

Lesson X.

ISRAEL'S PENITENCE AND GOD'S PARDON

June 4, 1911

Hosea, ch. 14. Read Hosea, chs. 11 to 14. *Commit to memory vs. 4-6.

GOLDEN TEXT—Thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger.—Nehemiah 9: 17.

1 O Israel, return unto the Lord thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity.

2 Take with you words, and ¹ turn to the Lord: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and ² receive us graciously: so will we render ³ the calves of our lips.

3 Ashur shall not save us; we will not ride upon horses: neither will we say any more to the work of our hands, Ye are our gods: for in thee the fatherless findeth mercy.

4 I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him.

5 I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Leb'anon.

Revised Version—return unto; ² accept that blossom; ³ answered, and will regard him.

LESSON PLAN

I. A Call to Repentance, 1-3.

II. A Proclamation of Pardon, 4-6.

III. Israel Restored, 7-9.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association)

M.—Israel's penitence and God's pardon, Hosea 14. T.—Forsake and return! Isa. 55: 6-13. W.—The Lord's mercy, Lam. 3: 22-33. Th.—'Out of the depths', Ps. 130. F.—A pardoning God, Micah 7: 16-20. S.—Heart turning, Joel 2: 12-19. S.—Confession and forgiveness, 1 John 1.

Shorter Catechism—Review Questions 39-50.

The Question on Missions—(CANADIAN PROBLEMS: June, Missions to Camps).—10. Where are camps to be found? In every Province of the Dominion. Chief among them are lumbering, railway and mining camps. It is estimated that one-tenth of the laboring men of Canada spend part of

6 His branches shall spread, and his beauty shall be as the olive tree, and his smell as Leb'anon.

7 They that dwell under his shadow shall return; they shall revive as the corn, and ⁴ grow as the vine: the scent thereof shall be as the wine of Leb'anon.8 E'phraim shall say, What have I to do any more with idols? I have ⁵ heard him, and observed him: I am like a green fir tree. From me is thy fruit found.

9 Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the Lord are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein.

which is good; ³ as bullocks the offering of our lips;

each year in camps.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 138 (Supplemental Lesson); 133; 152; 100 (Ps. Sel.); 559 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 160.

Special Scripture Reading—Luke 15: 11-32. (To be read responsively or in concert by the whole School.) It is expected that each scholar will have his or her Bible, and so be prepared to take part in this reading, which may form part of the opening exercises of the School.

Lantern Slides—For Lesson, B. 1085, "O Israel, return unto the Lord"; B. 1086, Hosea the Prophet. For Question on Missions, H. M. 414, A Typical Lumberman's Camp.

Stereograph—For Lesson, In Beautiful Old Lebanon, East Over Upper Jordan Valley to Snowy Mount Hermon (Underwood & Underwood, Dept. D., 62 Adelaide Street East, Toronto), set of 12 stereographs for Quarter's Lessons, \$2.00; four for June, 67c.; less than three in one order, 20c. each; stereoscopes, 85c. (postage paid in all cases). In ordering please mention THE TEACHERS MONTHLY.

EXPOSITION

By Rev. Professor Richard Davidson, Ph.D., Knox College, Toronto

Time and Place—Some time between B.C. 750 and 722; in the kingdom of Israel, perhaps Samaria.

Connecting Links—The reign of Jeroboam, the son of Joash (about B.C. 780-740), was a period of great outward prosperity and commercial development. But the temptations of worldly success were too great for Israel. Religion lost its hold on life. Though men worshiped God with much pomp and splendor, the inner bonds were torn asunder. Hosea could think of Israel as a prodigal son who had left his father's house, or as a wayward woman who had forsaken her husband. Israel, he saw, was hastening madly to ruin, but God slackened not in the effort to win back His own.

I. A Call to Repentance, 1-3.

Vs. 1, 2. O Israel; the people of the Northern kingdom. Return unto the Lord. Here we have the Old Testament phrase, concrete

and vivid, for repentance. It is a "turning back" from evil courses; it is a turning back to God. "Unto" means "quite up to": the repentance must be sincere and complete. Thou hast fallen by thine iniquity. Hosea sees life in Israel falling to pieces. From his point of view Israel's "iniquity" was turning away from Jehovah, as an unfaithful wife might forsake her husband. Reparation is naturally made by her coming back to her Lord. Take with you words; of repentance and confession, such words as follow in vs. 2, 3. Take away all iniquity. Sin is thought of as a burden to be removed by divine pardon following on frank and humble confession. Accept that which is good (Rev. Ver.); the "full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience". (See Shorter Catechism, Ques. 87.) So will we render as bullocks the offering of our lips (Rev. Ver.). Instead of bullocks, they would offer vows

*The Scripture Memory Passages of the Supplemental Leaflets are recommended as a substitute for those here given Sabbath by Sabbath. Their recitation leads to the obtaining of a beautiful Certificate or Diploma.