

to Him and hear the minister speak about God and Jesus Christ. God's house is a great *benefit*. In places where there are no churches the people do not hear about God and they do many wicked things. They are often cruel to their little children. How thankful we should be that we have God's house! It is because God sent us that great gift, His Son Jesus Christ, that we have so many churches built in which to worship Him, and to learn what He wants us to do.

What did the children of Israel call their beautiful church built on the hills at Jerusalem? They loved it more than their own homes. They were so glad when God set them free and let them go back to their own land and they were full of thanksgiving to him. (Describe the Eastern custom of parties of travellers journeying through the country, singing to cheer themselves on their way. Picture the children of Israel returning to their beloved city, singing as they went.)

Do the children remember about the shepherd boy David, the sweet singer, who wrote

the beautiful songs (Psalms) we sing in our churches? We are going to hear the words of one of these beautiful songs which the people of Israel sang as they climbed the hills towards Jerusalem, thinking of their Temple and beautiful city. Read the lesson and explain. Repeat Golden Text. (This song was also sung when they were going up to worship at the Temple at their great feasts three times every year.)

**Practical Thoughts**—Love God's house. Be glad and thankful to go to church and Sunday-school. Be quiet and reverent when there. Listen to all minister and teachers say. Work for our church and Sunday-school. Pray God to bless the work. Give all the time and money you can for God's work. Help to build churches in heathen countries.

Prepare an oblong card on which is written the "benefit" we have been talking about, "His House." Each Sunday a block may be added, till a pyramid is formed which may be used for Review Sunday. (Pin the blocks on a corner of the board.)

## LESSON II.—October 8, 1899

HAMAN'S PLOT AGAINST THE JEWS, Esther 3: 1-11

PREVIEW THOUGHT FOR THE QUARTER: **God daily loadeth us with benefits**

**Golden Text**—If God be for us who can be against us.—Rom. 8: 31.

**Connection**—Reference to the "benefit" block will recall the fact that God has given us His House. Recall Practical Thoughts.

**The Lesson.** — (Teachers should be familiar with the whole Book of Esther in order to place the dramatic scenes vividly before the children.)

In the beautiful palace at Shushan, in Persia, the country where the children of Israel had been living for so many years, there dwelt a great king with a strange name, *Ahasuerus*, and his beautiful queen, Esther. They had beautiful things all around them. Lovely flowers grew around the palace, the name Shushan

**To-day's Lesson Thought**—God is our shield.