

he gave Solomon a chance to choose what he would have. Solomon was young and knew that he was not wise as his father David had been. He felt that his heart was empty, and he asked God to fill it with wisdom. Did he go to the right source? Yes. I fear what God says: (Read from the Bible James 1.5.)

Tell that God was pleased with Solomon's choice. It was not a selfish choice. He asked wisdom so that he might lead the people in the right way. If he had been selfish he would have asked riches, honour, or something that would make men think him great. God gave him wisdom, and told him that, besides this, he would give him riches and honour. Tell some Bible incidents to show how wise he was, and what honour was paid him. Teach that the true wisdom is knowing God, and that any one may have it who will seek it as Solomon did. Tell the story of Mary, who chose "the good part," and teach that no child who knows about Jesus is too young to choose the good part, which is better than riches, pleasure, or honour.

#### Lesson Word-Pictures.

It has been a great day of sacrifice in Gibeon, even a thousand burnt-offerings coming to the altar. All day the priests in their robes have been ministering. All day the smoke has been floating up toward the soft, fair sky. All day the heart's affections have been climbing the rounds of faith's ladder into the sky. What wonder if God is coming

down in response to this? The king is alone in his resting-place at night. Outside, the vigilant guards walk through the darkness, bearing spear and sword, watching with sharp eyes against any intrusion. The night is so still, bringing no sound save that of the steady pacing of the sentinels. The king is at rest. Hark! What voice does he hear in the night? It is the voice that Samuel heard, that Moses heard, that Abraham heard, that so many have caught echoing in mystic dreams or rapt vision, the voice of God. And the voice says, "Ask." What request shall the king make? "Ask for power," says Ambition. "Ask for governments and peoples, for armies and fleets, for cities and towns. Get power." "Ask for wealth," says Avarice, "for gold and silver and precious stones. Get money." "Ask for many days," says Life, "for freedom from pain, for health and strength. Get long life." "Ask for those who hate thee," says Revenge, "for the heads of thine enemies." "Yes," says Self, summing up all the above in one desire, "ask to reign alone, without opposition, for many days, in splendor." No, it is but "a little child" crying in the dark for guidance, who knows not "how to go out or come in," a little child begging to know and do his duty, turning to the wise, loving, strong arms of a Father held down to him. What wonder if the arms bringing wisdom held out honour and riches also! "It was a dream!" says Solomon in the morning, rising from his couch. A dream that was a benediction.

B.C. 1012.]

### LESSON IV.—THE TEMPLE BUILT.

1 Kings 6. 1-14.

[October 26.



1 And it came to pass, in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month Zif, which is the second *a* month, that he *b* began to build the house of the Lord.

*a* Of the sacred year: about the end of April.—*b* Built.

2 And *a* the house which king Solomon built for the Lord, the length thereof was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof twenty cubits, and the height thereof thirty cubits.

*a* Ezek. 41. 1.

3 And the porch before the temple of the house, twenty cubits was the length thereof, according to the breadth of the house.

4 And for the house he made *c* windows of narrow lights.

*c* Or, windows broad within and narrow without: or, skewed and closed; Ezek. 40. 16.

5 And *d* against the wall of the house he built *e* chambers round about, against the walls of the house round about, both of the temple

and of the *f* oracle: and he made *g* chambers round about.

*d* Or, upon, or, joining to.—*e* Floors.—*f* Or, Holy of holies.—*g* Ribs.

6 The nethermost chamber was five cubits broad, and the middle was six cubits broad, and the third was seven cubits broad: for without in the wall of the house he made *h* narrowed rests round about, that the beams should not be fastened in the walls of the house.

*h* Narrowing, or, rebatement.

7 And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor ax nor any tool of iron heard in the house while it was in building.

8 The door for the middle chamber was in the right *i* side of the house: and they went up with winding stairs into the middle chamber, and out of the middle into the third.

*i* Shoulder.

9 So he built the house, and finished it; and covered the house *j* with beams and boards of cedar.

*j* Or, the vault beams and the ceilings with cedar.

10 And then he built chambers against all