

# Notes on the Lessons.

## LESSON IX—November 29th, 1896.

### The Fame of Solomon. 1 KINGS 10: 1-10.

(Commit to memory verses 6-8).

GOLDEN TEXT: "Behold, a greater than Solomon is here." Matt. 12: 42.

PROVE THAT—God gives liberally. Jas. 1: 5.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Questions 67, 68, 69.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 157, 29, 21, 164.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* The fame of Solomon. 1 Kings 10: 1-13. *Tuesday.* Excelling in greatness. 1 Kings 10: 14-23. *Wednesday.* World-wide renown. 1 Kings 10: 24-29. *Thursday.* Unsatisfying. Eccl. 2: 1-11. *Friday.* Supremacy of God. Ps. 89: 1-8. *Saturday.* A greater than Solomon. Matt. 12: 38-42. *Sabbath.* The glory of Christ. Rev. 1: 9-18. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

### EXPOSITORY NOTES.

INTRODUCTORY. We read in Lesson III. that "that there came of all people to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all the kings of the earth, which had heard of his wisdom." Our lesson gives an account of one of these royal seekers after wisdom. Parallel passage 2 Chr. 9: 1-12. Time, B. C. 992.

LESSON PLAN. What the Queen, I. Heard. vs. 1-3. II. Saw. vs. 4, 5. III. Said. vs. 6-9. IV. Gave. vs. 10.

1. And when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon—Sheba embraced the greater part of Arabia Felix, or Yemen, near the mouth of the Red Sea. It's people were Semitic (1 Chr. 1: 17, 22). It is to be distinguished from Seba (Ps. 72: 10) an Ethiopian kingdom named from a grandson of Ham (Gen. 10: 7; 1 Chr. 1: 9). A confusion of these two names has led to the Abyssinian tradition that the queen referred to was the legendary *Maqueda*, sovereign of that country and ancestress of its kings down to the present Menelek who is proving such a valiant defender of his realm against the Italians. Moreover, the presents brought were Arabian, not African, products. The spices, &c. of Sheba are referred to in Jer. 6: 20; Ezek. 27: 22; Isa. 60: 6; Ps. 72: 15. In Matt. 12: 40 Sheba is spoken of as being in "the uttermost parts of the earth" which would well describe the extreme south of Arabia (See also Joel 3: 8). Its people are identified with the Sabeans (Job. 1: 15). Arabian tradition, preserved in the Koran names this princess, *Balkis*. By many Ophir, from which Solomon obtained gold, is believed to have been a port of this country (Compare Ps. 72: 15; Isa. 60: 6) and, if so, we can easily understand how his fame would reach the ears of this exceedingly large minded woman. Concerning the name of the Lord—Lit. "in relation to" or "in connection with the name of Jehovah." Various meanings are attached to this obscure phrase. "The fame that Solomon had acquired through the fact that the Lord had so glorified himself in him." (Keil). "His religious fame, as distinct from his literary, military, or political fame." (Rawlinson). "The house built to Jehovah's name was the first and principal reason of Solomon's fame." (Zoeckler). But her object in coming was not to see the temple but to test Solomon's wisdom, we would, therefore, conclude that Solomon had taken care to let the whole world know that all his riches, and power, his magnificence and his wisdom, were gifts to him from the Lord. He gave God the glory in everything, so that the queen of Sheba desired to see and hear a man so highly favored. She came to prove him with hard questions—To test his wisdom and cleverness with the enigmas common, now as then, in eastern lands. We have an example of one of these in Samson's riddle (Judges 14: 12-14), and Prov. 30: 15-31 seems to contain answers to such questions. 2. And