

## EZRA'S JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM

Lesson IV.

Ezra 8 : 21-32—Memory Verses, 21-23

October 22, 1899

21 Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Aha'va, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance.

22 For I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way : because we had spoken unto the king, saying, The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him ; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him.

23 So we fasted and besought our God for this : and he was intreated of us.

24 Then I separated twelve of the chief of the priests, Sherebi'ah, Hashabi'ah, and ten of their brethren with them,

25 And weighed unto them the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, *even* the offering of the house of our God, which the king, and his counsellors, and his lords, and all Is'rael *there* present, had offered ;

26 *I* even weighed unto their hand six hundred and fifty talents of silver, and silver vessels an hundred talents, *and* of gold an

hundred talents ;

27 Also twenty basons of gold, of a thousand drams ; and two vessels of fine copper, precious, as gold.

28 And I said unto them, Ye *are* holy unto the Lord ; the vessels *are* holy also ; and the silver and the gold *are* a freewill offering unto the Lord God of your fathers.

29 Watch ye, and keep *them*, until ye weigh *them* before the chief of the priests and the Le'vites, and chief of the fathers of Is'rael, at Jeru'salem, in the chambers of the house of the Lord.

30 So took the priests and the Le'vites the weight of the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, to bring *them* to Jeru'salem unto the house of our God.

31 Then we departed from the river of Aha'va on the twelfth day of the first month, to go unto Jeru'salem : and the hand of our God was upon us, and he delivered us from the hand of the enemy, and of such as lay in wait *by* the way.

32 And we came to Jeru'salem and abode there three days.

## THE LESSON RETOLD

See Lesson I

There was a good man among the Jews at Babylon, called Ezra, who taught the people and wrote out God's laws in a book. He was called a scribe, and what he wrote is part of the Bible.

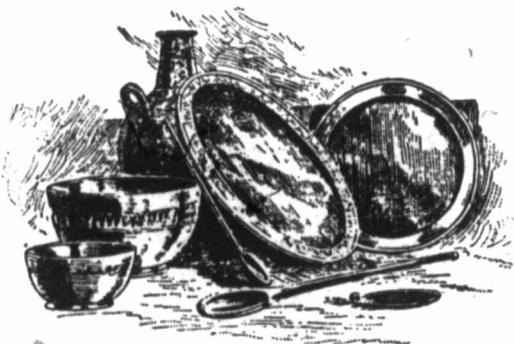
At Jerusalem the Jews were in trouble. Their enemies were too strong for them, and

But he had to get the king's leave first.

The king was willing to help and gave him money and power to act as a judge. He said, too, that any of the Jews who wished might go with Ezra, and a great many singers and priests and workers of all kinds offered to go.

When all were ready, they met beside the River Ahava and had a great prayer meeting. They knew that the desert was full of wild beasts and robbers who might steal their money and goods on the way. Some one said, "Perhaps we had better ask the king for soldiers to take care of us." But Ezra said, "I would be ashamed to do so ! Surely the king would think our God was not strong enough to fight for us. We will trust in Him." So, after they had prayed, Ezra took the money and the Temple cups and basins and tied them up in twelve parcels. Then he called twelve priests, giving each of them a bundle to care for, and told them not to open them until they came to God's house at Jerusalem.

At last they started ; the women and little



Offerings of Gold and Silver

they were beginning to act like the heathen themselves. Ezra made up his mind to go as a missionary to Jerusalem and teach the people God's law.