

## Lesson IV.

## JOSIAH'S DEVOTION TO GOD

July 23, 1911

2 Chronicles 34 : 1-13. Read 2 Kings, ch. 22—Memory Verses, 1, 2.

**Golden Text**—Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth.—Ecclesiastes 12 : 1.

house of God, which the Le'vites that kept the doors had gathered of the hand of Manasseh and E'phraim, and of all the remnant of Is'rael, and of all Ju'dah and Ben'jamin ; and they returned to Jeru'salem.

10 And they put it in the hand of the workmen that had the oversight of the house of the Lord, and they gave it to the workmen that wrought in the house of the Lord, to repair and amend the house :

11 Even to the artificers and builders gave they it, to buy hewn stone, and timber for couplings, and to floor the houses which the kings of Ju'dah had destroyed.

12 And the men did the work faithfully : and the overseers of them were Ja'hath and Obadi'ah, the Le'vites, of the sons of Merar'i ; and Zechari'ah and Meshul'lam, of the sons of the Ko'hathites, to set it forward ; and other of the Le'vites, all that could skill of instruments of music.

13 Also they were over the bearers of burdens, and were overseers of all that wrought the work in any manner of service : and of the Le'vites there were scribes, and officers, and porters.

## THE LESSON RETOLD

Amongst the many bad kings of Judah, there were a few who were good and served the one true God. One of these good kings was named Josiah. He was the grandson of the wicked king Manasseh, who was carried away to Babylon as a punishment for his sins, and who afterwards turned to the Lord and was forgiven.

Josiah was only a little boy when he began to reign over the land of Judah,—just eight years old ; but although he was so young, he began even then to serve the Lord. Then, as he grew up, Josiah began to see all the evil that was in his kingdom, and he made up his mind he would free the land from idols and idol worship.

So, gathering his servants together, he went out through all the land of Judah, and also among the people who remained in the land

1 Josi'ah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jeru'salem one and thirty years.

2 And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the ways of Da'vid his father, and declined neither to the right hand, nor to the left.

3 For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of Da'vid his father : and in the twelfth year he began to purge Ju'dah and Jeru'salem from the high places, and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images.

4 And they brake down the altars of Ba'alim in his presence ; and the images, that were on high above them, he cut down ; and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images, he brake in pieces, and made dust of them, and strowed it upon the graves of them that had sacrificed unto them.

5 And he burnt the bones of the priests upon their altars, and cleansed Ju'dah and Jeru'salem.

6 And so did he in the cities of Manasseh, and E'phraim, and Sim'oon, even unto Naph'tali, with their mattocks round about.

7 And when he had broken down the altars and the groves, and had beaten the graven images into powder, and cut down all the idols throughout all the land of Is'rael, he returned to Jeru'salem.

8 Now in the eighteenth year of his reign, when he had purged the land, and the house, he sent Sha'phan the son of Azali'ah, and Maasei'ah the governor of the city, and Jo'ah the son of Jo'ahaz the recorder, to repair the house of the Lord his God.

9 And when they came to Hilki'ah the high priest, they delivered the money that was brought into the house of God, which the Le'vites that kept the doors had gathered of the hand of Manasseh and E'phraim, and of all the remnant of Is'rael, and of all Ju'dah and Ben'jamin ; and they returned to Jeru'salem.

10 And they put it in the hand of the workmen that had the oversight of the house of the Lord, and they gave it to the workmen that wrought in the house of the Lord, to repair and amend the house :

11 Even to the artificers and builders gave they it, to buy hewn stone, and timber for couplings, and to floor the houses which the kings of Ju'dah had destroyed.

12 And the men did the work faithfully : and the overseers of them were Ja'hath and Obadi'ah, the Le'vites, of the sons of Merar'i ; and Zechari'ah and Meshul'lam, of the sons of the Ko'hathites, to set it forward ; and other of the Le'vites, all that could skill of instruments of music.

13 Also they were over the bearers of burdens, and were overseers of all that wrought the work in any manner of service : and of the Le'vites there were scribes, and officers, and porters.

of Israel after the ten tribes of Israel had been carried away captive ; and he caused his servants to destroy all the temples and altars of the idol Baal wherever they were found.

They broke down the pillars which stood by the altars where the idols had been worshiped ; the carved and molten images were broken into pieces ; and the dust of them strewn upon the graves of those wicked people who had worshiped the heathen gods.

Josiah also put to death all the wicked priests of Baal, so that they might no longer teach their heathen worship to the people. At last Josiah finished this work and came back to Jerusalem. There he called on the chief rulers of the country and the priests to come to his palace, and all together they planned to repair again the temple of the Lord.