

what condition was this promise made? Was this latter promise fulfilled?

3. **An Offering**, v. 15. Where was it made? What were the two kinds of sacrifices? What was the significance of the offering?

#### PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

How does this lesson show—

1. The graciousness of God's promise?
2. The value of a wise choice?
3. The need of obeying God's law?

#### QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER SCHOLARS.

To whom did the Lord appear in Gibeon? To Solomon. What did God say to him? "Ask what I shall give thee." What did Solomon remember? God's mercy to his father David. What did he acknowledge? God's kindness to himself in giving him the throne of David. What was Solomon's confession? "I am but a little child." What did this show? Solomon's humility. What did Solomon feel? That he had a great work to do. What did he ask of the Lord? Wisdom, to judge the people. What pleased the Lord? Solomon's wish to become a wise ruler. [Repeat GOLDEN TEXT.] What showed Solomon's unselfishness? He asked for others rather than himself. What was God's word to him? "Lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart." What else did God promise Solomon? Riches and honour. What follows obedience to God's law? Long life. Where did Solomon go after his dream? To Jerusalem. Why did he go there? To offer sacrifice to God.

#### WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

Solomon did not ask God for worldly gifts for himself.

He only asked for wisdom to walk in the right way, that he might make his people happy.

Do you ask God for blessings for yourself, or do you think of other people first?

Do you ask God for wisdom to walk in his way, or do you love your own way best?

"Thy way, not mine, dear Lord."

#### ANALYTICAL AND BIBLICAL OUTLINE.

##### The Choice of a Life-time.

#### I. AN OFFERED CHOICE.

God said, Ask . . . give thee. v. 5.

"Ye shall ask what ye will." John 15. 7.

#### II. A KING'S CHOICE.

Hast made thy servant king, v. 7.

"Washed us . . . made us kings." Rev. 1. 5, 6.

#### III. A YOUTHFUL CHOICE.

I am but a little child, v. 7.

"Who is sufficient for these things?" 2 Cor. 2. 16.

#### IV. A WISE CHOICE.

An understanding heart, v. 9.

"That ye may approve . . . excellent." Phil. 1. 10.

#### V. AN ACCEPTABLE CHOICE.

The speech pleased the Lord, v. 10.

"Submit yourselves . . . unto God." James 4. 7.

#### VI. A REWARDED CHOICE.

Given thee that . . . not asked, v. 13.

"All these things . . . added." Matt. 6. 33.

#### ADDITIONAL PRACTICAL LESSONS.

##### The Purpose of Life.

1. Every young man, like Solomon, early forms his ideal of a purpose in life, v. 5.

2. The purpose of life should be chosen in the sight of God, and with reference to his will. Solomon's choice was directed by his faith, v. 6-8.

3. The purpose of life should be chosen, not for self alone, but in view of the responsibilities which God has laid on us. Solomon's choice was worthy of his kingly station, v. 8, 9.

4. The purpose of life should be to equip ourselves with that wisdom fitting us for our work, v. 9.

5. The purpose of life should be subject to God's will, and in such lines as will be pleasing to him, v. 10, 11.

6. The purpose of life, if wisely chosen, may be attained in the highest success, v. 12, 13.

7. The realization of a noble purpose in life will depend upon the fidelity with which it is pursued, v. 14.

#### CATECHISM QUESTION.

13. *In what manner then ought you to think and speak of God?*

I ought to think of God with fear and love, and speak of him with reverence and praise.

Who would not fear thee, O King of nations? for to thee doth it appertain: forasmuch as among all the wise men of the nations, and in all their kingdoms, there is none like unto thee. Jeremiah 10. 7.

But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy; and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple. Psalm 5. 7.

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. Matthew 22. 37.

Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty. Psalm 104. 1.

While I live will I praise the Lord; I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being. Psalm 146. 2.

Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Psalm 103. 1.

[1 Peter 1. 17; Psalm 135. 1.]