

THE SWEET OLD STORY

Tell me about the Master!
I am weary and worn to-night,
The day has behind me in shadow,
And only the evening is light.
Light with a radiant glow
That lingers about the west;
But my heart is weary, weary,
And longs like a child's for rest.

Tell me about the Master!
Of the hills he in loneliness trod,
When the tears and blood of his anguish,
Dropped down on Judaea's sod,
For to me life's twenty milestones
But a sorrowful journey mark,
Rough lies the hill country behind me,
The mountains behind me are dark.

Tell me about the Master!
Of the wrongs that he freely forgave!
Of his love and tender compassion;
Of his love that was mighty to save,
For my heart is weary, weary,
Of the woes and temptations of life,
Of the error that stalks in the noonday,
Of falsehood and malice and strife.

Yet I know that whatever of sorrow
Or pain or temptation befall,
The infinite Master hath suffered,
And knoweth and pitieth all.
So tell me the sweet old story,
That falls on each wound like a balm,
And the heart that was bruised and broken
Grows patient, and strong, and calm.

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE PENTATEUCH.

B.C. 1491.] LESSON I [Oct. 2.

FREE GIVING; OR, THE CHEERFUL GIVERS.

Erod. 35 25-35 Commit to memory v. 25-29.

25. And all the women that were wise-hearted did spin with their hands, and brought that which they had spun, both of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, and of fine linen.

26. And all the women whose heart stirred them up in wisdom spun goats' hair.

27. And the rulers brought onyx stones, and stones to be set, for the ephod, and for the breastplate;

28. And spice, and oil for the light, and for the anointing oil, and for the sweet incense.

29. The children of Israel brought a willing offering unto the Lord, every man and woman, whose heart made them willing to bring, for all manner of work which the Lord had commanded to be made by the hand of Moses.

30. And Moses said unto the children of Israel, See, the Lord hath called by name Bezaleel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah:

31. And he hath filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship;

32. And to devise curious works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass.

33. And in the cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of wood, to make any manner of cunning work.

34. And he hath put in his heart that he may teach, both he, and Aholiab the son of Ahisamsch, of the tribe of Dan.

35. Them hath he filled with wisdom of heart, to work all manner of work of the engraver, and of the cunning workman, and of the embroiderer in blue, and in purple, in scarlet, and in fine linen, and of the weaver, even of them that do any work, and of those that devise cunning work.

GOLDEN TEXT.

God loveth a cheerful giver. 2 Cor. 9. 7.

OUTLINE.

1. Gifts of Service. v. 25, 26
2. Gifts of Substance. v. 27-29.
3. Gifts of Skill. v. 30-35.

TIME.—B.C. 1491.

PLACE.—The plain before Mount Sinai.

CONNECTING LINES.—1. Moses in the mount a second time. Exod. 34. 2. The people summoned to contribute to the building of the tabernacle. Exod. 35 1-20.

EXPLANATIONS.—Wise hearted—Possessed of skill. Spin with their hands—Spinning and weaving were then done by hand, with very simple tools. Brought—For the building of the tabernacle. Blue—The meaning is, either blue thread for weaving, or blue cloth woven, for the curtains of the tabernacle.

Onyx—A very valuable gem, of different colours. Stones to be set—Twelve different stones, each inscribed with the name of a tribe, were fixed in the high-priest's breastplate. Ephod—The robe worn by the priest. Spice—For the making of incense. Light—Of the golden candlestick. Willing—Showing interest in the work. Spirit of God—The gift of skill in art was from God. Curious works—Works of beauty for the tabernacle. Teach—Not only to work, but to teach others to work.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

1. Gifts of Service, v. 25, 26.

For what did the people of Israel give?

Who gave their service?

What was their work?

For what was their work used?

What work can we do for the cause of God?

What example of gifts of service is named in Acts 9 36?

Who is our great example in giving to others?

2 Cor. 8. 9

What is our best offering to Christ? 2 Cor. 8. 5.

2. Gifts of Substance, v. 27-29.

What is meant by "substance?" [Avs. Possessions, property.]

What gifts of substance were brought by the rulers?

For what were their gifts used?

Who besides the rulers brought gifts?

What spirit was shown in their offerings?

What spirit is acceptable to God? GOLDEN TEXT.

What gift of money was especially praised by Christ? Mark 12. 42, 44.

How does God regard our gifts? 2 Cor. 8 12

What did Christ say about giving? Acts 20. 35.

What are some of the objects toward which all people should give?

3. Gifts of Skill, v. 30-35.

What two persons are here named as possessing skill?

In what did Bezaleel possess skill? v. 32, 33.

In what was Aholiab skilful? v. 35.

From whom did their skill come?

To what work did God call them?

How should people use the talents that God gives them?

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where in this lesson do we find—

1. An example of working for God?

2. An example of giving to God?

3. An evidence that all gifts are from God?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. To what were the Israelites called upon to contribute? To the building of the tabernacle.

2. What did the people give? Their means and their work.

3. In what spirit did they give? They gave willingly and abundantly.

4. How did God regard their giving? With favor.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The acceptable offering.

B.C. 1490.] LESSON II. [Oct. 9.

