



LESSON XII.—SEPTEMBER 17.

Power Through the Spirit.

Zech. iv., 1-4. Read the Chapter. Memory verses 8-10. Compare Ezra vi., 14-22.

Golden Text.

'Not by night, nor by power, but by my Spirit saith the Lord of hosts.—Zech. iv., 6.

Home Readings.

M. Zech. 4. Power through the Spirit.
 T. 2 Chron. 20; 5-13. 'Not by might.'
 W. 2 Chron. v2: 1-8. The Arm of the Lord.
 Th. Isa. 59: 16-21. Spirit of the Lord.
 F. Rom. 15: 13-21. Wrought by the Spirit.
 S. 1 Cor. 1: 18-31. Power in weakness.
 Su. p Cor. 3. Life by the Spirit.

Lesson Story.

Supt.—1. And the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep.

School.—2. And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof:

3. And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof.

4. So I answered and spoke to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these my Lord?

5. Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord.

6. Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the Lord unto Ze-rub'ba-bel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.

7. Who art thou, O great mountain? before Ze-rub'ba-bel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it.

8. Moreover the word of the Lord came unto me, saying,

9. The hands of Ze-rub'ba-bel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the Lord of hosts hath sent me unto you.

10. For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Ze-rub'ba-bel with those seven; they are the eyes of the Lord, which run to and fro through the whole earth.

11. Then answered I, and said unto him, What are these two olive trees upon the right side of the candlestick and upon the left side thereof?

12. And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive pipes which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves?

13. And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord.

14. Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.

Suggestions.

Haggai, the aged prophet, had encouraged the people in a great forward movement in religious matters. By his prophecies and messages of hope and blessing, he had cheered the people on to begin again to rebuild the Temple which had lain in ruin and desolations for the last seventy years.

Zechariah, a much younger man, but also filled with the Spirit of God and taught by him, was sent to the people at about the same time with a message from Jehovah. In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius, (November, B. C. 520) came the word of the Lord unto Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo. Iddo was one of the heads of the twelve courses of priests, and Zechariah became his successor, thus being both prophet and priest. Three months after the first message, God spoke again to Zechariah, and set before his vision eight wonderful pictures, object lessons for poor, desolate dis-

couraged Israel. The first vision was given that they might realize that the God of the whole earth was still planning and caring for them. The second vision showing the four dreadful horrors, symbols of the powers of earth which had been allowed to destroy Jerusalem and disperse her people, and the carpenters, symbols of the mighty forces of God, filing and sawing and destroying these horrors, was a bright spot of hope and encouragement. God's forces are mightier than all the powers on earth.

In the third vision a man with a measuring line is seen going about the city as though to ascertain the extent of what had been done toward the rebuilding and what had still to be done. But God's plan can not be ascertained by finite measurements. And the angel is sent to fill the man with a surveying, for 'Jerusalem shall be inhabited as towns without walls' * * * for I, saith the Lord, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her.' The fourth vision typifies the forgiveness of the sons of the nation in the person of Joshua the high priest, whose filthy rags are changed for the glorious raiment suitable to the minister of God. And the branch is promised, the coming Messiah.

The fifth vision showed the golden candlestick of seven branches symbol of the perfect light. The number seven signifies perfection, the candlestick was in the form of an upright with six lateral branches, three on each side. As Zechariah beheld this candlestick he saw on either side of the golden bowl which held its supply of oil, an olive tree. From each tree a golden pipe led down to the golden bowl with a constant, living, never failing supply of the persisting oil. Oil is always a type of the Holy Spirit, the olive trees, the two anointed ones typify the Spirit of God and Jesus Christ, the sources of light and power. The candlestick signified the Jewish nation and the glorious power it would have if it would but keep in the close, vital connection with God typified by the candlestick and the olive trees. The candlestick now typifies the church of Christ, or any individual believer who will keep in the same close contact with God; that the Spirit of Christ can be constantly poured in. The candlestick without the oil was worthless as far as giving light went.

Zerubbabel, the governor, may have grown discouraged by the constant efforts of the enemy to frustrate their highest hopes and plans. The depressing dulness of the people and their lethargic condition spiritually, must have made him sometimes wonder if they ever could accomplish that for which they had journeyed so far and undergone so many hardships years before. Harrassed on every side, the little handful of Jews may often have wished that they were a great and powerful nation with an immense army that could subdue all their enemies. But Jehovah was teaching them. Not by an army, not by earthly forces, not by human power, but by the Spirit of God should they prevail, was the promise of Jehovah, the Lord of hosts.

