

## LESSON NOTES.

## FOURTH QUARTER.

THREE MONTHS WITH SOLOMON AND THE BOOKS OF WISDOM.

B.C. 1015.] LESSON III. [Oct. 19.  
SOLOMON'S CHOICE.

1 Kings 3. 7-12. Commit to mem. vs. 7, 12.

## GOLDEN TEXT.

Wisdom is the principal thing, therefore get wisdom.—Prov. 1. 7.

## CENTRAL TRUTH.

Seek first the kingdom of heaven and all other things shall be added unto you.

## DAILY READINGS.

M. 1 Kings 3. 1-15. Th. Matt. 6. 19-34.  
T. 2 Chron. 1. 1-17. F. 1 Kings 9. 1-9.  
W. James 1. 1-17. Sa. Josh. 24. 1-16.  
Su. Prov. 3. 1-18.

TIME B.C. 1015. Solomon reigned B.C. 1015-975.

PLACE.—(1) Jerusalem; (2) Gibeon, six miles north of Jerusalem. Here the old tabernacle stood, while the ark was on Mt. Zion in Jerusalem. Worship was kept up at both places.

PARALLEL ACCOUNT. 2 Chron. 1. 1-13.

DAVID died a short time before this, about seventy years old, "full of days, riches, and honour."

SOLOMON.—15 to 20 years old, gifted with splendid abilities, loyal to the God of his fathers. (See Less. 1, 4th Quart.)

THE STATE OF THE KINGDOM.—In perfect peace, wide extended, prosperous, entering upon a new era of religious worship, of commerce and trade, of literature and learning.

INTRODUCTION. One of Solomon's first acts was to make an alliance with Egypt by marrying Pharaoh's daughter. Then he held a great religious festival at Gibeon, to which the leaders of the people were invited. At its close was the vision of the lesson for to-day.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—5. *Ask, etc.*—The answer to his prayers and worship. 7. *I am but a little child.* His humility shows his wisdom. He saw how weak he was for the great work to be done. *How to go out or to come in*—i.e., Transact the business of the government. 9. *Give an understanding heart*—True, religious wisdom applied to the affairs of his kingdom, a clear perception of right and wrong, and skill to decide every difficult question aright. 10. *It pleased the Lord*—For he asked nothing for himself, but only fitness for his work. 14. *If it shall be long I will dwell in my days*—Long life was conditional on obedience. Solomon failed in his part, and he died about the age of 60.

SUBJECT FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—The state of the kingdom.—Solomon.—Gibeon.—The great festival.—Solomon's dream.—His choice.—Why it was wise.—God's answer.—Temporal blessings added to those who seek God's kingdom first.

## QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY. When did David die? How long had he reigned? In what state did he leave the kingdom? How old was Solomon? How long before Christ did he begin to reign? What kind of a young man was he? (1 Kings 3. 3.) What was one of his first acts? (1 Kings 3. 1.) In what other place is the story in this lesson given?

## SUBJECT: THE WISE CHOICE.

I. THE CIRCUMSTANCES (vs. 5).—What great religious festival did Solomon hold? (2 Chron. 1. 1, 2.) For what purpose? Where was it held? Why at Gibeon? (1 Chron. 1. 2-5.) What can you tell about Gibeon? What was the extent of his sacrifices? What vision did Solomon have at its close? What offer did the Lord make to him? Does He make a like offer to us all? (Matt. 7. 7; John 14. 13, 14; James 1. 5.) Does every one practically, by deeds if not by words, ask what God shall give?

II. THE REASONS FOR SOLOMON'S CHOICE (vs. 6-8).—What reason did he find in the history of the past? What reason in his own person? Did his humility show his wisdom? What is meant by "to go out or come in"? What reason in the work to be done? Are these all reasons why we should choose as Solomon did?

