

LESSON VI—November 8th, 1896.

The Temple Dedicated. 1 KINGS 8: 54-63.

(Commit to memory verses 63, 65).

GOLDEN TEXT: "The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him." Hab. 2: 20.

PROVE THAT—We should remember God's goodness. Ps. 89: 1.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Questions 57, 58, 59.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 160, 176, 41, 141.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* The temple dedicated. 1 Kings 8: 54-63. *Tuesday.* Assembly of the people. 2 Chr. 5: 1-10. *Wednesday.* The word fulfilled. 2 Chr. 6: 1-11. *Thursday.* Prayer of dedication. 2 Chr. 6: 12-21. *Friday.* A refuge in trouble. 2 Chr. 6: 22-31. *Saturday.* The cry of penitence. 2 Chr. 6: 32-42. *Sabbath.* The glory of the Lord. 2 Chr. 7: 1-11. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. The temple was dedicated at the feast of Tabernacles, October B. C. 1004, after 7½ years of labor. To the dedication all the heads of tribes and families were assembled, together with a vast multitude of the people. The sacred vessels were reverently carried to their places, and when the ark was deposited behind the veil and the priests who carried it had retired from the Holy of Holies, a bright cloud filled the temple as a token that God now took up his earthly abode between the Cherubim. Solomon then offered the dedicatory prayer. Parallel passage 2 Chr. 5 and 6.

LESSON PLAN. I. Divine Promises Fulfilled. vs. 54-56. II. Divine Presence Invoked. vs. 57-60. III. Divine Service Enjoined. vs. 51-63.

Solomon had been kneeling, with his hands spread out, while he offered the dedicatory prayer.¹ Your simple words are just as welcome to God's ear if you pray from the heart as Solomon did. Solomon then asked God to bless the people and himself, as David had done on a previous occasion.² It is always right to remind one another of God's goodness and to pray for blessings upon each other. The promise made long before to Moses was now fulfilled.³ Just as the Israelites looked forward to this moment for many generations, so we are taught to hope for a rest prepared for the people of God, and a heavenly Canaan.⁴ God's promises cannot fail.⁵ We may well pray for God's presence with us as Moses⁶ and Solomon did. They are blessed indeed who have His loving care around them⁷ and those who have him not are most miserable.⁸ Our very first prayer should be "O Lord, make me to love thy service." Our own inclinations are naturally so contrary to what is right and good that we need the Holy Spirit to help us all the time.⁹ There is no danger of God forgetting our prayers.¹⁰ His watchful care is over us day by day.¹¹ The whole world will one day

acknowledge Jesus to be the Saviour of men,¹² but it is our duty to tell the heathen about him.¹³ If we cannot go ourselves, we should help to send others and always remember the missionaries and their work in our prayers. Every true christian ought to be "perfect," that is wholly consecrated to God. We should hold nothing back, but give our sincere love, our implicit obedience, our entire being to Him as a willing sacrifice.¹⁴ Alas! Solomon's own heart was not perfect,¹⁵ he did not live up to his own preaching.¹⁶ It is easy for us to make good resolutions in church or Sunday school sometimes, but we are in great danger of forgetting them when the good influences under which they were formed are withdrawn. We must "watch and pray" if we would resist temptation.¹⁷ The peace offering was a thanksgiving service. The fat only of the victim was consumed and the rest was eaten by the offerer and his friends.¹⁸ It was a time long to be remembered. Such religious gatherings ought to be a blessing at any time. It is good to meet with God's people in and around God's house. Do not let the hallowed impressions vanish away.¹⁹

12 Chr. 6: 13. 22 Sam. 6: 18. 8 Deut. 12: 9-11. 4 Heb. 4: 9. 52 Cor. 1: 20. 6 Ex. 33: 15. 7 Isa. 54: 10; 49: 15. 8 Eph. 2: 12; Hos. 4: 17. 9 Ps. 119: 36; 141: 4; Phil. 2: 13; John 6: 44, 65; S. S. 1: 4; Read Luke 11: 13. 10 Ps. 9: 12; Isa. 65: 24; Matt. 7: 7-8; 18: 19; 21: 22; Mark 11: 24; John 14: 13, 14; 15: 7; 16: 23-27; Eph. 3: 20; Heb. 4: 16. 11 Matt. 6: 11, 34; Deut. 33: 25. 12 Ps. 72: 8, 11, 17; Luke 2: 32; Rev. 11: 15. 13 Matt. 28: 19, 20; Rom. 10: 13, 15. 14 Rom. 12: 1. 15 1 Kings 11: 4. 16 1 Cor. 9: 27. 17 Matt. 26: 41; Prov. 4: 23; 1 Pet. 5: 8. 18 Deut. 12: 7; Lev. 7: 11, 15. 19 Hos. 6: 4.

LESSONS. 1. Outward reverence during prayer is becoming. 2. God's promises cannot fail. 3. God will not forget our prayers. 4. Inconsistent christians hinder the progress of Christ's kingdom. 5. God requires of us "perfect hearts."