

The Bible.

STUDY it carefully ;
Think of it prayerfully ;
Deep in thy heart let its precepts dwell ;
Slight not its history ;
Ponder its mystery ;
None can e'er prize it too fondly or well.

Accept the glad tidings,
The warnings and chidings,
Found in this volume of heavenly lore ;
With faith that's unfailling,
And love all prevailing,
Trust in its promise of life evermore.

May this message of love,
From our Father above,
To all nations and kindreds be given,
Till the ransomed shall raise
Joyous anthems of praise,
Hallelujah on earth and in heaven.

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN JEWISH HISTORY.

B.C. 1042] LESSON II. [Oct. 13

THE ARK BROUGHT TO ZION.

1 Sam. 6. 1-12. Memory verses, 11, 12.

OUTLINE.

The Lord loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. Psalm 87. 2.

GOLDEN TEXT.

- 1. The House of Abinadab, ver. 1-5.
2. The Threshing-floor of Nachon, ver. 6-8.
3. The House of Obed-edom, ver. 9-11.
4. The Gates of Zion, ver. 12.

TIME.—1042 B.C.

PLACES.—Kirjath-jearim, Jerusalem, and the house of Obed-edom.

CONNECTING LINKS.—David is at last securely settled in his kingdom. He had defeated the Philistines in a great battle, and had thus firmly united the tribes under one government. Now he begins the first of his many acts of devotion to religious centralization. He resolves to bring the ark from Kirjath-jearim, where it had been for almost one hundred years in the house of Abinadab.

EXPLANATIONS.—Chosen men of Israel—These were men chosen from all the tribes: herein the king shows his political wisdom. Upon a new cart—Directly contrary to the command governing the method of carrying it by staves thrust through rings. Psaltaries . . . timbrels—It is not surely agreed by the commentators what these were, so we cannot describe. Cymbals—Somewhat like our modern cymbals, and designed for a similar use. Instead of being flat, however, they were convex.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

- 1. The House of Abinadab. Where had the ark been for the century since Eli's death? What devout purpose now filled David's heart? How extensive a pageant did he propose in its honour? What singular ignorance or neglect of the law concerning the ark's moving did they show? Can you explain the different names used in connection with its location—Baale of Judah, Kirjath-jearim, Gibeah? What sort of procession did they form to carry it?
2. The Threshing-floor of Nachon. What has made this place ever memorable in history? Why did the tragedy here narrated occur? Num. 4. 15. How could the ark be carried if it was not touched? What was the effect of this on David? Was this feeling due to unbelief, or to ignorance, or a proper desire for divine guidance?
3. The House of Obed-edom. What disposition was made of the ark? What was the experience of this family? What did this teach David? What preparation seems to have been made in the interim? Ver. 13. Where was the ark now placed? Ver. 17.
4. The Gates of Zion. What had become of the old tabernacle?

How long did the ark remain in the new tabernacle?
What was its later history?
What was its value as a religious symbol?
Had God been absent from his tabernacle all this century of the ark's absence?
Was God any more present after it was brought within the gates of Zion?

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

They put the ark on a new cart. Of course it was shaken. They broke the law, and punishment came upon an innocent man. It is always so. Sin involves others beside the sinner.

A good purpose was spoiled by a wrong method.

David was earnest to serve God. Are you?

David feared at God's wrath. Do you?

David waited till he knew more of God's will.

God's presence is not to be feared. Obedience was made happy by it.

God's punishment for broken law is to be feared only by the law-breakers.

HINTS FOR HOME STUDY.

- 1. Give attention to all the geographical names, and trace the route of the journey of the ark.
2. Study the history of the ark since its location at Shiloh.
3. Learn the law in regard to its method of transportation.
4. Learn the history of the old tabernacle, and why a new one was built?
5. Learn the whole lesson story very thoroughly. Answer all the questions given for home study, and write such new ones as they suggest.

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

- 1. What new purpose did David now form? "To bring the ark to Zion." 2. How did they begin to carry it? "On a new cart." 3. What stopped the triumphal procession? "The death of Uzzah." 4. How did this affect David? "It filled him with fear." 5. Why did he wish to bring the ark to Zion? "As a tribute of love to God." 6. Why did he think this would please God? Because, "The Lord loveth the gates," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—God's love for his Church.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

46. How did all things come into being? By the will of God; who created all things, and brought all into their present order.

