

Lesson IV.

SOLOMON DEDICATES THE TEMPLE

July 25, 1915

1 Kings 8 : 22-30. Study 1 Kings 8 : 1-53—Memory Verses, 23, 24.

Golden Text—Mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all peoples.—Isaiah 56 : 7 (Rev. Ver.).



22 And Sol'omon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the congregation of Is'rael, and spread forth his hands toward heaven :

23 And he said, LORD God of Is'rael, *there is no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath, who keepest covenant and mercy with thy servants that walk before thee with all their heart :*

24 Who hast kept with thy servant Da'vid my father that thou promisedst him : thou spakest also with thy mouth, and hast fulfilled it with thine hand, as it is this day.

25 Therefore now, LORD God of Is'rael, keep with thy servant Da'vid my father that thou promisedst him, saying, There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit on the throne of Is'rael ; so that thy children take heed to their way, that they walk before me as thou hast walked before me.

26 And now, O God of Is'rael, let thy word, I pray thee, be verified, which thou spakest unto thy servant Da'vid my father.

27 But will God indeed dwell on the earth ? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee ; how much less this

house that I have builded ?

28 Yet have thou respect unto the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O LORD my God, to hearken unto the cry and to the prayer, which thy servant prayeth before thee to day :

29 That thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, *even toward the place of which thou hast said, My name shall be there : that thou mayest hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall make toward this place.*

30 And hearken thou to the supplication of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward this place : and hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place : and when thou hearest, forgive.

THE LESSON RETOLD

The workmen pulled and panted ! The stone was big and heavy. One more step ! One more pull ! And then the marble block was in its place.

King Solomon was building a beautiful temple to the Lord. There he and his people would go to pray and worship. It was to be like a great church.

The walls of the great building rose higher and higher. How busily the men worked ! By and by they took fine cedar and lined the inside of the temple. They carved the wood with beautiful flowers and leaves.

But the most lovely spot was hidden away, far inside the temple. It was a room done all in gold. Even the floor was of gold.

At one end of this room were two figures with shining, golden wings. Here Solomon

was planning to set the precious ark of God.

For seven years and a half the building of the temple had been going on. Thousands of workmen had been employed upon it. It stood on the top of a high hill, on which a level platform had been made. The temple was built of white and rose tinted marble, and the choicest and most enduring woods.

Now the work was nearly done. King Solomon called all his people together. The day had come when the temple was to be given to God.

The people came in crowds to Jerusalem. From all parts of the land, north and south, they came, flocking along the roads, in holiday dress of gay colors, all eager to see the beautiful temple and take part in the service in which it was to be set apart for God's worship.