

* The Sunday School *

BIBLE LESSON.

Abridged from Peloubet's Notes.

Third Quarter, 1903.

OCTOBER TO DECEMBER.

Lesson XII. December 20.—The Queen of Sheba Visits Solomon.—1 Kings 10: 1-10.

GOLDEN TEXT.

When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice.—Prov. 29: 2.

EXPLANATORY.

THE VISIT OF THE QUEEN OF SHEBA.—1 Kings 10: 1-10.

1. THE SEEKER. 1. THE QUEEN OF SHEBA. Sheba is almost universally regarded to be the ancient Arabia Felix, bordering on the Red Sea. Dr. Glaser has made some very interesting discoveries in this region, and has brought home a large number of inscriptions, many of them now in the museums of Berlin and London. He shows that before the time of Solomon this was a great and rich kingdom, with numerous gold mines, a literary civilization, a wide commerce in gold, precious stones, and perfumes. "The immense abundance of spices in Arabia, and especially in the Yemen or Sabeian country, is noted by many writers. Herodotus says that the whole tract exhaled an odor marvelously sweet (3: 113). Diodorus relates that the odor was carried out to sea to a considerable distance from the shore (3: 46)." "The queen of Sheba represented a civilization which doubtless regarded itself as venerable and cultured by the side of that of the rude tribes of Palestine."

2. THE OCCASION OF THE SEARCH. HEARD OF THE FAME OF SOLOMON, which through his commerce and conquests had extended throughout the known world (1 Kings 4: 34). CONCERNING THE NAME OF THE LORD. His religious fame, as distinct from his artistic, literary, military, or political fame. This included the magnificent temple he had built to Jehovah; and his unrivaled wisdom expressed in many ways, and which was the gift of Jehovah. CAME TO PROVE (to test) HIM WITH HARD QUESTIONS. To see if he were really as wise as rumor asserted. She tested him by riddles and enigmas of various kinds, which are so dear to the Oriental heart. Compare Samson's riddle (Judg. 14: 12); and Aristophanes, and Athenæus X: 697B, with specimens of the riddles in chap. 83. Having tested his wisdom by these riddles, the queen would bring to him the great religious and moral questions which will keep asking themselves in the heart of every thinking person.

3. THE LONG QUEST. 2. AND SHE CAME TO JERUSALEM, a distance of fifteen hundred miles. "But ancient journeys are not to be measured by miles, but by hours. Now, both the queen and her company traveled by camels, and the camel can only go, with any degree of comfort, at a walking pace. We may be pretty sure, therefore, that the party would not travel, on the average, more than twenty miles a day, which would give something like seventy-five days for the journey to Jerusalem, and the same for the return. With a VERY GREAT TRAIN, for safety, for bearing the presents to Solomon, for proving the greatness of her kingdom and her own high station. CAMELS THAT BARE SPICES, frankincense, myrrh, opobalsam, ladanum, and cassia. "The spices of the incense-bearing sands" of Arabia are constantly dwelt upon both in Greek and Roman literature." One of these was a VERY GREAT

"Just Run Across."

Some People are Lucky.

Some people make an intelligent study of food and get on the right track (pure food) others are lucky enough to stumble upon the right way out of the difficulty just as a Phila. young woman did.

She says: "I had suffered terribly from nervous indigestion, everything seemed to disagree with me and I was on the point of starvation when one day I happened to run across a demonstration of Postum Food Coffee at one of the big stores here.

"I took a sample home and a sample of Grape Nuts as well and there tried them again and found they agreed with me perfectly. For months I made them my main diet and as the result I am restored to my former health and can eat everything I want to.

"When I spoke to my physician about Grape-Nuts he said 'It is a most excellent food.' Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

There's a reason.

Look for the famous little book, "The Road to Wellville," in every package of both Postum and Grape-Nuts.

