

shut off as if besieged. Except . . . a very small remnant; but for the few godly men in Jerusalem. We . . . as Sodom . . . like Gomorrah; the wicked cities destroyed in Abraham's time, Gen. 19 : 24, 25.

III. A DIVINE REQUIREMENT.—16, 17. The people had mistakenly thought to please God by formal worship, while their lives were wicked, vs. 10, 15. **Wash you.** The first thing God requires of us is to get rid of our sin. **Learn to do well;** the second thing. **Seek judgment;** do justice and try to get justice done. This and helping the helpless, the oppressed . . . the fatherless . . . the widow, are the things that God delights in.

IV. A DIVINE INVITATION.—18-20. Let us reason together. The Lord has shown His people their sin. He now asks them if they can honestly deny His charges against them. But He does not wish to deal with them in wrath. He offers them (1) cleansing from their sin, however deep its stain, v. 18; (2) prosperity and happiness if they obey Him, v. 19. Then He warns them of what will happen if they refuse His offer, v. 20.

DAILY READINGS

M.—Isaiah's message to Judah, Isa. 1:1-9. T.—Isaiah's message to Judah, Isa. 1:10-20. W.—Surprising folly, Jer. 2:1-13. Th.—Hope for the lost, Ezek. 34:21-32. F.—With all the heart, Joel 2:12-20. S.—The Lord will heal, Isa. 57:13-21. S.—“Be ye reconciled,” 2 Cor. 5:11-21.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 126, 123; 33 (Ps. Sel.); 152; 217 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 151.

Shorter Catechism—ques. 51. *What is forbidden in the second commandment?* A. The second commandment forbiddeth the worshipping of God by images, or any other way not appointed in his word.

Prove from Scripture—That God forgives the penitent.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Juniors—In which kingdom did Isaiah prophesy? During the reigns of how many kings?

1-3 What were the prophets called? What name given to their message? What does the Lord here call His people? How had He treated them? What had they done in return? To what animals are they likened? How did they show themselves more stupid than these?

4-9 Whom had the people forsaken? Had the whole nation sinned? In what way was the country

suffering? For whose sake was Jerusalem kept from being destroyed?

16, 17 How had the people been trying to please God? What two things did He require of them?

18-20 Could the people deny God's charges? What did they deserve? What did He promise to do?

Seniors and the Home Department—What is the time of the Lesson? Who had invaded Judah? Where is Isaiah's call described?

1-3 Who was Isaiah? Where did he live? How long did he prophesy? Where did our Lord preach from his prophecies? (Luke 4:17.) What other New Testament preacher used them? (Acts 8:26-10.)

4-9 How is the completeness of Judah's revolt expressed? What is “the wages of sin”? (Rom. 6:23.) What city is compared to Sodom in the New Testament? (Matt 11:23.)

16, 17 How does God regard merely formal worship? (vs. 10-15.) In what way can we please Him?

18-20 Show that God is willing to pardon the worst of sinners. (1 Tim. 1:15.)

Seek-Further Questions—Find passages in Deuteronomy in which the heavens and the earth are called upon. What definition of religion does James give?

Topics for Brief Papers—(To be ready on the day of the Lesson)—1. The prophet, God's spokesman. 2. God's willingness to forgive sin.

THE LESSON IN LIFE

1. The Lesson chapter opens with what has been called, “The Great Arraignment.” The great Jehovah summons His people before His judgment seat, and brings home to them their ingratitude and impurity. But the chapter closes with the “Great Salvation.” Sin is pointed out only that it may be forgiven.

2. Sennacherib, 701 B.C.—Edward VII., 1904, A.D. It is a far cry from then till now, and there have been many changes, but the same God rules over Britain and Canada as over Judah, and disobedience of Him is just as bad now, as long ago when Isaiah prophesied.

3. True patriotism is not merely of the lips, or tongue, or lungs. It is all right to show our patriotism by waving flags and singing songs and celebrating holidays. But along with these things and more important than them all, is it that we should live lives that will never bring dishonor on the land of our birth or adoption.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. How did God's people show ingratitude?

2. In what way were they punished?

3. What did God offer them?