

Sabbath School Lessons.

RETURNING FROM THE CAPTIVITY.

Jan. 1. B.C. 536.  
Lesson, Ezra 1: 1-11. Golden Text, Deut. 30:3.  
Memory vs. 5-6. Catechism Q. 1-2.

HOME READINGS.

M. Jer. 25: 1-14. .... Seventy Years' Captivity  
T. Jer 33: 1-14. .... Return Foretold.  
W. Psalm 137: 1-9. .... Weeping in Captivity.  
Th. Isaiah 45: 1-25. .... Cyrus Called by Name.  
F. Dan. 9: 1-27. .... Daniel's Prayer for Restoration.  
S. Ezra 1: 1-11. .... Returning from Captivity.  
S. Psalm 126: 1-6. .... Out of Captivity.

Ezra was a Jewish scribe and priest whose home was in Babylon. By permission of Artaxerxes Longimanus, B.C. 458, eighty years after the time of this lesson, he led a second expedition of Jews back from the Babylonian exile of Jerusalem. He collected and arranged the books of the Bible, and is believed to have written or edited the books of Chronicles, Ezra and Nehemiah.

Give the title of this lesson? Golden Text? Lesson Plan? Time? Place? Memory verses? Catechism?

I. *The Proclamation of Cyrus*, vs. 1-4.—Of what empire was Babylon now a part? Who was king of this empire? What proclamation did Cyrus make? Who prompted him to it? What had the Lord charged him? What therefore did he say to the Jews? What did he urge those who remained to do?

II. *The Uprising of the People*, vs. 5-6.—Who responded to the proclamation? How were their hands strengthened? Who was appointed governor? vs. 8-11; chap. 2: 2. What number returned? Ezra 2: 64-65.

III. *The Restoration of the Holy Vessels*, vs. 7-11.—What did Cyrus restore to returning exiles? Who had brought these vessels from Jerusalem? Into whose hands were they numbered? By what other name is Sheshbazzar known? What was the number of the vessels? What did Sheshbazzar do with them?

LESSONS LEARNED.

1. God will cause every word that he has spoken to be fulfilled.
2. He raises up and uses men to work out his plans.
3. He sends deliverance from affliction when his work is completed.
4. He wants volunteers for his work.
5. He calls for cheerful givers as well as willing workers in his service.

REBUILDING THE TEMPLE.

Jan. 8. B.C. 536-535.  
Lesson, Ezra 3: 13. Golden Text, Ezra 3: 11.  
Memory vs. 10-12. Catechism Q. 3.

HOME READINGS.

M. Exod. 40: 17-38 The Tabernacle Reared.  
1. 2 Chron. 3: 1-17 Solomon's Temple Built.  
W. 2 Chron. 36: 11-21 Solomon's Temple Destroyed.  
Th. Ezr. 3: 1-13 ... Rebuilding the Temple.  
F. Psalm 20: 1-9 ... Help from the Sanctuary.  
S. Pslm 27: 1-14. The Lord my Salvation.  
S. Psalm 136: 1-26 ... His Mercy Endureth for Ever.'

*Introductory.*—Who gave the captive Jews permission to return to their own land? How many returned? Who was their leader? What did Cyrus send back with them? Title of this lesson? Golden Text? Lesson Plan? Time? Place? Memory verses? Catechism?

I. *The Offerings Restored*, vs. 1-6.—When did the returned Jews assemble at Jerusalem? Who were their leaders? What did they build? Where did they set the altar? What offerings did they make? What feast did they observe? What did they afterward do? When did they begin these offerings?

II. *The Work Begun*, vs. 7-9.—What preparations were made for building the temple? When did they begin the work? What two men were the leaders in it? Who followed their lead? To what service were the Levites appointed? Who had oversight of the work?

III. *The Foundation Laid*, vs. 10-13.—What was done when the foundations were laid? What musical instruments did the priests use? What instruments had the sons of Asaph? What were they to do? In what manner did they sing? What was the substance of their song? How did all the people join in the praise? How were some of the old men affected? What did many others do?

LESSONS LEARNED.

1. United effort in God's service is of great importance.
2. Let the altar and worship of God be your first great care.
3. Do what you can in God's service, if you cannot do what you would.
4. Build your new altars on the old foundations, your new forms on the old principles.
5. Let your service of God be a joyful service.

Youth is the time to begin all good work.