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. Genesis 1. 1.

He spake, and it was done: He commanded, and it stood fast.—Psalm 33. 9.

Hebrews 11. 3.

B.C. 1042] LESSON III. [Oct. 20

DAVID'S THANKSGIVING PRAYER.

2 Sam. 7. 18-29. Memory verses, 28, 29.

GOLDEN TEXT.

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. 1 Thess. 5. 18.

OUTLINE.

- 1. Mercies to David, v. 18-22.
2. Mercies to Israel, v. 23, 24.
3. Mercies to David's House, v. 25-29.

TIME.—1042 B.C.

PLACE.—Jerusalem.

CONNECTING LINKS.—The ark was once more safely in care of God's people, and in the capital city. It came naturally, therefore, into David's heart to prepare a suitable place for Israel's whole ceremonial worship, in a substantial and permanent abode, to be called the House of God, instead of long using the new tabernacle which he had built. But God forbade him to do it, by the voice of Nathan his prophet, telling him at the same time by whom this proposed work should be accomplished. Thereupon David went into the sanctuary and offered the prayer which we shall study.

EXPLANATIONS.—Sat before the Lord—In the new tabernacle before the ark of the covenant. To do for you great things—That is for Israel. He had been addressing God, but in his ecstasy he forgets and thinks of Israel.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

- 1. Mercies to David. Into what place did David go to make his prayer? What characteristic of this king is shown in this prayer?

What are the mercies which he felt had been shown to him?

To what did David ascribe them? What tribute does he make to Jehovah's power?

What was David's feeling that the purpose of God was toward him in this mercy? ver. 21.

What is the purpose of all dealing of God with men? 1 Tim. 2. 3, 4.

How is his wealth of mercy to men shown? Eph. 2. 4-6.

2. Mercies to Israel.

What does David recall as a proof of God's mercy to the nation?

In what way had God confirmed Israel to himself?

What sign of his covenant was at that very time before the sight of the people?

What changes had occurred in the external condition of the nation since Sinai?

Like what language of praise is David's ascription in ver. 23? Deut. 4. 7, 8.

3. Mercies to David's House.

What is the petition which David is led to make in view of God's mercy?

Ought men to take God's promises as matters of course, or still pray for their fulfilment? Why?

What was the real occasion of all this prayer?

For what mercies did David pray?

What ought to be the Christian's supreme desire?

What is the pre-eminent duty of every Christian? 1 Thess. 5. 18.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

It is easy to remember God in adversity, or in want, or in danger. Men always do.

It is not easy to remember God in prosperity, in affluence, in comfort. Men seldom do.

How ready we are to ask for what we want! How forgetful to give thanks for what we receive!

David regarded God as his teacher. Do you? David's gratitude kept pace with his mercies. Does yours?

Let us learn loyalty, gratitude, trust, and earnestness in prayer from this lesson.

HINTS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Make an analysis of David's prayer, and study it to know how to pray.

2. Compare it with Solomon's prayer, 2 Chron. 6. 14-21.

3. Read verses 1-17 of this chapter to find the occasion of this prayer.

4. In what wars was David engaged in the early wars of his reign?

5. Find all the references there are to Nathan, and learn of what importance he was to David's kingdom.

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What led David to make his prayer to Jehovah? "God's promise concerning his house." 2. What was the character of this prayer? "It was filled with gratitude."

3. What apostolic injunction could find its prototype in this prayer? "In every thing give thanks," etc. 4. For what does the prayer first express gratitude? "Mercies to himself and his family." 5. What thought next draws out his love? "God's mercies to Israel." 6. For what does he last pray? "That they be continued forever."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Gratitude to God.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

47. Why did God create all things? For his own pleasure: to show forth his glory, and to give happiness to his creatures.

Worthy art thou, our Lord and our God, to receive the glory and the honour and the power: for thou didst create all things, and because of thy will they were, and were created.—Revelation 4. 11.

Of him, and through him, and unto him, are all things. To him be the glory forever. Amen.—Romans 11. 36.

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handywork.—Psalm 19. 1.

The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.—Psalm 33. 5.

"FATHER," said a little Swedish girl, one still, starry night, after a long silence, "father, I have been thinking if the wrong side of heaven is so beautiful, what must the right side be?"

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