The faith to remove mountains (Matt. xvii., 20) was to be given to Zerubbabel, the difficulties in the way of building the temple would disappear, and the governor should bring forth the headstone with great joy and praise.

The Bible Class.

The Holy Spirit.—Eph. v., 18; Gal. v., 22-25; Acts xix., 2, 6; I., 8; John xiv., 26; xv., 26; xvi., 13, 14; Rom. viii., 5-9, 13-6, 26.

C. E. Topic.

Supt. 17. Unhesitating confidence in Christ. 2 Tim. 1: 1-12.

Junior C. E.

Sept. 17. Christ's entrance; how can we honor Christ? Mark 11: 1-11.

A wise teacher kindly receives even the wrong replies, so that the children may not be discouraged from expressing themselves again. In so far as these wrong replies contain ideas that will mislead, they are corrected, but otherwise the error is left unnoticed. These wrong replies come oftener than otherwise as a result of careless questions. A teacher who keeps himself at his best finds his way pretty clear of perplexities of any sort.—Mrs. Crafts.



Tobacco Catechism.

(By Dr. R. H. McDonald, of San Francisco.)

CHAPTER.—XV.

CIGARETTES.

1. Q.—What is a fact in regard to the manufacture of cigarettes?

A.—That many of them contain opium, while the wrapper, warranted to be rice paper, is only common paper whitened with arsenic.

2. Q.—How are opiates used in the manufacture of tobacco?

A.—A solution is sprinkled on the tobacco. Spices are used to flavor cigar boxes and destroy the strong fumes of poor tobacco.

3. Q.—Name some articles used in flavoring tobacco.

A.—Sugar, honey, orange peel, lemon peel, mace, cloves, spices of all kinds, vanilla, licorice, valerian, tonka-bean, opiates, laudanum, Spanish wine, Santa Cruz rum, and liquors of all sorts.

4. Q.—What does Dr. Hammond, the celebrated expert in brain diseases, say of the ill effects of cigarette smoking?

A.—It produces facial neuralgia, sleeplessness, nervous dyspepsia, sciatica, and strong dislike for mental exertion.

5. Q.—What is meant by the term 'cigar-butt grubbers'?

A.—Those who pick up from gutters and sidewalks stumps and half-burnt cigars which are dried and then used in making cigarettes.

6. Q.—What do we learn from the newspapers of San Francisco?

A.—That one hundred and ninety-five cases of leprosy have been traced by the physicians to the smoking of cigarettes made by the Chinese lepers.

7. Q.—Are cigarettes hurtful?

A.—More so than cigars, because the paper used for cigarettes has lead or arsenic used in its manufacture.

8. Q.—Is not the small amount of tobacco in a cigarette too little to be hurtful?

A.—No, the smaller amount of tobacco is hurtful, besides a poor quality is used in cigarettes, and the most popular brands have opium in them.

9. Q.—Is it more hurtful to smoke cigarettes than cigars or pipes?

A.—Yes, because cigarettes are made of inferior tobacco and often of castaway cigar stumps and quids, of tobacco that scavengers and Chinamen pick up from hotel and barroom spittoons, alleys, and sidewalks. No spot is too disgusting to fish them out of.

10. Q.—Are the cigarettes made from old cigar stumps dangerous as well as disgustingly filthy?

A.—They are, because men with all sorts of vile diseases have had them in their mouths; drunkards, and men cursed with the frightful ailments common to degraded humanity, whose very touch will communicate disease.

11. Q.—What says a noted physician?

A.—I never observed such pallid faces, nor ever knew so many consumptive affections as of late years, and I trace this alarming inroad on young constitutions principally to the pernicious custom of cigarette smoking.

12. Q.—How many cigarettes were consumed in this country last year?

A.—It is estimated that 2,450,000,000 (two billion four hundred and fifty million) cigarettes were consumed in this country last year, largely by young men and boys.

13. Q.—What is the latest cigarette?

A.—A brandy cigarette is the latest thing from Boston. It is made of tobacco that has been soaked in brandy, and the smoker is enabled to keep mildly intoxicated without touching a drop of liquor.

It is well known that the nerves are directly affected by cigarette smoking—doubtless more so than by the ordinary cigar or super-fragrant pipe. But it may not be generally understood that nerves of the teeth are actually killed by this indulgence. It appears from the testimony of a Brooklyn dentist that this is the case.