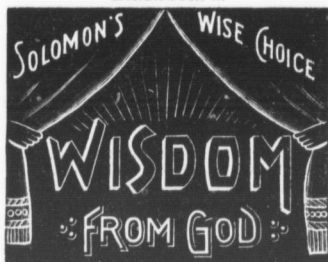


Blackboard.



BEGINNING OF WISDOM.
FEARING GOD.

CONTINUANCE OF WISDOM.
FOLLOWING GOD.

END OF WISDOM.
FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD.

"This is the way, walk ye in it."

WISE CHOOSING.
THE LORD SAYS

TO

SOLOMON

"Ask what I shall
give thee."

SOLOMON CHOOSES

WISDOM
NOT
RICHES.

CHOOSE YE THIS DAY.

ALL MEN.

"Come, for all things
are ready."

SHALL I CHOOSE

WORLD
NOT
CHRIST?

Before the Class.

Introduction. Rapidly pass in Review the principal events recorded as coming between the last lesson and the present one: (a) David's charge to

Solomon to walk in God's ways; (b) His charges concerning Joab, the sons of Barzillai, and Shimei; (c) The crafty plotting of Adonijah against Solomon (1 Kings 2, 13-25); (d) The sentence of Abiathar; (e) The death of Joab; (f) The punishment and death of Shimei; (g) Solomon's marriage; (h) General statement of his conduct (1 Kings 3, 3).

These facts show both David and Solomon in a rather unfavorable light, but at the same time may be made instructive to the class as instances of just retribution. God's laws cannot be broken without meeting due punishment, and some of God's warnings are here exemplified. As a man sows so must he reap. The lesson to-day presents Solomon in a much fairer light. The intervening events may serve the teacher as a dark background against which bring out in brighter colors and clearer outlines the character of Solomon as seen in to-day's lesson.

Development of the text. Solomon begins his kingly career in the right way. The beginning of Solomon's wisdom is here shown, for "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Describe the great sacrificial feast at Gibeon. Why did he go to Gibeon? What happened to him there? Why did God ask him that question? Note God's willingness to give, and speak of his power to provide all things. The question was a test for Solomon. For what should he ask? The world was before him!

Analyze Solomon's reply to God's question: (a) His remembrance of God's goodness to David (here review the thought presented in the last lesson); (b) His own exalted position and his feeling of lack of fitness for the duties of the position; (c) His recognition of God as the one who had exalted him; (d) The direct request for wisdom in governing.

The answer pleased God, for it showed that Solomon had noble qualities in him, which, if rightly developed, would make him as his father David, a "man after God's own heart."

Bring out the points in God's reply to Solomon: (a) Why he granted Solomon's request; (b) What things in addition were promised unconditionally; (c) What thing in addition was promised conditionally.

Lastly note Solomon's sacrifice and rejoicing upon his return home to Jerusalem.

Specific application. We have in the lesson to-day the beginning of what promised to be a grand and noble life. It was rightly begun, for it was begun in the fear of the Lord. Solomon's choice was a wise choice, for it was a choice of those things which perish not, rather than of the things of time. To-day everyone has an opportunity to choose between the visible and perishable things and the invisible and eternal things. This choice must be made at some time by each one; happy are the ones who make the choice of true wisdom, as did Solomon, in the beginning of life.

Choices are great choices; world has been fearing the Lord will continue this following his way in the giving up strength of wisdom failed; he began for he did not at the beginning. Remember, choosing the continuing in choices made in

Te

Draw a map showing Gibeon incidents of the man in our time himself to govern and opportunity of the choice: (1) der great response; (2) It was So it is with every aim in life....

B. C. 1014.

GOLDE

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1 Kings 4, 25

[Ren
25 And Ju dahl
man under his v
Dan even to Be
man.

26 And Sol'o-n
horses for his char
men.

27 And those o
Sol'o-mon, and for
men's table, every
nothing.

28 Barley also
drummers broug
officers were, every
29 And God gav
standing exceeding
even as the sand th
30 And Sol'o-mo
of all the children
wisdom of Egypt.

31 For he was w
the Ezra-hite, and
Dar-da, the sons of
all nations round al