

## Lesson X.

## HEZEKIAH REOPENS THE TEMPLE

December 4, 1904

2 Chronicles 29 : 18-31. Study 2 Chronicles 29 : 18-36—Memory Verses, 28-30.

**Golden Text**—Them that honour me I will honour.—1 Samuel 2 : 30.

king's seer, and Na'than the prophet: for *so was* the commandment of the Lord by his prophets.

26 And the Le'vites stood with the instruments of Da'vid, and the priests with the trumpets.

27 And Hezekiah commanded to offer the burnt offering upon the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the song of the Lord began *also* with the trumpets, and with the instruments *ordained* by Da'vid king of Is'rael.

28 And all the congregation worshipped, and the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded: *and all this continued* until the burnt offering was finished.

29 And when they had made an end of offering, the king and all that were present with him bowed themselves, and worshipped.

30 Moreover Hezekiah the king and the princes commanded the Le'vites to sing praise unto the Lord with the words of Da'vid, and of A saph the seer. And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed their heads and worshipped.

31 Then Hezekiah answered and said, Now ye have consecrated yourselves unto the Lord, come near and bring sacrifices and thank offerings into the house of the Lord. And the congregation brought in sacrifices and thank offerings; and as many as were of a free heart burnt offerings.

## THE LESSON RETOLD

Hezekiah, son of Ahaz, was one of the best kings Israel ever had. He did all in his power to repair the wrong-doing of his father, who had closed the doors of the temple in Jerusalem and set up heathen worship in every part of the country.

As soon as Hezekiah became king, he sent for the priests and teachers of God's house, and set them to work at once, to clear away the rubbish and decay that had collected in the temple. When every sign of idol-worship had been destroyed, and the sacred vessels and lamps which Ahaz had set aside had been polished and replaced and everything put in good order, Hezekiah set a day when the house of God should be publicly reopened and honored in the sight of all the people.

18 Then they went in to Hezekiah the king, and said, We have cleansed all the house of the Lord, and the altar of burnt offering, with all the vessels thereof, and the shewbread table, with all the vessels thereof.

19 Moreover all the vessels, which king A'haz in his reign did cast away in his transgression, have we prepared and sanctified, and, behold, they are before the altar of the Lord.

20 Then Hezekiah the king rose early, and gathered the rulers of the city, and went up to the house of the Lord.

21 And they brought seven bullocks, and seven rams, and seven lambs, and seven he goats, for a sin offering for the kingdom, and for the sanctuary, and for Ju'dah. And he commanded the priests the sons of Aa'ron to offer them on the altar of the Lord.

22 So they killed the bullocks, and the priests received the blood, and sprinkled it on the altar: likewise, when they had killed the rams, they sprinkled the blood upon the altar: they killed also the lambs, and they sprinkled the blood upon the altar.

23 And they brought forth the he goats for the sin offering before the king and the congregation; and they laid their hands upon them:

24 And the priests killed them, and they made reconciliation with their blood upon the altar, to make an atonement for all Is'rael: for the king commanded that the burnt offering and the sin offering *should be made* for all Is'rael.

25 And he set the Le'vites in the house of the Lord withymbals, with psalteries, and with harps, according to the commandment of Da'vid, and of Gad the

At the time appointed, the rulers of Jerusalem gathered early in the morning at the palace, and led by Hezekiah, they marched to the door of the temple, where the congregation was already assembled. Here the king ordered a great sacrifice of sheep and cattle to be made upon the altar of burnt-offering for the sins of the nation. And when the king and the people had placed their hands upon the heads of the animals, as a sign of repentance, the priests set fire to the sacrifice and worship was begun.

When the smoke from the altar began to rise, the singers and trumpeters and players upon different instruments who were stationed inside the temple, began to play and sing, perhaps using the great thanksgiving song of David, beginning: