

God; but he failed, and its fulfilment was not granted. **I will lengthen thy days.** Solomon fell into sin, forsook the God of his father, and fell short of old age, dying at less than sixty years. No character in Scripture is more mingled of opposing elements, and none more disappointing in its results.

**15. It was a dream.** Though a dream, it was real, and showed his true desires and God's purposes. **Stood before the ark.** From the altar at Gibeon, he journeyed to the ark on Zion, and there renewed his offerings. **Burnt-offerings.** Sacrifices wholly consumed, expressive of entire consecration. **Peace-offerings.** Sacrifices of which a part was eaten in a feast before the altar, indicative of communion with God. **A feast to all his servants.** A sacrificial meal, consisting of the flesh of the animal sacrificed, and eaten as a part of the service.

#### GOLDEN TEXT.

**Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom.**—Prov. 4. 7.

#### OUTLINE.

1. A Prayer, v. 5-9.
2. An Answer, v. 10-14.
3. An Offering, v. 15.

#### LESSON HYMNS.

- No. 69, S. S. Hymnal.  
Come to the Saviour, make no delay.
- No. 122, S. S. Hymnal.  
Be it my only wisdom here.
- No. 74, S. S. Hymnal.  
We are coming, we are coming.

TIME.—B. C. 1015.

PLACE.—Gibeon, in the tribe of Judah.

CONNECTING LINK.—Solomon sacrificing at Gibeon. 1 Kings 3. 4.

EXPLANATIONS.—*The Lord appeared*—It was a visible appearance in a dream. *Ask what I shall give thee*—Every young man, like Solomon, makes his own choice in life. *A son to sit upon his throne*—The privilege of a son to succeed him was the great hope of an Israelite. *But a little child*—Solomon was not more than twenty years old and felt his own youth and lack of experience. *A great people that cannot be numbered*—This may not have been literally true, but it shows the great growth of the Israelite people. *An understanding heart*—Solomon asked for wisdom to rule over the kingdom. *Pleased the Lord*—God was pleased that one so young should choose so wisely. *Long life*—Which many desire. *Life of thine enemies*—That is, to have his enemies in his power. *None like thee*—Solomon has been ever regarded as the wisest among all the kings. *If thou wilt walk*—This charge Solomon failed to fulfil, and hence failed to receive the promise of long life. *It was a dream*—Yet it expressed the desires of Solomon's heart. *Came to Jerusalem*—To offer sacrifices before the ark of God. *Peace-offer-*

*ings*—Sacrifices showing the worshipper at peace with God.

#### HOME READINGS.

- M. Solomon's choice. 1 Kings 3. 5-15.  
W. The choice of Lot. Gen. 13. 5-18.  
Th. The wisdom of Daniel. Dan. 1. 21.  
Th. God's goodness to Solomon. 1 Kings 4. 22-34.  
F. The source of wisdom. 2 Tim. 10-17.  
S. The safety of wisdom. Prov. 2. 1-15.  
S. Advice from experience. Prov. 4. 1-13.

#### QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. A Prayer, v. 5-9. What happened to Solomon at Gibeon? What was the king doing there? v. 4. What assurance had he that his sacrifice was accepted? What assurance has Jesus given to those who come to him? Matt. 7. 7. What acts of God's goodness did Solomon acknowledge? What confession of his weakness did he make? For what did he ask? Why did he ask for wisdom? What is said of wisdom in Prov. 4. 7? Define wisdom. Job 28. 28. What should be our prayer? Psa. 90. 12.
2. An Answer, v. 10-14. For what gifts had Solomon failed to ask? What had he preferred to them? How was his choice rewarded? What added blessings were bestowed? Upon what conditions was long life promised?
3. An Offering, v. 15. Where did Solomon return upon awaking? How did he show his gratitude to God? Who benefited by his gratitude?

#### TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where in this lesson are we taught—

1. That God is a hearer of prayer?
2. That humility of heart is acceptable to God?
3. That God will supply all the needs of a prayerful heart?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.—(For the entire school.) 1. What did God say to Solomon in a dream by night? "Ask what I shall give thee." 2. For what did Solomon ask? An understanding heart. 3. How did God receive Solomon's reply? "The speech pleased the Lord." 4. What did God also give Solomon in addition to wisdom? Riches and honour. 5. What did Solomon do when he awoke? Offered sacrifices to God before the ark.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Communion with God.

#### QUESTIONS FOR SENIOR STUDENTS.

1. A Prayer, v. 5-9. Where was the prayer offered, and under what circumstances? How could a prayer be offered in a dream? What mercies did Solomon recount? What choice did Solomon make? Why was such a choice made? What character did it show?
2. An Answer, v. 10-14. Why was Solomon's choice pleasing to God? What did God promise to give him? How does God answer the prayers of his people? Matt. 7. 7-11. What additional promise did God give? Upon