

fulfil the divine conditions, will be helpful. What a beautiful picture we have in the closing verses of a land redeemed from evil and filled with God's glory and goodness! How earnestly we should work and pray that this description may be a fitting one for our land!

### For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

Call for the Golden Text, and tell the scholars that the Lesson will be about the "great things" referred to in Psalm 85. After a word or two about the general belief that the Psalm was composed for public recitation by the Jews after their return from exile, the following outline may be used:

I. GREAT THINGS ACKNOWLEDGED, vs. 1-3. Let the questions and explanations here bring out what God had been to His people and what He had done for them. The name by which He is called is "Jehovah" (see Exposition), the covenant-keeping God of Israel. He had been "favorable", that is, kind and gracious to His people. Behind them was the deliverance from exile, with the wonders which this involved:—Cyrus' capture of Babylon; the Persian king's permission to the Jews to return to their own land; and their protection on the long and perilous journey.

Help the scholars to see how the psalmist sees in the deliverance from exile a proof that God had forgiven His people. Bring out the meaning of "forgiven", removed as a heavy burden; of "iniquity", the sinful inclination

within leading to outward transgression; of "covered", hid as if by a cloak; of "sin", the wandering from God's ways. Emphasize the completeness of the pardon expressed in "all" (v. 2), and dwell on the removal of God's wrath against the sin of His people, impressing on the scholars how terrible this holy anger is and how earnestly we should shun the sin that calls it forth.

II. GREAT THINGS ASKED FOR, vs. 4-7. God had done great things for His people: the psalmist sees many more things which they need, and for these he prays. There was: (1) restoration ("turn us", v. 4), for many of the Jews were still in exile, and difficulties and discouragements pressed upon those who had returned; (2) revival (v. 6), the re-establishment of their national life; (3) salvation including pardon, peace, prosperity.

III. GREAT THINGS PROMISED, vs. 8-13. The psalmist now turns to God, listening for the answer to his prayer that is sure to come. He hears, with the inward ear, God's precious promise. Emphasize the blessings included in this promise: (1) peace with God and from outward foes; (2) God's love and faithfulness uniting for His people's salvation; (3) righteousness and peace amongst God's people; (4) faithfulness between man and man on earth and God's righteousness shown in saving His people.

In closing, have the Golden Text repeated once more, and emphasize the joy of those who trust in God's love and care.

### THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON

[SEE SKETCH MAP, LESSON IV.]

Find on the Jerusalem map the number 39 with lines diverging from it. If you stand to-day at that spot and look southwest over the space included between those two lines, you find yourself within the limits of what used to be one of the courts of the restored temple. Straight ahead a small gateway gives passage through a high wall toward a modern Moslem building with a dome roof. Ahead and at the left a much larger, grander gateway, with four lofty arches side by side upheld by lofty pillars, gives access to a broad flight of stone stairs. Those stairs descend to a lower level where some olive trees are growing. Beyond the silvery green

foliage of those olive trees and the deeper green of some other trees and the slender dark green spike of one tall cypress, you see a number of gray and whitewashed stone houses crowded close together on a hillside; a particularly large domed building marks the crest of the hill. Those houses are on the southwest hill of Jerusalem, called Mount Zion; it is a district of Jewish homes.

To see the place as if you were personally on the spot, use a stereograph entitled, From the Temple Area Southwest Over the Modern Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem. [See also HOME STUDY and INTERMEDIATE QUARTERLIES and LEAFLETS.]