THE TABERNACLE; OR, THE GLORY OF THE LORD.

Erod. 40. 1-16. Commit to memory v. 9-11.

1. And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,

2. On the first day of the first month shalt thou set up the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation.

3. And thou shalt put therein the ark of the testimony, and cover the ark with the veil.

4. And thou shalt bring in the table, and set in order the things that are to be set in order upon it; and thou shalt bring in the candlestick, and light the lamps thereof.

5. And thou shalt set the altar of gold for the incense before the ark of the testimony, and put the hanging of the door to the tabernacle.

6. And thou shalt set the altar of the burnt-offering before the door of the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation.

7. And thou shalt set the laver between the tent of the congregation and the altar, and shalt put water therein.

8. And thou shalt set up the court round about, and hang up the hanging at the court gate.

9. And thou shalt take the anointing oil, and anoint the tabernacle, and all that is therein, and shalt hallow it, and all the vessels thereof: and it shall be holy.

10. And thou shalt anoint the altar of the burnt-offering, and all his vessels, and sanctify the altar: and it shall be an altar most holy.

11. And thou shalt anoint the laver and his foot, and sanctify it.

12. And thou shalt bring Aaron and his sons unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and wash them with water.

13. And thou shalt put upon Aaron the holy garments, and anoint him, and sanctify him; that he may minister unto me in the priest's office.

14. And thou shalt bring his sons, and clothe them with coats:

15. And thou shalt anoint them, as thou didst anoint their father, that they may minister to me in the priest's office: for their anointing shall surely be an everlasting priesthood throughout their generations.

16. Thus did Moses: according to all that the Lord commanded him, so did he.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. Exod. 40. 34.

OUTLINE.

1. An Anointed Place, 1-11.

2. An Anointed Priesthood, 12-16.

TIME.—B.C. 1491.

PLACE.—The plain before Mount Sinai. All the lessons from II to VIII belong to the same time and place.

CONNECTING LINKS.—The construction of the tabernacle and its furniture. Exod. 36-39.

EXPLANATIONS.—The tabernacle—A tent for the worship of God, which stood in the middle of the camp of Israel. It was about forty-five feet long and fifteen feet high and wide, divided into two parts, the outer called the *holy place*, and the inner the *holy of holies*. In the *holy place*, on the right, stood the *table of show-bread*, on which were twelve cakes of unleavened bread; on the left the *golden candlestick* with its seven lamps; in the further end, close by the veil, the *golden altar of incense*. Into this room the priests went every day to trim the lamps and to offer incense; but into the inner room the high-priest alone could enter, and he on but one day in the year—the day of atonement. This room contained only the chest or box called the *ark of the covenant*, about four feet long, two and a quarter feet wide, and two and a quarter feet deep, made of wood, covered within and without with plates of gold. In this box were kept the two stone tables of the ten commandments. Its lid was known as the *mercy-seat*, and upon it stood two figures called cherubim, over which was the *glory of God*, called the *Shekinah*. Around the tabernacle was an open place called the *court*, one hundred and fifty feet long by seventy-five feet wide, which was surrounded by a curtain hung on posts about ten feet high. In this court stood the *altar of burnt offerings*, made of wood, covered within and without by plates of brass or copper, and on which sacrifices were offered twice each day; also the *brass laver*, at which the priests washed themselves and the sacrifices. None but the Levites could enter the court, and none but Aaron and his sons could enter the tabernacle itself.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

[Read carefully the foregoing Explanations for answers to these questions.]

1. An Anointed Place, v. 1-11.

What place is here meant?

What was the form of the tabernacle?

What was its purpose?

Why was it a tent rather than a house?

[ANS. Because it was to be moved throughout the wilderness.]

Into how many rooms was it divided?

What were their names?

What three things stood in the *holy place*?What stood in the *holy of holies*?

What was contained in the ark of the covenant?

What stood over it?

How often was the *holy of holies* entered?

What was outside the tabernacle?

What stood within this court?

What was commanded to Moses in v. 9?

What was the purpose of this anointing?

Where is now God's temple? 1 Cor. 3. 16.

How then should we live? 1 Cor. 3. 17.

2. An Anointed Priesthood, v. 12-16.

Who were chosen as the priests of God?

What was Moses commanded to do to them?

What is said in 2 Cor. 6. 11?

What were placed upon Aaron?

What was then done to him?

For what purpose was he anointed?

What was done to his sons?

What were Aaron's descendants to be? v. 16.

What is said of all Christians in 1 Pet. 2. 9?

Who is our high-priest? Heb. 3. 1.

What is his character and our privilege? Heb. 4. 15, 16.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where may we learn from this lesson—

1. That God's worship requires care?

2. That God's worship requires purity?

3. That God's worship requires consecration?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What was the tabernacle? A tent for the worship of God. 2. What was the outer of its two rooms called? The *holy place*. 3. What three things stood in the *holy place*? The table, the candlestick, and the incense-altar. 4. What was the inner-room called? The *holy of holies*. 5. What did it contain? The ark of the covenant. 6. What was outside of the tabernacle? The court. 7. What stood in the court? The great altar and the laver. 8. Who is now the high-priest of the Christian Church? Jesus, the Son of God.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The priesthood of Christ.

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