

LESSON VII—November 15th, 1896.

God's Blessing upon Solomon. I KINGS 9: 1-9.

(Commit to memory verses 4, 5).

GOLDEN TEXT: "The blessing of the Lord it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it." Prov. 10: 22.

PROVE THAT—God hears prayer. Ps. 65: 2.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Questions 60, 61, 62.

LESSON HYMNS.—*Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 6, 10, 222, 100,

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* God's blessing upon Solomon. I Kings 9: 1-9. *Tuesday.* Wisdom and understanding. Deut. 4: 1-10. *Wednesday.* Conditions of prosperity. Deut. 11: 13-21. *Thursday.* Blessing of the Lord. Deut. 28: 1-14. *Friday.* Warnings fulfilled. 2 Kings 25: 1-10. *Saturday.* The heathen reproaching. Jer. 22: 1-9. *Sabbath.* Godliness is profitable. Ps. 112. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. This second dream from God was not sent immediately after the festival of the Dedication. At least twenty years (verse 10) had elapsed since the events narrated in our last lesson, but the vision refers to the prayer then offered up, Parallel passage 2 Chr. 7: 11-22.

LESSON PLAN. I. The Promise. vs. 1-5. II. The Warning. vs. 6-9.

1. The king's house—The whole range of buildings connected with the royal residence mentioned in ch. 7: 1-8. They occupied thirteen years in building. Solomon gave his attention first to God's house and hastened its erection, but proceeded more leisurely with his own palaces (Ps. 132: 4, 5). All Solomon's desire—(2 Chr. 7: 11). The reference is to the edifices which he set his heart upon erecting (2 Chr. 8: 9; Eccl. 2: 10). 2. The second time—He seems to have received another message while building the temple (ch. 6: 11-13), but this may have been delivered by Nathan, or some other prophet. This was the second direct communication from God. As he had appeared unto him at Gibeon—*i. e.* in a dream (ch. 3: 5; 2 Chr. 7: 12). 3. I have heard thy prayer—The prayer offered at the dedication (ch. 8: 59). God answered Solomon's prayer at the time by the cloud of glory. Hallowed—As he had manifested his acceptance of the tabernacle (Ex. 29: 43; 2 Chr. 5: 14; 7: 1-3). My name—The visible token of the divine presence and favor (ch. 8: 29; Deut. 12: 11; Luke 11: 2). Mine eyes and mine heart—"The eye to watch and the heart to cherish." Again God gives Solomon more than he had asked for (ch. 8: 29; Eph. 3: 20). 4. As David thy father walked—David was not perfect but he never faltered in his loyalty to God. He loved him with heart, and soul, and strength, and mind (Ps. 18: 20-24; 1 Kings 14: 8; 15: 5). 5. I will establish—in answer to his prayer (ch. 8: 25, 26). God is the real "King-maker" (Prov. 8: 15; Dan. 2: 21; Rom. 13: 1). 6. If ye shall at all—*i. e.* wholly, entirely, altogether. The punishment that follows is that of complete apostasy (2 Chr. 7: 19). While there is hope of reform

God is long-suffering and corrects his children. Only when their rejection of him is final and complete does he cast them off (2 Sam. 7: 14, 15). Ye or your children—We can inherit the blessings promised to our fathers (Acts 2: 39) only if we imitate their piety (Ezek. 18: 5, 10, 14). Serve other gods—The Israelites had been very prone to idolatry in the past (Ex. 22: 1-6, see how often in the book of Judges it is said that "they did evil in the sight of the Lord") and this tendency led at last to the infliction of the punishment here threatened (2 Chr. 26: 14-17). 7. Then will I cut off Israel—The same threat occurs in Deut. 4: 26; 28: 37, 35, 63. For its sad fulfilment read 2 Kings 25: 1-30. God gives sinners ample warning and bears with them for a long time, but he does not forget to keep his word at last. Cast out of my sight—This was just the opposite of what Solomon had prayed for (1 Kings 8: 29). A proverb and a bye-word—Men would speak of them with contempt and scorn (Deut. 28: 37). Shame and sin can never be separated (Prov. 18: 3; 10: 7). 8. At this house which is high—Lit. "and this house shall be high" *i. e.* a conspicuous example of the judgment denounced. The R. V. reads "and though this house be high." Its present glory shall make its ruin the more notable (2 Chr. 7: 21). See also Deut. 29: 24, 25; Jer. 22: 8. 9. All this was fulfilled in the destruction of Solomon's temple by Nebuchadnezzar and the captivity in Babylon. It found a second fulfilment when, because of their rejection of Christ, the second temple was destroyed by the Romans and the Jews dispersed among the nations (Lev. 26: 31, 32; Isa. 5: 5, 6; Dan. 9: 26, 27; Micah 3: 12; Luke 13: 35; Jer. 2: 19).

LESSONS. 1. God hallows gifts that are made with a consecrated heart. 2. Obedience brings blessings. 3. God wants our whole heart. 4. God's judgments are sure. 5. Even the world despises unworthy Christians.