

Children who Worship Idols.

Once again, dear Lord, we pray
For the children far away,
Who have never even heard
Jesus' name, our sweetest word.

Little lips that thou hast made,
Nearth the far-off temples abade,
Give to gods of wood and stone
Praise that should be all thine own.

Little hands whose wondrous skill
Thou hast giv'n to do thy will
Offerings bring and serve with fear
Gods that cannot see nor hear

Teach them, O thou heavenly King,
All their gifts and praise to bring
To thy Son, who died to prove
Thy forgiving saving love!

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

LESSON I.—OCTOBER 1.

JOY IN GOD'S HOUSE.

Psalm 122. Memory verses, 6-9.

GOLDEN TEXT.

I was glad when they said unto me,
Let us go into the house of the Lord.—
Psalm 122. 1.

OUTLINE.

1. Delight in God's Kingdom, v. 1-5.
 2. Praying and Working for God's Kingdom, v. 6-9.
- Time.—Probably after the return from exile. The second temple was dedicated B.C. 516.
- Place.—In view of Jerusalem and the temple.

LESSON HELPS.

1. "I was glad"—So begins the hymn. The keynote is one of joy. The psalm was probably written to be sung by the people as they went up to their holy feasts in Jerusalem. When they said—"Cyrus published an edict which permitted the return of the Jews."
2. "Our feet shall stand within thy gates"—Their feet were for seventy years in Chaldaea; now their feet are standing, as a better translation is, where their hearts had been.
3. "Compact together"—It had to be by its natural boundaries. Rebuilt now, and so its political and religious power became compacted.
4. "Whether the tribes go up"—The nation was divided into tribes, but unified by a common faith and worship. The pilgrimages to Jerusalem promoted nationality. There were three great festivals held annually. The testimony of Israel—"The revelation which God has made."
5. "Set thrones of judgment"—Public courts where justice was secured. "Thrones"—Seats of law
6. "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem"—The word peace implies here not only peace, but the prosperity which springs from it, a proper subject for prayer. "They shall prosper that love thee"—Because their love for the city will be shown by working for its interests, and if it prospers, so will its pious and industrious citizens.
7. "Peace be within thy walls"—Enemies were without these walls, hence the need of concord among the people and vigour among the rulers within the palaces.
8. "For my brethren and companions' sakes"—Because they dwell there or go up to the city to worship. The thought of the divine Father and the love of worship made the psalmist feel an interest in his countrymen. Piety strengthens and purifies patriotism. "Peace"—Very likely the psalmist was a man of war from his youth up, and he sighed for that which he enjoyed but little on earth—peace. To many a man comes peace, but only after long conflict.
9. "Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek thy good"—A purpose, and the reasons for it are here given. To the devout Jew Jerusalem was more than a city—an assembly of houses and people. Here was the Lord's house, with the altar and the sacrifice. Here were the sacred assemblies. Here were public prayer and praise to the one true God.

HOME READINGS.

- M Joy in God's house—Psalm 122
Tu. Songs of gladness—2 Ch'on. 29. 25-31.
W. Longed for.—Psalm 84
Th. A good thing.—Psalm 92
F. Come ye!—Isa. 2. 1-5.
S. Christ's example.—Luke 4. 14-22.

Su. Heavenly worship.—Rev. 7. 9-17.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Delight in God's Kingdom, v. 1-5.
What invitation made the psalmist glad?
What was the most precious thing in Jerusalem?
Why had Jerusalem been destroyed?
What sort of men rebuilt its temple and its walls?

Why did the psalmist love Jerusalem?
What is the Golden Text?

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

- Where in this lesson do we learn—
1. That it is a delight to worship God?
 2. That they that love God most are most love by him?
 3. That nobody can truly love God without being willing to make sacrifices for his cause?

