

BIBLICAL NOTES

C. 1004.] LESSON IV. THE TEMPLE DEDICATED, 1 Kings 8, 5-21, July 23]

HOME READINGS. MONDAY—The Lesson, 1 Kings 8, 5-21. TUESDAY—Bringing up the ark, 2 Chron. 5, 1-14.

TOPIC.—Manifestation of God's Presence. GOLDEN TEXT—I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God. Rom. 12, 1.

THE temple having been completed, the great assembly of the nation was convened to assist at its consecration. The ark was brought to its place, the tabernacle of Moses removed, sacrifices offered, songs of praise sung, and the divine Presence gloriously revealed.

BEFORE THE ARK—Solomon and the people were in the court, and as the priests stopped and stood, unnumbered SHEEP and OXEN were offered in sacrifice by the numerous priests.

THE PRIESTS BROUGHT IN THE ARK—Levites only might carry it, but the priests were Levites. They carried it also in crossing the Jordan.

THE DAY OF WRITING—The day of the writing, showing that this account was written before Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the temple.

THE POT OF MANNA—Aaron's rod had disappeared. If they were really put within the ark instead of by its side, their removal was probably by the Philistines.

THE VISIBLE SYMBOL OF GOD'S PRESENCE—It had guided the Hebrews in their wanderings. Its special place was on the mercy-seat, the lid of the ark.

song of praise, and as they uttered the words, "For he is good; for his mercy endureth forever," the bright cloud of glory, the Shekinah, suddenly appeared and filled the whole house.

THE LORD SAID—Doubtless in some previous communication to Solomon not recorded. THICK DARKNESS—The most holy place, into which no ray of light could enter.

THE KING TURNED—He was standing on a brazen platform seven and a half feet square and four and a half high, on the east of the great brazen altar of burnt offerings.

THESE ARE JOYFUL WORDS of praise, recounting a few of the great facts connected with the building of the house, and ascribing to Jehovah the sole glory of the completed undertaking.

THE STATEMENT IN 2 Chron. 6, 5, 6, is fuller. I CHOSE NO CITY—neither chose any man to be ruler; but I have chosen Jerusalem.

THE LOVING HEART IS BETTER than the forced service. 20. HATH PERFORMED—Here again God fulfills HIS WORD, (1.) in bringing David's son to the throne, and (2.) in enabling him to bring to a conclusion the building of the temple.

THE MOST SACRED OBJECT in the house, and specially for whose reception the house was built COVENANT—The two tables of stone, or rather the law written on them, which they were under COVENANT obligations to keep.

LESSONS. I. The promise of Jesus of dwelling in his people's hearts and manifesting his presence to them is more glorious than what Solomon saw. The believer is a more precious temple than was his.

A SUNDAY IN PARIS! Well, it is a pleasant picture, and indeed its effect was decidedly the reverse. Fortified, an effective meal—for my genial hosts, to their insular traditions, refuse to change their English 8 o'clock breakfast for the French mid-day déjeuner.

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