STORE (v. 10). AND VERY MUCH GOLD. According to v. 10, AN HUNDRED AND TWENTY TALENTS. As a talent of gold is worth \$29,000, heavy standard, her present of gold would amount to \$3,500,000. "Strabo relates that the Sabians were enormously wealthy; and used gold and silver in a most lavish manner in their furniture, their utensils, and even on the walls, doors, and roofs of their houses." AND PRECIOUS STONES. "The chief precious stones which Arabia now yields are the onyx and emerald. Anciently she is said to have produced, besides these gems, the following: adamant, amethysts, chrysolites, hematites, sards, sardonyxes, and several stones for which modern jewelers have no names. See Pliny, Natural History, XXXVII. Pearls, too, were readily procurable in Arabia from the Persian Gulf fishery."

4. THE FINDING. NOT HALF CAN EVER BE TOLD.—Vs. 3-9. 3. SOLOMON TOLD HER ALL HER QUESTIONS. There was not one of her riddles and hard questions he could not answer. "We find in Josephus' Antiquities, VIII. 5: 3 an account of a contest of wit of this nature between Hiram and Solomon, and he reports, on the authority of Dios, that a reason for Hiram's large payments to Solomon was that he had been beaten in the encounter and unable to solve the riddles propounded."

4. HAD SEEN ALL SOLOMON'S WISDOM, in his arrangements, the ordering of the kingdom, architectural inventions, and everything that required great skill. But especially his wisdom in answering hard questions. THE HOUSE THAT HE HAD BUILT. Referring doubtless, not to the temple, but to his palace.

5. AND THE MEAT OF HIS TABLE. That is, both the great variety of food that was placed upon the king's table (1 Kings 4: 22, 23) and also the costly furniture of the table (1 Kings 10: 21). His banquets were of the most superb kind. All his plate and drinking-vessels were of gold. THE SITTING OF HIS SERVANTS. Here servants signifies the officers and distinguished persons who were privileged to sit at the king's table, and were ranged according to rank and in large numbers at the royal banquets. THE ATTENDANCE OF HIS MINISTERS. "Attendants, pages, bell-boys, men in waiting." AND THEIR APPAREL. The livery and uniforms are an important part of a fine establishment. The servants are often more splendidly or showily appareled than their masters. AND HIS ASCENT. The passage from the palace to the temple up the Tyropoeon valley, referred to in 2 Kings 16: 18. This valley was a ravine over one hundred feet deep between Zion and the temple hill. "It has long since been filled in with rubbish. But the explorations have shown that the streamlet was roofed over and covered with a paved road, which led up from the valley of Hinnom to the head of the ravine. THERE WAS NO MORE SPIRIT (breath) IN HER. Her amazement was so great that, as we say, it took away her breath; she was lost in admiration. "Apparently the queen had come with some hope that she might get the better of Solomon, either in her display of queenly splendor or in the questions which she propounded."

6. IT WAS A TRUE REPORT. She nobly acknowledges the truth, without any envy or conceit.

7. BEHOLD, THE HALF WAS NOT TOLD ME. Nor would she have believed it if it had been told. Much of it could not be told in such a way that she could really understand it, any more than a native of central tropical Africa could understand that water could be changed into ice, or comprehend the workings of the telephone, telegraph, or the phonograph, aut mobiles or swift trains or battleships.

8. HAPPY ARE THY MEN. "Not" because of their fine clothes, of their high position, of their splendid possessions, did the queen regard the people and the servants of Solomon as blessed and happy, but because they could always listen to his wisdom." It is a great advantage to be in good families, and to have opportunity of frequent converse with those that are wise and good."

9. BLESSED BE THE LORD THY GOD. This shows that the queen understood that Solomon recognized all his wisdom and wealth as the gift of God. He was faithful to his God, and it is possible, as Jewish writers claim, that she was converted to the true God through Solomon's influence. THE LORD LOVED ISRAEL FOR EVER. With a love which was so strong as never to fail. God's love was indeed an everlasting love. We live under its influence to-day. THEREFORE MADE HE THEE KING. This was the highest possible compliment to Solomon.

