

[as suggested last month]. The books of the Bible had been scattered and forgotten. Ezra worked hard to get them in shape to use.

Why did Ezra want to go to Jerusalem? Jerusalem was "home." He knew that the first company of people who had taken that journey back to Jerusalem [lesson of August 27] had found their city in ruins, had rebuilt it with great toil and pains, but were growing neglectful of their new Church, forgetful of what little they knew about the Bible, disobedient and in trouble.

Ezra wanted to go home to carry the books of the Bible which he had collected; to teach this Bible, to teach the people to keep the Sabbath holy and worship the Lord.

When Ezra asked the king if he might go and might have help in getting ready the king was interested, and wrote a letter calling on his officers to help Ezra get off. The king gave Ezra gold and silver, wheat, wine, oil, salt, to take on his journey. How could Ezra travel if there were no cars? Over the desert on the back of a camel, while other camels were loaded with the gifts and treasures of the company—for many friends had decided to go with Ezra. What if they should meet robbers by the way? "I will send armed soldiers with you to protect you on your way," said the king. "I would be ashamed to ask for a band of soldiers to help us against enemies," said Ezra, "because we have already spoken to the king, saying, 'The hand of the Lord is leading all those who are seeking him. We will have a day of prayer, and not take the soldiers, trusting in God to lead the way in safety.'"

After their day of prayer Ezra gave the valuables to twelve chosen men, and said, "Watch ye, and keep them until ye give them up safely at the church in Jerusalem." "These things," said Ezra, "are holy unto the Lord; they are an offering unto the Lord. Watch them, keep them."

Did Ezra safely reach home, even without the armed soldiers to protect his caravan? "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Ezra lived to teach the word of the Lord in the church at home. The people listened and promised to obey.

Ezra's journey to Jerusalem reminds of another journey to Jerusalem hundreds of years later. We have all seen pictures of three wise men riding on camels across the desert. They were going to Jerusalem to seek some one who had been promised even in the long-ago days when Ezra preached. That promise was written in the very books of the Bible which Ezra carried home.

How did Ezra know the way to carry this glorious hope across the weary miles of his desert journey? "The hand of our God is upon all

them that seek him." "Thy word is a light unto my path."

How did the wise men know the way to where the young Child lay? How could they find the Saviour of the world? "Lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them." How shall we know the way to find the Christ-child? "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." "He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake."

### LESSON V. (October 29.)

#### PSALMS OF DELIVERANCE. Psa. 85 and 126.

GOLDEN TEXT: "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy." Psa. 126. 5.

#### Primary Notes.



*Introductory.* [The review of previous lessons is always understood.] One early spring morning a band of sowers went out to sow seed. Their master gave them seed-baskets and seed, and told them where to go and how to sow. At

first it was pleasant work, but as the day grew longer it grew harder. Some said, "We'll never finish;" others, "What is the use?" but the faithful ones among them all cried out, "Keep on, and be patient. Our Master promised us the sheaves if we would sow, and we must scatter his own seed, as he said." But even these hopeful ones often found the work hard, and many a tear dropped by the way, till at last the long day ended. Then there was a long waiting time, but at last the sowers were called to be reapers, and every faithful one came back with sheaves and with singing, for the word had come true, "They that sow shall reap."

*The lesson.* Our lesson is made up of two songs written to praise God for keeping his word to his people and bringing them back to their own land from Babylon. At the end of one of these psalms is a beautiful promise, and we will call our lesson a promise lesson, writing under this word, "They shall reap."

Now, the poor Jews in Babylon had a long sowing time for sowing seeds of sorrow for sin, faith, hope, and prayer. But the reaping time of gladness had come and they were filled with joy. Our sowing and reaping may be like this. We may sow many kinds of seed, and all good if our Master gives it. Let us look first at