

## Lesson X.

## HEZEKIAH REOPENS THE TEMPLE

December 4, 1904

2 Chronicles 29: 18-31. Study vs. 18-36. Commit to memory vs. 28-30. Read 2 Chronicles chs. 29-31.

**GOLDEN TEXT**—Them that honour me I will honour.—1 Samuel 2: 30.

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 Ahaz 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 Judah. And he commanded the priests the sons of Aaron 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 Israel: for the king commanded that the burnt offering and the sin offering should be made for all Israel.

**Revised Version**—1 within the palace; 2 table of shewbread, 3 when he trespassed; 4 princes; 5 And they killed the lambs, and sprinkled; 6 Omit they; 7 near; 8 a sin offering; 9 for the commandment was of the Lord; 10 together; 11 instruments of David; 12 praises; 13 willing heart.

25 And he set the Levites in the house of the Lord with cymbals, with psalteries, and with harps, according to the commandment of David, and of Gad the king's seer, and Nathan the prophet: for so was the commandment of the Lord by his prophets.

26 And the Levites stood with the instruments of David, 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 David king of Israel.

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.

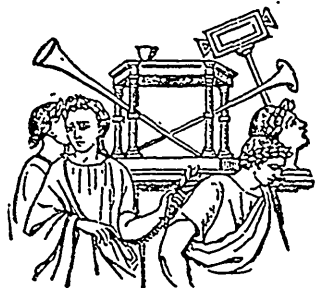
30 Moreover Hezekiah the king and the princes commanded the Levites to sing praise unto the Lord with the words of David, and of Asaph the seer. And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed their heads and worshipped.

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 EXPLAINED

**Time and Place**—Shortly after 726 B.C., the date when Hezekiah began to reign; Jerusalem.

**Connection**—Hezekiah, the fifth king of Judah after Joash (Lesson VII.), in the very first year of his reign (v. 3) set about cleansing the temple shut up by Ahaz, his predecessor (ch. 28: 24) and restoring its worship.



A Sculpture, representing the Table of Shewbread and Trumpets, from the Arch of Titus, erected in Rome to celebrate the fall of Jerusalem, 70 A.D.

**I. PREPARATION.**—18, 19. They; the priests commanded to cleanse the temple, v. 5. Went in to Hezekiah; to report that the work set on foot by him out of loyalty to Jehovah was completed. Cleansed all

the house; a task lasting sixteen days (v. 17), eight to cleanse the courts and eight to cleanse the temple itself. Altar of burnt offering; a platform of brass, thirty feet square and fifteen feet high, standing in the court before the temple door, used for offering sacrifices. Vessels thereof; ash-pans, shovels, basins for blood, flesh-hooks, fire pans, Ex. 27: 3. Shewbread table; a table set in

the part of the temple called "the holy place," on which twelve loaves, a loaf for each tribe, were placed every Sabbath, those removed being eaten by the priests, Ex. 25: 30; Lev. 24: 5-9. Vessels; dishes, Ex. 25: 29. All the vessels . . . which king Ahaz . . . did cast away. See ch. 28: 24. We have prepared and sanctified; cleansed and set apart anew to God's service.

**II. SACRIFICE.**—20, 21. Hezekiah . . . gathered the rulers of the city; its chief citizens. They must set an example to the rest. Brought . . . a sin offering. The sin offering taught that sin is a dreadful thing, requiring blood to be shed before it can be forgiven, and that it must be confessed and forsaken. For the kingdom (the king and rulers), . . . the sanctuary (the temple itself, which must be pure, if the worship is to be acceptable) . . . for Judah (the whole people). They had all signed. Commanded . . . the sons of Aaron to offer them. These had been divinely appointed for this duty, Ex. 28: 41.

22-24. Received . . . sprinkled. The blood was thus presented to God, and secured forgiveness for the offerer. So the precious blood of Jesus obtains pardon for us, 1 John 1: 7. Laid their hands on them. In so doing they confessed that they deserved to die for their sins, and offered to God the animal's life in place of their own. Made reconciliation; removed God's anger. To make an atonement; to bring God and the sinner together, taking away the sin that separates them. Burnt-offering. In