Lessons for To-day. 1. Christ can answer all the hard questions which meet us on every side, like the sphinx's riddle which it was death not to answer. The questions of present duty, of a future life, of God and his love and forgiveness, are answered by him, and draw us to him, as those who are cold are attracted by the fire; those who are hungry, by satisfying food.

2. The half has never been told. Every one who visits the kingdom of religion joins with the queen of Sheba in saying that they did not believe the half that was told them,

but they now find that all that was told them was not half of the truth. Irreligious men do not and cannot conceive the full blessedness of the religion of Christ. They do not believe what Christians say of it. It seems to them the exaggerated utterance of excited feeling. And yet Christians cannot express to them one-half the true glory and peace and heavenliness of Christ in the soul.

10. AN HUNDRED AND TWENTY TALENTS OF GOLD . . . SPICES. See GEN. 2. These were the most precious things her kingdom produced.

Second. V. 13. "Solomon not only returns the queen's gifts with interest, but presents her with whatever strikes her fancy; and for her to have hesitated to ask would have been, according to Oriental ideas, to admit an inferiority of position.

Lessons for To-day. 1. As Solomon gave the queen of Sheba far more than she gave him, so God loads us with benefits, and delights in giving us the most royal gifts,—his Son, eternal life, pardon, peace, love, joy, in addition to his countless earthly treasures.

2. As Solomon gave the queen whatever she desired, so God loves to give us all that we desire, so far as it is good for us, and so far as we are able to receive. When we abide in him and his words abide in us, the promise is that "ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you" (John 15: 7).

A WOMAN'S FACE.

PLAINLY INDICATES THE CONDITION OF HER HEALTH.

How to Obtain Bright Eyes, Rosy Cheeks and the Elastic Step of Perfect Health.

"A woman's face," said a well known physician, "is a mirror which reflects unflinching the condition of her health. One can at a glance if she is well or not and usually one can tell what the trouble is. It so often happens that instead of bright eyes, rosy cheeks and an elastic step, there are dull eyes, pale, sallow or a greenish complexion, and a languidness of step that bespeaks disease, and perhaps an early death if the right treatment is not resorted to. The whole trouble lies with the blood, and until it is enriched and invigorated there will be no release from suffering and disease. Unquestionably the greatest of all blood-renewers is Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Good blood means health, vigor, life and beauty, and the one sure way to make your blood good is to take Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.

Out of many cases which illustrate the truth of this may be cited that of Miss Amanda Damphousse, Ste. Anne de la Perade, Que., who says: "For more than six months I suffered greatly from weakness, bordering almost on nervous prostration. I suffered from headaches, palpitation of the heart, and pains in all my limbs. I had no energy, no appetite, no color and my nights were frequently sleepless. At different times I consulted three doctors, but none of them seemed able to cure me. A friend strongly urged me to take Dr. Williams' Pink Pills and I finally followed her advice. With the use of the first box my health began to improve, and five boxes completely restored me. I now have a good appetite, headaches and pains have disappeared, and I never felt better in my life than I do now. If I am ever sick again you may be sure that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills will be my only doctor."

If you have any diseases like anaemia, indigestion, heart palpitation, neuralgia, rheumatism, or any of the other host of troubles caused by bad blood, Dr. Williams' Pink Pills will surely cure you. Be careful to get the genuine, with the full name, "Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People," printed on the wrapper around the box. Sold by all medicine dealers or sent post paid at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50, by writing to the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

Get not your friends by bare compliments, but by giving them sensible tokens of your love. It is well worth while to learn how to win a man in the right way. Force is of no use to make or preserve a friend, who is an animal that is never caught nor tamed but by kindness and pleasure. Excite them by your civilities, and show them that you desire nothing more than their satisfaction; oblige with all your soul that friend who has made you a present of his own.

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