

The Sunday-School.

FOURTH QUARTER, LESSON VI.—Nov. 6.

JOASH, THE BOY KING.

2 Kings 11: 1-16.

THE LESSON includes 2 Kings 8: 16-12: 3, and the parallel account in 2 Chronicles, a study of the course of the history through which Joash became king; and of the circumstances in which he was placed. The career of King Joash.

GOLDEN TEXT.—*When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice.*—Prov. 29: 2.

HISTORICAL SETTING.

Time.—Joash became king of Judah B. C. 836 (revised chronology), or 787 (Ussher).

Place.—Jerusalem, the capital of Judah.

Kings.—Jehu, king of Israel (B. C. 842-815). Hazael, king of Syria, at Damascus. Shalmaneser II, king of Assyria (from 850).

Prophet.—Elisha in Israel (854-769). The Black Obelisk records the tribute of Jehu to Shalmaneser (in British Museum).

Parallel Accounts.—Joash becoming king (2 Kings 11: 1-12: 3; 2 Chron. 22: 10-24: 3).

REVIEW.—Lesson IX of the last quarter (1 Kings 19), tells what God did for Elijah in his discouragement. After this lesson the Lord gave him two tasks.

The first was to anoint at Damascus one of King Ben-hadad's great and talented generals to be king of Syria, not immediately, but several years later. This Hazael was the means of disciplining Israel, in order to urge them to repent and return to God. There are times when nothing but trouble is able to turn men to God.

The second was to anoint to be king over Israel Jehu, a young officer under Ahab. Jehu was the means of stamping out the whole brood of Jezebel and all the worshippers of Baal.

Practical.—Thus we see a seeming failure at last crowned with success. We can take courage in the darkest times from the assurance that the kingdom of God is coming.

THE MORAL OF THE TWO KINGDOMS.—Israel. King Ahab inherited the kingdom of Israel from his father Omri. Ahab was a man of military talent, but morally weak. He married the Tyrian king's daughter Jezebel, who introduced Baal worship and caused it to spread over the kingdom of Israel, and thence over Judah. Ahab persecuted the worshippers of Jehovah, and encouraged idol-worship till Elijah thought that he was the only worshipper of God in the kingdom.

Judah.—Toward the last of his reign, the good king became infected with worldliness, and married his heir, Jehoram, to the daughter of Jezebel, a woman like her mother. The result was disastrous to Judah, and Baal worship was introduced into Judah and Jerusalem. Jehoram was weak as well as wicked. They established the licentious worship in high places over the country (2 Chron. 21: 11, 13). He died after a short reign. His son, who was like him, reigned but one year; and then Athaliah, his widow, usurped the throne, slew her own grandchildren, and

ruled for Baal with a high hand. For six years she held complete dominion over the land.

Power of Evil Companionship. How many lives are ruined through the corruption which comes from evil companionship. No one is strong enough and wise enough to be safe in constant intercourse with persons of wrong principle and false religion. The only time one is safe in bad company is when he is laboring to do them good.

THE ZEALOUS REFORM.—Jehu, king of Israel, was God's instrument for exterminating the leaven of idolatry. He carried out God's purpose, but probably not in God's way. He destroyed all the descendants of Ahab and Jezebel in both kingdoms, except Queen Athaliah, and King Joash, who, as a child, escaped the general massacre. He gathered the priests and worshippers of Baal into one place and destroyed every one. It was like some terrible surgical operation, which alone could save the life of the patient.

Practical.—One of the dangers of modern as well as ancient times is the tendency to do good things in bad ways. Men use trickery and deceit in gaining good ends. Parents have tried to scold their children into virtue. Men have resorted to the violation of the rights of others in order to gain their own rights. Jehu's zeal destroyed the evil, but did not sow the good seed. Hence it could be only partially successful.

JOASH, THE BOY KING. I. HIS ANCESTRY.—Joash was the son of King Ahaziah and Zibiah of Beersheba. His mother may be named because of the influence she exerted over his natural inheritance.

On the one hand he was descended through David, and the line of Solomon and Asa and Jehoshaphat.

On the other hand, he inherited from the weak and wicked Ahab and Jezebel.

HIS PROVIDENTIAL PRESERVATION.—Vs. 1-3. Athaliah was too ambitious to be willing to retire to private life. To accomplish her purpose she arose and destroyed all the seed royal, including her own grandchildren. But Jehosheba, sister of Ahaziah, and wife of Jehoiada, the high priest. Took Joash. At that time less than a year old hid him . . . and his nurse in the bedchamber. The storeroom for beds. Hid in the house of the Lord in one of the chambers which were built against the sides of the temple. The high priest had charge of these.

How JOASH BECAME KING.—Vs. 4-16. In the seventh year of his age. Jehoiada. The high priest. Fetched the rulers. Captains. Made a covenant. A bargain. A third part of you. The troops of the royal guard had periods of work and of rest off duty. Enter in on the Sabbath. Those who relieved each other on the Sabbath. Shall . . . be keepers of the watch of the king's house. To prevent any unauthorized person from going in or out. A third part shall be guard at the gate of Sur. It is not known what gate is referred to. A third part at the gate behind the guard. This gate was the principal entrance to the palace. The house. The palace. That it be not broken down. They were to repulse any attack. The two parts. Divisions. Within the ranges. Ranks. Whoever broke through let him be slain. And the captains, etc.