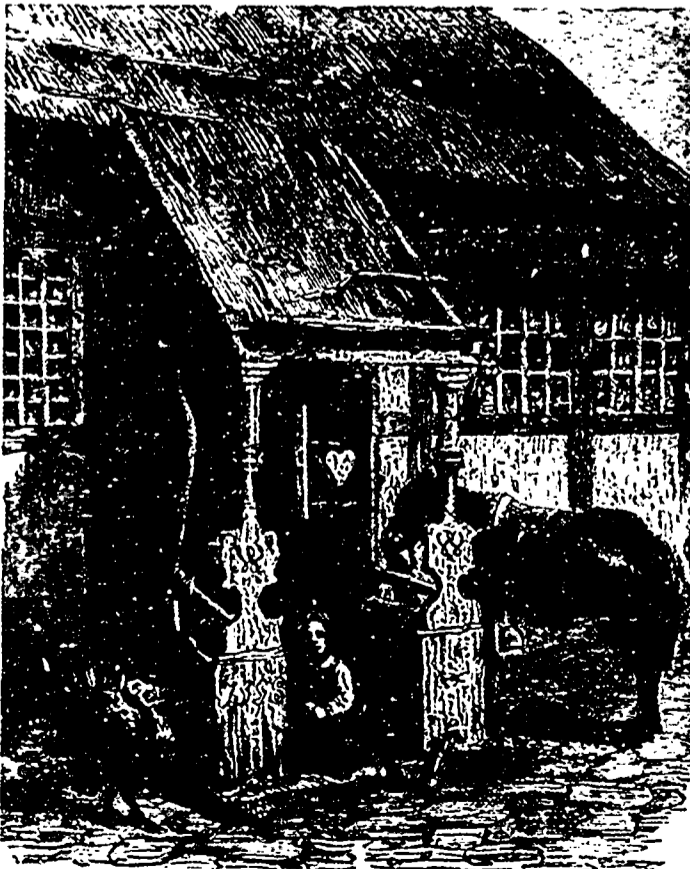


STAFFA.—(SEE FIRST PAGE.)

Why was Jerusalem more compact than other cities?
Why did the tribes of Israel go up to it two or three times every year?
Why are they called the tribes of the Lord?
What is the meaning of "the testimony of Israel"?
What were set in Jerusalem besides the temple?
What stands in the stead of Jerusalem and the temple for us?
Who go up to the house of the Lord in modern times?
Are Christians glad when the hours of worship come?
What reasons have we for loving the house of the Lord?
2. Praying and Working for God's Kingdom, v. 6-9.
Do those that love the church prosper?
Is there as much reason to pray for the church in our day as for the temple in old Jerusalem?
Is it right to have discord and quarrels in the church?
Is it right to let the church suffer for want of repairs when the homes of its members are comfortable?
For whose sake should we be liberal to the cause of God?

TINY'S ALARM CLOCK.

Tiny looked up from her slate as her big brother Tom came in one day with an odd-shaped paper bundle in his hands. Tiny ran to meet him.
"Oh, Tom, what is it?" she asked, curiously. "Anything for me?"
"No," said Tom. "Such a wide-awake puss as you are doesn't need aids to early rising," and he untied the strings and opened the package.
"Why, it's a clock!" said Tiny, disappointed. "We've got three clocks now, Tom. What made you bring another?"
Tom began winding the little clock. "You just listen," he said.
"Whir-r-r! Rattle, rattle, rattle! Whir-r-r! What a way for a clock to strike!"
"It's an alarm clock!" exclaimed Tom, smiling at Tiny's wonder. "We can set it so that the alarm will strike at any time of night and wake us. You know I have to leave home before daylight sometimes"—for Tom was on the railway.
"How very, very funny!" said Tiny with sparkling eyes. "Goes off all itself, without any one touching it! Oh, how I wish I had one!"



A HOUSE IN NORWAY.

The domestic architecture of Norway is very picturesque. The houses have often broad Swiss-like galleries and balconies, overhanging eaves, and carved doorways and porches, as shown in our cut on this page.

"There's another funny thing about it," went on Tom. "If people don't mind the alarm when it strikes, but think they will sleep a little longer, they grow less and less liable to be waked by it, and soon it does not make any impression at all!"
Tiny considered. "I wish I could have one all my own," she said, again. "It must be such fun to hear it go off."
"You have one," said Tom, gravely. "I? An alarm clock?"
Tom nodded.
"Where?"
"Right in there," said Tom, with his hand over Tiny's heart.
"Well, I don't believe it ever went off," laughed Tiny.
"Yes, I'm sure it has. Wait till you feel like doing something wrong. That little clock will say, 'Whir! Tiny, don't!' You see if it doesn't!"
Tiny laughed and went back to her lessons. Soon a call came from the kitchen. "Tiny, dear, I want you."
Tiny's mouth began to pout, but she suddenly called out cheerily, "Yes, mamma," and danced out of the room, looking back to say, "It went off, then, Tom, good and loud."
Tom nodded and smiled. "I thought it would," he said.
And all you little folks with alarm clocks want to be sure to answer the first call, or they will ring in vain, and turn you out good-for-nothing men and women.

All that is great in man comes through work, and civilization is its product.—Smiles.

No man is born into the world whose work is not born with him; there is always work, and tools to work withal, for those who will.—Lowell.

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