

the level of right action, and the crooked line shows how the different kings lowered or raised the position of the kingdom. 1. Jotham was of no special importance, but he did nothing to raise the kingdom. 2. Ahaz came next, and we all know how wicked he was; the temple was shut up, and the kingdom went down in sin and became subject to Assyria. 3. Hezekiah the good restored the worship of God, threw off the Assyrian yoke, and raised the kingdom up to the line. 4. Manasseh the bad brought the kingdom down to the lowest ebb, and delighted in crime and idolatry. 5. Amon had two years of an uneventful reign.

6. Josiah did all he could to reform the nation, but in vain. He died in battle, and with him died all hope of the kingdom being raised to the line. 7. Jehoahaz, son of Josiah, was exiled after a three months' reign. 8. Jehoiakim was a wicked king; he persecuted the prophet Jeremiah. 9. Jehoiachin was carried captive to Babylon, and exercised no influence on the nation. 10. Zedekiah the weak was the last king of a lost kingdom. In the review dwell a short time with each king for the classes or scholars to tell of the events of the lessons.

[THE QUARTERLY MISSIONARY LESSON.]

B. C. 712.] LESSON XIII. THE BLESSINGS OF THE GOSPEL. [March 27.

GOLDEN TEXT. The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. Isa. 40. 5.

Authorized Version.

Isa. 40. 1-10. [*Commit to memory verses 3, 4.*]

1 Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.

2 Speak ye comfortably to Je-ru'sa-lem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

5 And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

6 The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh *is* grass, and all the goodliness thereof *is* as the flower of the field:

7 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it: surely the people *is* grass.

8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand forever.

9 O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain: O Je-ru'sa-lem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength: lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Ju'dah, Behold your God!

10 Behold, the Lord God will come with strong *hand*, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward *is* with him, and his work before him.

Revised Version.

- 1 Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your
- 2 God. Speak ye comfortably to Je-ru'sa-lem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned; that she hath received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins.
- 3 The voice of one that crieth, Prepare ye in the wilderness the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
- 4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places
- 5 plain: and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for
- 6 the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. The voice of one saying, Cry. And one said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the good-
- 7 liness thereof is as the flower of the field: the grass withereth, the flower fadeth; because the breath of the Lord bloweth upon it: surely the
- 8 people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand forever.
- 9 O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain; O thou that tellest good tidings to Je-ru'sa-lem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say, unto the cities of Ju'dah, Behold, your
- 10 God! Behold, the Lord God will come as a mighty one, and his arm shall rule for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

TIME.—This prophecy was uttered about 712 B. C. **PLACE.**—Probably in Jerusalem. **DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.**—The glories of the Gospel.

HOME READINGS.

M. Blessings of the Gospel (Missionary).

Isa. 40. 1-10.

Zu. The welcome messenger. Isa. 52. 1-10.

W. The great Light. Isa. 9. 1-7.