

LESSON II—October 11th, 1896.

Solomon's Wise Choice. I KINGS 3: 5-15.

(Commit to memory verses 11, 12.)

GOLDEN TEXT: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Ps. 111: 10.

PROVE THAT—We need the Lord's guidance. Ps. 37: 5.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Questions 42, 43, 44.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 1, 78, 220, 72.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Solomon's wise choice. I Kings 3: 5-15. *Tuesday.* The choice of Moses. Heb. 11: 17-26. *Wednesday.* Joshua's choice. Josh. 24: 14-24. *Thursday.* The excellency of wisdom. Job 28: 12-28. *Friday.* Which to choose. Deut. 30: 11-20. *Saturday.* Righteousness the first choice. I Tim. 6: 6-16. *Sabbath.* The best knowledge. Phil. 3: 1-14. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. Solomon treated those implicated in the plot of Adoni'jah with wise leniency and his authority was unquestioned henceforth. The closing scenes of David's life are described in I Chr. 22, 23 and 29 chapters. For sublimity and pathos the narrative is unexampled. His private charge regarding certain obnoxious and dangerous persons (I Kings 2: 1-9) is painful reading and forcibly reminds us of the ever ideas regarding some points of morality which possessed even good men in Old Testament times. Read in connection with our lesson 2 Chr. 1: 1-13; I Kings 4: 29.

LESSON PLAN. I. Solomon's Prayer. vs. 5-9. II. God's Answer. vs. 10-15.

5. Gib'oon—About six miles north of Jerusalem. Here the ancient tabernacle stood, and upon the brazen altar first erected under the shadow of Mt. Sinai, Solomon offered a thousand burnt-offerings by way of a solemn inauguration of his reign. **In a dream**—God often spoke to his people in dreams (see Gen. 31: 11; Matt. 1: 20; 2: 13, 19) and also to heathens (see Gen. 4: 25; Dan. 2: 1-49). It is very foolish to attach importance to ordinary dreams, but when God speaks to us in one we shall have no difficulty in recognizing the fact. **Ask what I shall give thee**—God is able and willing to give us anything we need (Ezek. 36: 37; Matt. 21: 22; Jas. 4: 2). **6.** Solomon prefaces his request by three arguments, or reasons why God should grant it; (1) God was gracious to his father and he would ask the same favor for himself; (2) God had placed him on the throne and so he had a claim on his support and direction; and (3) His felt insufficiency and dependence on God. Solomon shewed that he was already wise when he approached God so wisely. **7.** I am but a little child—He was probably 18 or 20 years of age, but feels his inexperience in the face of the responsible duties now resting upon him (I Chr. 22: 5; 29: 1). Such humility is pleasing to God (Gen. 18: 27; 32: 10; Job 42: 4-6; Isa. 6: 5; Jer. 1: 6; Luke 7: 6; I Tim. 1: 15). **Go out or come in**—Perform properly the duties of my position in public or private (Ps. 121: 8). Real strength and wisdom come to those who lean on God

(2 Cor. 3: 5; 12: 10). **8. A great people**—God's promises to Abraham were now fulfilled (Gen. 13: 16; 15: 5). The actual number of Israelites at this time was probably about 6,000,000. **9. An understanding heart**—Literally, "a hearing heart," one that discerns clearly the truth and acts upon it. What Solomon asks for is ability to judge righteously in matters coming before him (Prov. 2: 3-9; Jas. 1: 5). **11. The life of thine enemies**—i. e. The defeat of his foes in battle (I Sam. 17: 47; Ps. 18: 39). Long life is a real blessing (Ps. 91: 16; Prov. 3: 2; 32: 41). Although wealth has its dangers (Matt. 13: 22; Mark 10: 24; I Tim. 6: 10), it may be a means of good to ourselves and others (I Tim. 6: 17-19). **12. I have done according to thy words**—Such prayers are always answered (I John 5: 14, 15; Jas. 1: 5). **13.** God always gives more than we ask (Eph. 3: 20). See the words of Jesus in Matt. 6: 33 and 13: 12. Anyone may have blessings from God on the same conditions as Solomon. Godliness has promise of the life that now is (I Tim. 4: 8). **14. Then I will lengthen thy days**—The promise of long life had a condition attached to it which Solomon did not fulfil. He was not an old man when he died. **15. Stood before the ark**—The king's burnt-offerings, and peace-offerings, and the feast to his servants were a thanksgiving service for the gifts bestowed upon him in the dream.

LESSONS. 1. Jesus bids us ask and we shall receive. 2. The children of pious parents should remember their father's God. 3. We should seek first the kingdom of God. 4. God always gives us far more than we ask. 5. Riches, honors, and a long life are blessings only to those who employ them rightly.