III. THE CHOICE (vs. 9).—What did Solomon choose? What did he mean by an understanding heart? Was it the same

wisdom as he describes in Prov. 3. 13-16? Did he ask this for himself? Was it a wise choice? Why? Is it a choice we can make?

IV. GOD'S ANSWER (vs. 10-15).—Why did his request please the Lord? What was the first answer? How was it fulfilled in Solomon's life? (1 Kings 3. 16-28; 4. 29-34.) What more was given him? How was this fulfilled? (1 Kings 10. 1-29.) On what condition should he live long to enjoy all this? Did he have long life? Does the Lord answer us in the same way? (Matt. 6. 33.) Does the Lord love to give abundantly? (Eph. 2. 4-7; Luke 6. 35; 11. 13.) Can we ever get the best temporal blessings by seeking them first?

## PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

1. God gives us permission to ask good things of Him.
2. If we ask aright, He will grant them.
3. We should choose the best things, and inferior blessings will be added.
4. Men's characters appear in their choices and desires.
5. The prayer of Solomon is a type of true prayer in its spirit, desires, humility, and answer.
6. God loves to give abundantly more than we can ask or think.

REVIEW EXERCISE. (For the whole School in concert.)

10. When did Solomon begin to reign? Ans. B.C. 1015, and he reigned 40 years.
11. How did he enter upon his kingdom? Ans. By a great religious festival at Gibeon.
12. What did the Lord offer him there? Ans. Ask what I shall give thee.
13. What did Solomon choose? Ans. Wisdom, and an understanding heart.
14. What did the Lord give him? Ans. The wisdom he asked, and worldly blessings besides.

B.C. 1012.] LESSON IV. [Oct. 26.

## THE TEMPLE BUILT.

1 Kings 6. 1-17. Commit to mem. vs. 11-17.

## GOLDEN TEXT.

Mine house shall be called an house of prayer.—Isa. 56. 7.

## CENTRAL TRUTH.

Solomon's temple, the type of the Christian soul and the Christian church.

## DAILY READINGS.

M. 1 Kings 6. 1-11. Th. Eph. 2. 1-22.  
T. 2 Chron. 3. 1-17. F. 1 Cor. 3. 1-17.  
W. 2 Chron. 4. 1-22. Sa. Heb. 9. 1-28.  
Su. Rev. 21. 1-27.

TIME.—The Temple was begun in May, B.C. 1012, and finished in Nov., 1005.

PLACE.—The Temple was built upon Mount Moriah, the easterly hill of Jerusalem.

PARALLEL ACCOUNT.—2 Chron. 2-4.

INTRODUCTION.—As soon as his kingdom was consolidated, Solomon began his preparations for building the Temple, first of all by entering into negotiations with Hiram, king of Tyre, and by organizing companies of labourers. (2 Chron. 2.)

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES. 1. *450th year*—By this we learn the date of the exodus B.C. 1491. *Zef*—Our April May. *He began to build*—Some of the foundation stones came from Lebanon, but most of them doubtless from the rocks under Jerusalem. 2. *The house*—The Temple proper. *The length*—The Temple proper. *A cubit* was probably  $\frac{1}{2}$  feet. Each dimension of the Temple was twice that of the tabernacle. 3. *The porch*—On the east, for the Temple faced the east. 4. *Narrow lights*—A row of small windows above the chambers next described. 5. *Chambers*—These were on three sides, and were three stories high. 6. *The narrowest*—Or lowest story. *Five six... seven cubits*—The chambers of each higher story were made wider because the walls of the Temple proper grew narrower by steps called here *narrowed rests*. *Middle chamber*—Or second story. The Temple was divided into three parts,—the Porch,  $10 \times 20$  cubits; the Holy Place,  $40 \times 20 \times 20$ ; the Holy of Holies,  $20 \times 20 \times 20$ . It was surrounded by courts, and these by a high wall.

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—The site of the Temple.—Its foundations.—Its shape.—Its size.—Its divisions.—Its chambers.—Its courts.—Its purpose.

## QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTION.—How long after Solomon began to reign did he commence the Temple?

In what year? In what month? How long after the Exodus? How long was it in building?

## SUBJECT: THE TEMPLE AND ITS LESSONS.

I. ITS SITE AND FOUNDATIONS. On what place was the Temple built? (2 Chron. 3. 1.) What had occurred at this place before this? (Gen. 22. 2; 2 Sam. 24. 18-25.) What is said of the foundations—tones? (1 Kings 6. 17.) Of what materials was the Temple built? (1 Kings 5. 18; 2 Chron. 2. 7, 8, 14.)

II. ITS SIZE AND SHAPE (vs. 2-10).—How long and wide was the main Temple? How long is a cubit? Into what two portions was it divided? (1 Kings 6. 16, 17.) What was the size of the porch? What was the shape of the Temple? Describe the chambers that surround it. Describe some of its ornaments. (1 Kings 6. 18-32.) With what was it covered? (1 Kings 6. 21, 22.) How was it adorned? (2 Chron. 3. 5-7.) Was this a very large building? Was it very beautiful? How does it compare with other famous Temples?

III. ITS METHOD OF BUILDING (vs. 7).—What was the peculiarity in the method of building? Why was the Temple built in this way? (Ex. 20. 25; Deut. 27. 5.) In what places were the materials prepared? (1 Kings 5. 8, 9. See "Helps" on v. 1.)

IV. SURROUNDINGS AND CONTENTS.—How was the Temple enclosed? (1 Kings 6. 36; 1 Chron. 28. 12.) Describe some of the furnishings. (2 Chron. 2. 3.)

V. USES (vs. 11-14).—What was the object of this Temple? What was it for God to dwell there? (2 Chron. 7. 12, 15.) How would it aid in the worship of God? How would it unto the people? How would it tend to preserve religion among the people?

VI. TYPES AND SYMBOLS.—In what respects is a true Christian like a Temple? (1 Cor. 3. 16, 17; 6. 19.) In what respects is the whole church like this Temple? (Eph. 2. 20-22.) Who is the only true foundation? (1 Cor. 3. 11.) How may this world be compared to a quarry for the Temple? What lessons do we learn from this?

## PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

1. It is the duty of every one to build a Temple. He himself should be a Temple of the Holy Ghost.
2. Each one should be a living stone in God's great Spiritual Temple.
3. Every person needs a place of worship.
4. The church is a Temple (1) founded on Christ, (2) beautiful, (3) built by many agents, (4) of costly materials, (5) by silent forces, (6) for the indwelling of God.
5. Our houses of worship, like the Temple, should be places of worship, of prayer, of praise, of sacrifice, of consecration, of hearing God's Word, of God's manifest presence.
6. This world is like a quarry, wherein we are being fitted for a place in God's Spiritual Temple.
7. Much of the best religious and educational work is done silently.

REVIEW EXERCISE. (For the whole School in concert.)

15. What was one of the first acts of Solomon's reign? Ans. He built a noble and costly Temple to the Lord.
16. When was it begun? Ans. B.C. 1012. 180 years after the Exodus.
17. How long was it in building? Ans. Seven and one half years.
18. Into what parts was it divided? Ans. Into the Porch, the Holy Place, and the Holy of Holies.
19. What does Paul say of Christians? Ans. Know ye not that ye are the Temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

To this day and forever God is, and will be, the peculiar guardian of the defenceless. He is the President of orphanages, the Protector of widows. He is so glorious that he rides on the heavens, but so compassionate that he remembers the poor of the earth. How zealously ought His Church to cherish those who are here marked out as Jehovah's special charge.—*Spurgeon*.

THERE is something divine in the science of numbers. Like God, it holds the sea in the hollow of its hand. It measures the earth; it weighs the stars; it illumines the universe; it is law, it is order, it is beauty.

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