

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE LESSONS.

SECOND QUARTER: OLD TESTAMENT TEACHINGS.

About B. C. 977. (1.) LESSON X. REVERENCE AND FIDELITY.

[June 4.]

GOLDEN TEXT. Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord. Rom. 12. 11.

Authorized Version.

Eccles. 5. 1-12. [Commit to memory verses 1, 2.]

1 Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil.

2 Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.

3 For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words.

4 When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it: for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed.

5 Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.

6 Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?

7 For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities: but fear thou God.

8 If thou seest the oppression of the poor, and violent perverting of judgment and justice in a province, marvel not at the matter: for he that is higher than the highest regardeth; and there be higher than they.

9 Moreover the profit of the earth is for all: the king himself is served by the field.

10 He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.

11 When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and what good is there to the owners thereof, saving the beholding of them with their eyes?

12 The sleep of a laboring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep.

Revised Version.

- 1 Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God; for to draw nigh to hear is better than to give the sacrifice of fools; for they know not 2 that they do evil. Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter anything before God; for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words 3 be few. For a dream cometh with a multitude of business; and a fool's voice with a multitude 4 of words. When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in 5 fools; pay that which thou vowest. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou 6 shouldest vow and not pay. Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice 7 and destroy the work of thine hands? For thus it cometh to pass through the multitude of dreams and vanities and many words: but fear thou God.
- 8 If thou seest the oppression of the poor, and the violent taking away of judgment and justice in a province, marvel not at the matter: for one higher than the high regardeth; and there 9 be higher than they. Moreover the profit of the earth is for all: the king himself is served by the field.
- 10 He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with 11 increase: this also is vanity. When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and what advantage is there to the owner thereof, saving the beholding of them with his eyes?
- 12 The sleep of a laboring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the fullness of the rich will not suffer him to sleep.

HOME READINGS.

- M. Reverence and fidelity. Eccles. 5. 1-7.
 Th. Reverence and fidelity. Eccles. 5. 8-12.
 W. Jacob's vow. Gen. 28. 16-22.
 Th. Reverent prayer. 1 Kings 8. 22-30.
 F. Keeping the mouth. Psalm 39. 1-7.
 S. "Much speaking." Matt. 6. 1-8.
 S. Folly of covetousness. Luke 12. 13-21.

LESSON HYMNS.

No. 233, New Canadian Hymnal.

Oh, what shall I do my Saviour to praise.

TIME AND PLACE.—Perhaps about B. C. 977, but very doubtful. ENVIRONMENTS.

—The book from which this lesson is taken is one of the most beautiful in all the Bible; the opening passage seems to intimate that it was written by Solomon, though all that the writer says is that he was "son of David, king in Jerusalem," and had great wisdom and wealth. The theme of the book is the path to true happiness. DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The omnipresence of God.