

Lesson V.

A PSALM OF DELIVERANCE

October 29, 1911

Psalm 85. Read Psalms 121, 122, 126—Memory Verses, 10, 11.

Golden Text—The Lord hath done great things for us ; whereof we are glad.—Psalm 126 : 3.

1 LORD, thou hast been favourable unto thy land : thou hast brought back the captivity of Ja'cob.

2 Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of thy people, thou hast covered all their sin. Se'lah.

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 ; righteousness 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.

THE LESSON RETOLD

When part of the Jews came back to Jerusalem from Babylon, whither they had been carried captive so many years before, they came with joy and hope in their hearts. They had left the land of their enemies behind them, and their own beautiful country lay before them, where they could once more live in peace and safety, and where they could worship the one true God in His own holy city of Jerusalem.

But alas ! when they came to the city, they found the walls broken down ; their homes and the beautiful temple lay in ruins, and the streets were empty and deserted. Their hearts failed them, for they were a tiny band of people, alone and unprotected in this great, desolate land ; their homes, their friends, their city, were gone, and they were filled with sorrow.

But one of the sweet singers of Israel sang a song to the Lord, and when the people heard it, their hearts were lifted up ; they remembered what God had already done for

them, and they felt that soon He would give them back His love and His full forgiveness.

"Lord, Thou hast received back Thy people again", sang the psalmist or singer. "Thou hast brought back Israel from captivity ; Thou hast forgiven the sins of Thy people ; Thou hast taken away Thine anger from them."

Still, in spite of God's forgiveness and His goodness in bringing them back to their own land, there was something wanting ; so now the psalmist prayed, "O God, cease to be angry with us ; do not punish the children for the sins of their fathers ; give back to Thy people their old power and glory ; put new life into our land ; grant us Thy mercy and Thy salvation."

Then the psalmist listens for God's answer to his prayer, and he gives to the people God's word that rich blessings are in store for them,—for those who are truly His people in deed as well as in name. But these blessings, and God's perfect forgiveness,