These soldier guards were without the temple. The Levites were the guards within. And he, the high priest, brought forth the king's son Joash, a seven-year-old boy. And gave him the testimony. The law, as the people then possessed it. Anointed him. Setting him apart for his kingly office. And when Athaliah heard. She took in the scene at a glance, and read her doom. Stood by a pillar or the tribune erected for such occasions. As the manner was. The customary place for a king at his coronation. Have her forth without the ranges. Cause her to go out between the ranks, escort her out with a guard. Him that followeth her to defend. She went . . . King's house. Athaliah was conducted to the royal stables which adjoined the palace, and there put to death.

HIS LATER LIFE.—Under the direction and influence of his uncle Jehoiada, the high priest, Joash entered upon the work of the religious reformation of his people. Joash seems to have been a prince of fine impulses, but he lacked independence and strength of character. He was good with the good and bad with the bad. So long as Joash was under the control of his uncle, he was good. Jehoiada seems to have been the real ruler for twenty-three years of the reign. But when Jehoiada died Joash put himself into the company of the young and fashionable princes who favored the establishment of Baalism, and whose highest ambition was to ape the follies of Tyre and Samaria. There was rapid deterioration in Joash. He even stoned to death Zechariah, the priest in the temple by the altar. But swift and terrible came the retribution. Enemies came, riches fled, disease racked his body, and murder ended his career.

The Boy King.—Every child is born a king. His kingdom is first his own soul its powers, its passions, its intellect, its choices. "He that ruleth his spirit is better than he that taketh a city." The question of life is what kind of a king he will be.

LaGrippe Coming Again.

The doctors believe another epidemic of grippé is here, and already many are suffering. The medical men are not afraid of grippé since Catarrhazone was introduced, and claim that no one will ever catch this disease who inhales the fragrant healing vapor of Catarrhazone a few times daily. Catarrhazone kills the grippé germ and prevents it spreading through the system. "Last winter I had an attack of grippé," writes C. P. Mackinnon, of St. John's. "I bought Catarrhazone and got relief in short time. I found Catarrhazone better than anything else, and was cured by using it." Catarrhazone prevents and cures grippé, colds and catarrh. Two months' treatment \$1.00; trial size 25c.

The best way to clean an invalid's room is to rub the carpet with a cloth wrung out of ammonia, rinsing and turning the cloth as the dust and dirt collect upon it. Change the water frequently. This is far better than sweeping and raising an unpleasant dust.

"By Medicine Life May be Prolonged."—So wrote Shakespeare nearly three hundred years ago. It is so today. Medicine will prolong life, but be sure of the qualities of the medicine. Life is prolonged by keeping the body free from disease. Dr. Thomas' Eclectic Oil used internally will cure coughs and colds, eradicate asthma, overcome croup and give strength to the respiratory organs. Give it a trial.

Much labor may be saved in washing frying pans if they are wiped out clean with a piece of paper after the fat is poured from them. The paper should

Ayer's

Take cold easily? Throat tender? Lungs weak? Any relatives have consumption? Then a cough means a great

Cherry Pectoral

deal to you. Follow your doctor's advice and take Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. It heals, strengthens, prevents.

"For 40 years I have depended on Ayer's Cherry Pectoral for coughs and colds. I know it greatly strengthens weak lungs."
Mrs. F. A. ROBINSON, Saline, Mich.

25c., 50c., \$1.00. All druggists. J. C. AYER CO., Lowell, Mass.

for

Weak Lungs

Ayer's Pills increase the activity of the liver, and thus aid recovery.

be kept for lighting fires. There pans should also have a periodic boiling in a large kettle. If these two things are done, the pans will be kept as smooth inside as when new.

An End to Bilious Headache.—Biliousness, which is caused by excessive bile in the stomach, has a marked effect upon the nerves, and often manifests itself by a severe headache. This is the most distressing headache one can have. There are headaches from cold, from fever, and from other causes, but the most excruciating of all is the bilious headache. Parmelee's Vegetable Pills will cure it—cure it almost immediately. It will disappear as soon as the Pills operate. There is nothing surer in the treatment of bilious headache.

It is well to remember when papering a small room that blue in all light shades makes a room look longer. Dark colors or papers with large patterns have the opposite effect.

Severe colds are easily cured by the use of Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup, a medicine of extraordinary penetrating and healing properties. It is acknowledged by those who have used it as being the best medicine sold for coughs, colds, inflammation of the lungs, and all affections of the throat and chest. Its agreeableness to the taste makes it a favourite with ladies and children.

Flatiron-holders, if lined with a layer of old soft leather, like the top of a boot, will protect your hand from heat far better than if made in the ordinary way.

FIRST AID TO THE INJURED

POND'S EXTRACT

FOR BURNS, SPRAINS, WOUNDS, BRUISES OR ANY SORT OF PAIN.

Used Internally and Externally.

CAUTION! Avoid the weak watery Witch Hazel preparations, represented to be "the same as" Pond's Extract, which easily sour and often contain "wood alcohol" an irritant externally and, taken internally, a poison.