

LESSON V.

PSALMS OF DELIVERANCE

October 29, 1899

Psalms 85 and 126. Commit to memory Psalm 126. Read Jeremiah 31

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

2 Thou hast loosed from the iniquity of thy people, thou hast covered all their sin. *Re-lah.*

3 Thou hast taken away all thy wrath: thou hast turned *away* from the fierceness of thine anger.

4 Turn us, O God of our salvation, and cause 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 revive us again? that thy people may rejoice in thee?

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

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; righteous-

ness and peace have kissed each other.

11 Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness 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 set us in the way of his steps.

Ps. 126: 1 When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream.

2 There was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue was singing: then said they among the heathen, *These LORD hath done great things for them.*

3 The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.

4 Turn again our captivity, O LORD, as the streams in the south.

5 They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.

6 He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

Revised Version.—1 Indignation; 2 Quicken; 3 Springeth; 4 Hath looked down; 5 Make his footsteps a way to walk in; 6 Unto them; 7 Nations; 8 South (a capital S); 9 Though he goeth on his way weeping, bearing forth the seed; 10 He shall come again with joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

GOLDEN TEXT

"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy." Ps. 126: 5.

DAILY READINGS

M.—Psalm 85. Psalms of deliverance.

T.—Psalm 126. Psalms of deliverance.

W.—Jer. 30: 18-24. Promise of deliverance.

Th.—Jer. 31: 1-12. A joyful prospect.

F.—Jer. 33: 1-14. Pardon and restoration.

S.—Zech. 8: 1-8. A joyful city.

S.—Psalm 124. The Great Deliverer.

TIME AND PLACE

Precise date unknown, but the Psalms have the tone of the period of the return of the exiles from Babylon.

CATECHISM

Q. 77. What is required in the ninth commandment?

A. The ninth commandment requireth the maintaining and promoting of truth between man and man, and of our own and our neighbour's good name, especially in witness bearing.

LESSON PLAN

I. The Prelude, Psalm 85.

Remembrance, 1-3; Petition, 4-7; Confidence, 8-13.

II. The Anthem, Psalm 126.

Joy; Thanksgiving; hope.

LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise—389, 11 (Ps.), 189, 17, 455.

CONNECTING LINKS

The two psalms which we study to-day show us how glad and grateful God's people were for deliverance and restoration to their own land.

EXPOSITION

I. The Prelude, Psalm 85.

V. 1. *Lord, thou hast been favourable unto thy land; literally, "well pleased with Thy land." His pleasure was shown in that He had brought back the captivity of Jacob, that is, had brought back to their own land the captive Jews. It was indeed a signal manifestation of His favor, for the event seemed all but impossible, being opposed to the settled policy of the Babylonian kings.*

Vs. 2, 3. *Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of thy people. Sin was the cause of their captivity, especially the sin of idolatry (2 Chron. 36: 14-17). Their deliverance was a proof that their sin had been forgiven. Thou hast covered all their sin. Here sin is regarded as something offensive that must be covered up*

from sight. Thou hast taken away all thy wrath. The wrath of God is not blind passion. It is His holy will taking action against anything that comes between Him and the affections of His people. When the offensive thing is put away, then God's anger is put away. The fierceness of thine anger; as seen in the desolation of the country, the ruin of the Temple, and the horrors of the long captivity.

V. 4. *Turn us, O God of our salvation. Turn us to Thyself and complete the salvation already begun. Only a small portion of the exiles had come back. The rest were still scattered throughout the Persian Empire. Sin, too, was manifesting itself among those that had returned. The psalmist*