

## Lesson V.

## A PSALM OF DELIVERANCE

October 29, 1911

Psalm 85. Commit to memory vs. 10, 11. Read Psalms 121, 122, 126.

GOLDEN TEXT—The Lord hath done great things for us ; whereof we are glad.—Psalm 126 : 3.

1 LORD, thou hast been favourable unto thy land: thou hast brought back the captivity of Jacob.

2 Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of thy people, thou hast covered all their sin. <sup>1</sup> Selah.3 Thou hast taken away all thy wrath : thou hast turned *thyself* from the fierceness of thine anger.4 Turn us. O God of our salvation, and cause <sup>2</sup> thine anger toward us to cease.

5 Wilt thou be angry with us for ever ? wilt thou draw out thine anger to all generations ?

6 Wilt thou not <sup>3</sup> revive us again : that thy people may rejoice in thee ?

7 Shew us thy mercy, O LORD, and grant us thy salvation.

Revised Version—<sup>1</sup> Omit Selah ; <sup>2</sup> indignation ; his footsteps a way to walk in.

## LESSON PLAN

I. Praise, 1-3.

II. Prayer, 4-7.

III. Promise, 8-13.

## DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association)

M.—A psalm of deliverance, Ps. 85. T.—Mercy and thanksgiving, Jer. 30 : 18-22. W.—God's deliverance, Ps. 124. Th.—Punishment and forgiveness, Ezek. 39 : 22-29. F.—Blessing of forgiveness, Ps. 32. S.—"Turn us!" Ps. 80. S.—God's great love, Eph. 2 : 1-10.

Shorter Catechism—Review Questions 101-104. The Question on Missions—5. What remains to be done ? Much misunderstanding of the Lord's

8 I will hear what God the LORD will speak : for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints : but let them not turn again to folly.

9 Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him ; that glory may dwell in our land.

10 Mercy and truth are met together ; righteousness and peace have kissed *each other*.11 Truth <sup>4</sup> shall spring out of the earth ; and righteousness <sup>5</sup> shall look down from heaven.12 Yea, the LORD shall give *that which is good* ; and our land shall yield her increase.13 Righteousness shall go before him ; and shall <sup>6</sup> set us in the way of his steps.quicken ; <sup>4</sup> springeth ; <sup>5</sup> hath looked down ; <sup>6</sup> make

Day Act must be removed, the people led to see the benefits of its operation, and those who come from other lands guided to its fair and reasonable observance. The purpose of some to repeal the Act and so break down the Christian Sabbath, must be defeated.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 445 (Supplemental Lesson); 133 ; 138 ; 38 (Ps. Sel.); 17 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 152.

Special Scripture Reading—Ps. 126. (To be read responsively or in concert by the whole School.)

Lantern Slides—For Lesson, B. 1120, "Thou preparest a table . . . in the presence of mine enemies" ; B. 829, The Weeping and Rejoicing of the People. (Slides may be obtained from the Presbyterian Lantern Slide Department, Weston, Ont., at \$2.00 a dozen.)

Stereograph—For Lesson, From the Temple Area Southwest Over the Modern Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem (Underwood &amp; Underwood, see page 469).

## EXPOSITION

Time and Place—Between B.C. 537 and 444, apparently Jerusalem.

Connecting Links—The Book of Psalms bears in the original the title "Praises" ; part of it is described in Ps. 72 : 20 as "prayers". These two words sum up the Book. When the devout Jew drew near to his God with song on his lips, the winged words bore aloft his praises and his prayers. Ps. 85 has both elements. It is commonly believed to have been composed for public recitation, shortly after the Jews had returned from captivity in Babylon. There are apparently psalms of the early kingdom, psalms of the later kingdom, psalms of the Exile and of the centuries after the return. Some think there are even psalms of the early part of the second century B.C. In any case the collection might have been described in our Lord's day as "Hymns Ancient and Modern",—150 songs chosen out of a thousand years of religious experience. No wonder the Book has stood the test of time.

I. Praise, 1-3.

V. 1. Lord ; "Jehovah", the covenant-

keeping God of Israel. *Thou hast been favourable* ; hast shown Thy good will in deeds, defined in the next line. *Unto thy land* ; that is to His people to whom He had given the land of Canaan. *Brought back the captivity of Jacob* ; that is, "Jacob (the Jews collectively are so named after their great ancestor) out of captivity". The reference is to the deliverance from the exile in Babylon, which involved three wonders : (1) the capture of Babylon by the Medes and Persians (Dan. 5 : 30, 31); (2) the permission from Cyrus for the Jews to return to their own land (Ezr. 1 : 1-4); (3) the escape of the Jews from the perils of their homeward journey (see Ezr. 8 : 22).Vs. 2, 3. *Hast forgiven* ; taken away like a heavy, crushing load. For sin the people had gone into exile ; when their *iniquity* (the twist in the inner nature shown in outward wrong-doing) was taken away, they were brought back. *Covered* ; as with a mantle, so that the people were in God's sight as though they had not sinned. *All*. The pardon was complete. *Their sin* ; their wandering from the right way or missing the