

LESSON V.

PSALMS OF DELIVERANCE

October 29, 1899

Psalms 85 and 126. Commit to memory Psalm 126. Read Jeremiah 31

1 LORD, thou hast been favourable unto thy land : thou hast brought back the captivity of Jacob.
 2 Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of thy people, thou hast covered all their sin. Selah.
 3 Thou hast taken away all thy wrath : thou hast turned *thyself* from the fierceness of thine anger.
 4 Turn us, O God of our salvation, and cause thine anger toward us to cease.
 5 Wilt thou be angry with us for ever? wilt thou draw out thine anger to all generations?
 6 Wilt thou not revive us again : that thy people may rejoice in thee?
 7 Shew us thy-mercy, O LORD, and grant us thy salvation.
 8 I will hear what God the LORD will speak : for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints : but let them not turn again to folly.
 9 Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him ; that glory may dwell in our land.
 10 Mercy and truth are met together ; righteous-

ness and peace have kissed each other.

11 Truth shall spring out of the earth ; and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

12 Yea, the LORD shall give that which is good ; and our land shall yield her increase.

13 Righteousness shall go before him ; and shall set us in the way of his steps.

Ps. 126 : 1 When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream.

2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing : then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them.

3 The LORD hath done great things for us ; whereof we are glad.

4 Turn again our captivity, O LORD, as the streams in the south.

5 They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.

6 He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

Revised Version—1 Indignation ; 2 Quicken ; 3 Springeth ; 4 Hath looked down ; 5 Make his footsteps a way to walk in ; 6 Unto them ; 7 Nations ; 8 South (a capital S) ; 9 Though he goeth on his way weeping, bearing forth the seed ; 10 He shall come again with joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

GOLDEN TEXT

"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy." Ps. 126 : 5.

DAILY READINGS

M.—Psalm 85. } Psalms of deliverance.
 T.—Psalm 126. }
 W.—Jer. 30 : 18-24. Promise of deliverance.
 Th.—Jer. 31 : 1-12. A joyful prospect.
 F.—Jer. 33 : 1-14. Pardon and restoration.
 S.—Zech. 8 : 1-8. A joyful city.
 S.—Psalm 124. The Great Deliverer.

TIME AND PLACE

Precise date unknown, but the Psalms have the tone of the period of the return of the exiles from Babylon.

CATECHISM

Q. 77. What is required in the ninth commandment?

A. The ninth commandment requireth the maintaining and promoting of truth between man and man, and of our own and our neighbour's good name, especially in witness bearing.

LESSON PLAN

I. The Prelude, Psalm 85.

Remembrance, 1-3 ; Petition, 4-7 ; Confidence, 8-13.

II. The Anthem, Psalm 126.

Joy ; thanksgiving ; hope.

LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise—389, 14 (Ps.), 189, 17, 455.

CONNECTION

From the study of Ezra's journey to Jerusalem we turn to the study of two Psalms which show us the returned exiles' gratitude and joy for restoration to their own land.

EXPLANATION

1-3. **Favorable** ; literally, "well pleased." **The captivity of Jacob** ; the captive Jews (Ezra 1 : 1, 2) ; called "Jacob" from their great ancestor. **Forgiven** ; sin was the cause of their punishment (2 Chron. 36 : 14-17). Their return was a proof of pardon. **Thy wrath** ; the Divine displeasure because of sin. **Thou hast turned** ; because His people had turned unto Him.

4-7. **Turn us, O God**. Turn toward us and complete our salvation. Only a portion of the exiles had been restored. **Angry for ever** ? The punishment seemed to last so long. **To all generations** ; without end. **Revive us again** ; by restoring them completely to His favor, which is life. **Thy mercy** ; loving kindness to the guilty. **Thy salvation** ; from sin and oppression.

8, 9. **I will hear**. He will listen for an answer to his petition (Heb. 2 : 1), and he is confident it will be one of **peace**. **To folly**.

It was their foolish sinning against God that brought all their sufferings upon them. **That fear Him** ; not the fear of the slave, but of the loving child. **That glory may dwell** ; the glory of God's presence manifested in pure worship and right living.

10, 11. **Mercy . . . truth . . . righteousness . . . peace**. Calvin says, "These are the four cardinal virtues of Christ's kingdom. Where these reign among men there must be true and perfect felicity. They are shewn by God in saving us, and they are shewn in saved men." **Met together** ; showing the harmony that exists when these virtues reign. **Truth shall spring**. Truth like a seed responds to the sunshine of God's favor. **Shall look down** ; smiling upon the picture just described.

12, 13. **Shall yield her increase** ; under the blessing of God (Hag. 1 : 9-11). **Before Him** ; as an herald. **In the way of His**