 24. 17-19.) What did he do with the temple treasures he had worked so hard to collect? (2 Kings 12. 18.) What crime did he commit? (2 Chron. 24. 23-25.) What lessons can you learn from the life of Joash?

II. THE NEED.—How long had the temple been built? (It was built B.C. 1005.) Would its age cause it to need repairs? How had it lost some of its treasures? (2 Chron. 16. 1-3.) What had queen Athaliah done to it? (2 Chron. 24. 7.) Is there any need of improvement or repair in your church and Sunday-school spirit? Is there any need of repairing God's spiritual temple where you live? Will religion prosper where the house of God is neglected?

III. DILATORY WORK (vs. 4-8).—What was Joash's first plan for repairing the temple? What three kinds of revenue were devoted to this work? (v. 4; see also Ex. 30. 13; Lev. 27. 2-8.) How were the priests usually supported? (Lev. 5. 15-18; 2 Kings 12. 16.) Why would these revenues be likely to be small under the circumstances? What was the result of this plan? (2 Chron. 24. 5.) Why did the priests take so little interest in the work? Can any good work succeed when people take little interest in it?

IV. A NEW AND SUCCESSFUL PLAN OF WORK (vs. 9-15).—What new plan did the king adopt? (See also 2 Chron. 24. 8-11.) Was this the first contribution-box? Where was it placed? Did the people take hold of this plan more zealously? (2 Chron. 24. 10.) Did the people give largely because they rejoiced, or rejoice because they gave largely? How successful was this plan? (2 Chron. 24. 11.) What was done with the surplus money? (2 Chron. 24. 14.) Should there be a contribution box in every church? When should we begin to give to the Lord? Should we earn ourselves what we give? Will true giving lead us to rejoice? Why?

REVIEW EXERCISE. (For the whole school in concert.)

17. What had become of the temple at Jerusalem? Ans. The temple and its services had been allowed to go to decay, and its treasures had been taken away. 18. Who repaired it? Ans. Joash, the king of Judah. 19. What was his plan? Ans. He placed a great contribution-box in the temple. 20. What was the result? Ans. The people gave gladly and largely, the temple was repaired, and religion was revived.

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