

LESSON III—October 18th, 1896.

Solomon's Wealth and Wisdom. I KINGS 4: 25-34.

(Commit to memory verses 29, 30).

GOLDEN TEXT: "Them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed." I Sam. 2: 30.

PROVE THAT—God prospers the upright. Prov. 14: 11.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Questions 46, 47, 48.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 156, 74, 236, 253.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Solomon's wealth and wisdom. I Kings 4: 25-34. *Tuesday.* Wisdom's invitation. Prov. 8: 13-21, 32-36. *Wednesday.* The source of wisdom. Ps. 119: 97-104. *Thursday.* Insufficiency of worldly wisdom. I Cor. 1: 20-31. *Friday.* True glory. Jer. 9: 12-24. *Saturday.* God-given wisdom. Dan. 1: 11-20. *Sabbath.* Spiritual wisdom. I Cor. 2: 1-13. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. The preceding portion of our chapter is occupied with a list of Solomon's officers (vs. 1-20) and a description of the extent of his kingdom (vs. 21-24). In all this there is the fulfillment of the divine promise. To dwell merely upon the outward glory of such a kingdom would profit little if we did not point the moral which it teaches. The first half of our lesson affords an excellent text from which to speak of the use and abuse of temporal blessings. Solomon found all to be but vanity and vexation of spirit, but surely God did not mean that it should be so. The second half of our passage naturally suggests thoughts upon the right employment of education and mental ability. Talents which are not consecrated by piety are apt to prove a snare rather than a blessing.

LESSON PLAN. I. Solomon's Wealth. vs. 25-28. II. Solomon's Wisdom. vs. 29-34.

25. Safely—"Confidently," they had a sense of security (Jer. 23: 6.) **Every man under his vine and under his fig tree—** A proverbial expression for peace and prosperity. The vine shaded the house and under the fig tree there was a place of quiet retirement (John 1: 50.) **From Dan—in the extreme north (Judges 18: 29.) Even to Beer'she-ba—in the farthest south (Gen. 21: 31.)** As we would say "From Halifax to Vancouver." **26. Forty-thousand stalls—** This is probably a mistake in copying for 4,000, which is the number given in 2 Chr. 9: 25. Since Solomon had only 1400 war chariots (ch. 10: 26) he would not likely require more than two for each with a few spare ones besides. In thus multiplying horses, Solomon violated the law (Deut. 17: 16.) **Horsemen—** Should be "saddle-horses." **27. They lacked nothing—** rather "They suffered nothing to be lacking." He had a well-organized and efficient service. **28. Barley—** Oats are not grown in Palestine. **Dromedaries—** The dromedary has but one hump, the camel has two. It is swifter than the camel and is accounted the more valuable animal. **29. Largeness of heart—** A comprehensive mind capable of mastering a great variety of subjects, such as poetry, philosophy, natural history, &c. The Bible often speaks of "the heart" where he would say "the mind." Even as the sand that is on the sea shore—A proverbial expression for a great number, or unlimited quantity of anything. **30. The children of the East country—** The Chaldeans, Persians, Arabians, &c. Job was one of these wise men (Job 1: 3.) From these regions came the "wise men" unto Bethlehem when Christ was born (Matt. 2: 1.) **The wisdom of Egypt—** The wise men of Egypt opposed Moses (Ex. 7: 11) and Stephen refers to the wisdom of the Egyptians in his speech (Acts 7: 22.) **31.** We know nothing about the men referred to in this verse. Who would now think anyone worthy to be named in comparison with Solomon? Human fame perishes. The honor that God gives endures. **32. Three thousand proverbs—** Less than one-third of these are preserved in the Book of Proverbs which bears Solomon's name, and all of its contents are not from his pen. All his songs have perished except the Song of Songs, Psalms 72, 127, 128, and perhaps 1 and 2. **33. He spake of trees** He gave descriptions, probably in the form of books, of the whole vegetable world. **The cedar * * * the hyssop—** These are placed in antithesis, the former as the largest and most glorious of trees, the latter as the smallest and most insignificant of plants. **He spake also of beasts—** He was an enthusiastic naturalist. **34. There came of all peoples to hear the wisdom of Solomon—** There came embassies from distant nations shewing respect and friendship. Wise men wished to "light their candle at his lamp."

LESSONS. 1. Those are safe who are under God's blessing and protection. 2. Those who are engaged in the King's service must be faithful. 3. If we improve the talents we have God will increase them. 4. If God thought it worth while to make anything, it is worth our while to learn about it. 5. The humblest christian knows more than the wisest heathen.