

## LESSON V—Nov. 1st, 1896.

### Building the Temple. 1 KINGS 5: 1-12.

(Commit to memory verses 4, 5.)

GOLDEN TEXT: "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." Ps. 127: 1.

PROVE THAT—We should be friendly. Prov. 18: 24.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Questions 53, 54, 55, 56.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 158, 63, 219, 113.

**DAILY PORTIONS.** *Monday.* Building the temple. 1 Kings 5: 1-12. *Tuesday.* The temple finished. 1 Kings 6: 1-14. *Wednesday.* A beautiful house. 1 Kings 6: 21-30. *Thursday.* Seven years in building. 1 Kings 6: 31-38. *Friday.* Site of the temple. 2 Chr. 3: 1-10. *Saturday.* The pattern of the temple. 1 Chr. 28: 11-21. *Sabbath.* A spiritual temple. Eph. 2: 13-22. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

### HELPS IN STUDYING.

**INTRODUCTORY.** The building of the temple was the great event of Solomon's reign and marked an important era in the making of the nation and in the progress of the kingdom of God. To the accomplishment of this work David's old friend Hiram, king of Tyre, contributed timber and skilled workmen. Large trees did not grow in Palestine, nor were the Israelites accustomed to the erection of great buildings. This alliance with the Phoenicians was mutually advantageous. Phoenicia depended for its supplies of food upon the fertile countries to the east and south, and for this it exchanged the cedar and stone of its mountains. Solomon and Hiram remained fast friends to the end of their lives. See the parallel narrative in 2 Chr. 2: 1-18.

**LESSON PLAN.** I. Solomon's Request. vs. 1-6. II. Hiram's Reply. vs. 7-12.

When Hiram, king of Tyre heard that his old friend David was dead<sup>1</sup> he sent a message of sympathy to Solomon for he wished to be his friend too. In replying to this Solomon asked Hiram to help him to carry out his father's plan of building a magnificent temple worthy of him who was to be worshipped in it. He reminds Hiram that God would not permit David to do this because he had been a man of war and had shed much blood.<sup>2</sup> It was not fitting that the name of Jehovah should thus be associated with that of a great warrior, because it might make people think of him too much as the "God of battles" and not so much of him as the holy and righteous One. But Solomon was a peaceful, wise, rich and generous king, so that it was now possible and appropriate for him to enter upon this great work.<sup>3</sup> The king of Tyre had, long before this, furnished materials to David for building his palace<sup>4</sup> and Solomon requests a similar favor now. Tall trees did not grow in Palestine, but the cedars and fir trees of Lebanon were famous. Nor were the Israelites skillful builders and artisans, while Hiram's people were noted for their manufactures and architecture. On the other hand Phoenicia, Hiram's kingdom, was but a narrow strip along the seashore, so far as arable land was concerned, and it was necessary for him to procure food for his people from other countries, like

Palestine, where wheat and olive trees grew. Hiram was, therefore, very glad to make a treaty with Solomon, and promised to give him all the timber he wanted in return for wheat and olive oil. He also sent skillful workmen whose wages were paid in a similar way. The Sidonians cut down the trees in Lebanon and sent them down the mountain sides in "timber slides" as is done to-day in the "Rockies," then they built them into rafts and sailed them along the coast to Joppa, a seaport about 40 miles from Jerusalem. Here the servants of Solomon took them apart and drew them over the steep and rugged road to Jerusalem. A father's friend is likely to be a wise and true one, he will always have a kindly feeling towards you and you should try to deserve his good will.<sup>5</sup> If we would have others help us, we should be willing to help them.<sup>6</sup> The abundance of one should supply the lack of another, that he may reciprocate the service.<sup>7</sup> It is a pious duty to carry out the wishes of those whose name and goods we inherit, and from whom we have all we possess, even life itself, especially when these wishes relate to religious or benevolent enterprises. What God does not permit the parent to accomplish he means the son to carry out. The world honors religion when it sees children walking in the footsteps of pious parents.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup>2 Sam. 15: 11; <sup>2</sup>2 Chr. 2: 13. <sup>3</sup>1 Chr. 22: 8; <sup>4</sup>28: 3. <sup>5</sup>1 Chr. 22: 9. <sup>6</sup>1 Chr. 22: 4. <sup>7</sup>Prov. 27: 16. <sup>8</sup>Prov. 18: 24. <sup>9</sup>1 Cor. 12: 14 &c. <sup>10</sup>Matt. 5: 16; <sup>11</sup>1 Pet. 2: 12; Ps. 45: 16.

**LESSONS.** 1. We should resolutely perform the work God has given us to do. 2. Friendly assistance in christian work is to be welcomed. 3. We all have different gifts, graces and opportunities. 4. Honestly pay for all that you get. 5. Keep a friend as long as you can.