

and Abram did the same, Gen. 12 : 8 ; 13 : 4. This primitive practice prepared the way for the tabernacle service.

2. *The construction of the tabernacle.* (a) This was entrusted to two inspired artisans, Bezaleel and Aholiab, Ex. 35 : 30-35. (b) The building was oblong, and divided into two parts—the Holy Place, called the first tabernacle, and the Holy of Holies, or second tabernacle, Heb. 9 : 2, 6, 7. In the former stood the altar of incense, the table with the shewbread and the golden candlestick. In the latter was placed the ark of the testimony or covenant, Ex. 25 : 22 ; Josh. 4 : 7. The lid of the ark, overlaid with gold, was the mercy seat, and over it were the cherubim and the Shechinah—the manifestations of God's presence. From this the divine oracles were given out, Ex. 25 : 22. (c) The building was of upright boards, ten cubits long, overlaid with gold. There were nine pillars, also overlaid with gold, supporting the veil that separated the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place, and five smaller pillars to which the hangings that formed the door of the Sanctuary were attached. The inner part of the roof was made of rams' skins and the outer part of badgers' or seals' skins tanned and dyed. The whole structure was portable. It was always set up in the midst of the camp, so that the Israelitish armies were on all sides of it. In the oblong court by which it was surrounded stood the brazen laver, in which the priests washed their hands and feet, and the brazen altar of burnt offerings on which the fire, miraculously kindled (Lev. 9 : 24), was kept burning perpetually. (d) It was built by the gifts of the people, and, when finished, the building and its furniture were consecrated by being anointed with oil specially prepared for the purpose, ch. 30 : 22, etc.

3. *The uses of the tabernacle.* (a) It was the centre of divine worship, the place where typical sacrifices were offered and where God manifested himself to the people. (b) These services and all that pertained to them foreshadowed the atoning and intercessory work of Christ as our High Priest. None but the priests were allowed to enter the First Tabernacle, and the high priest alone was per-

mitted to go into the Holy of Holies once a year on the great day of atonement. (c) When the people were settled in Canaan, it was set up at Gilgal and Shiloh. It was captured by the Philistines and placed in an idol temple, 1 Sam., chs. 4, 5, 6. It was twenty years with Abinadab in Gibeah, three months in the house of Obed-Edom ; then placed in Solomon's temple ; afterwards severed from it, and again replaced by Josiah, 2 Chron. 35 : 1-3. Finally it is believed to have been consumed in the overthrow of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar.

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

By The Editor

We have here the place and the way in which God would have His people worship. The teacher should have a plan of the tabernacle clearly in his mind ; a blackboard or pad of writing paper will help out. Trace out with the class the names and positions of the several parts. Then, taking the lesson in reverse order, begin with :—

1. *The priests.* They alone could enter within. All others must stay outside, v. 12. They were to be washed (v. 12), to have their holy garments (ch. 28) put on, and to be set apart by anointing, to their office. None but the holy are fit for God's service.

2. *The altar of burnt-offering,* v. 10. The lambs and goats for sacrifice were to be slain beside the altar—blood taking away sin ; and the flesh burnt upon it—a symbol of the consecration of our bodies to God.

3. *The altar of incense,* v. 5—in the holy place ; the place of prayer, of which incense is the symbol. The incense was sprinkled with the blood : unless sin be first atoned for, prayer is of no avail. In the holy place were the candlestick (with seven lamps—the perfect number) indicating the light of God's presence ; and the loaves of shewbread, which stood (one for each tribe) for the consecration of their possessions to God.

4. *The ark of the testimony,* v. 2—in the holy of holies, where God dwelt. It contained the Ten Commandments, to remind the people that they must obey God, if they would accept Him, and the pot of manna, to win their love by recalling God's great deliverance of them. Over it was the mercy