

## ENCOURAGING THE PEOPLE.

Jan. 15. B.C. 520.  
Lesson, Haggai 2:1-9. Golden Text, Ps. 127:1-  
Memory vs. 8-9. Catechism Q. 4-5.

## HOME READINGS.

M. Ezra 4:1-24... The Work Hindered.  
T. Ezra 5:1-17... Tatnai's Letter to the King.  
W. Ezra 6:1-13... The King's Decree.  
Th. Haggai 1:1-15... The First Prophecy.  
F. Haggai 2:1-9... The Second Prophecy.  
S. Haggai 2:10-23... The Third and Fourth Prophecies.  
S. Psalm 107:121... "His Mercy Endureth for Ever."

The Jews began the rebuilding of the temple with great zeal. But soon serious hindrances occurred, and a delay of some fifteen years intervened. On the accession of Darius Hystaspes (B.C. 521) the prophets Haggai and Zechariah urged the renewal of the undertaking, and obtained the permission and assistance of the king (Ezra 5:1; 6:14).

*Introductory*.—When were the foundations of the temple laid? How was the work hindered? By whose decree was it resumed? What prophets of God urged on the work? Title of this lesson? Golden Text? Lesson Plan? Time? Place? Memory verses? Catechism?

I. *The Glory of the Former House*, vs. 1-5. Who was Haggai? When did the word of the Lord come to him? To whom was he directed to speak? What was he to say to Zerubbabel and Joshua? Why did the remembrance of this glory discourage the Jews in rebuilding? What encouraging message did Haggai bring to them? Why had they no reason to fear?

II. *The Glory of the Latter House*, vs. 6-9. —What solemn declaration did the Lord make? What would follow these commotions? What would he do for this latter house? What resources were at his command? What further did he promise? What would he there give? In what did the glory of the latter house consist?

## LESSONS LEARNED.

1. We have a great, important and difficult work to do in the service of God.
2. We may expect much opposition from without and within in the doing of this work.
3. We need not be discouraged, for God has promised to be with us and help us.
4. Let this promise excite us to be diligent in duty and persevering in prayer.

If God be with us who can be against us.

## JOSHUA THE HIGH PRIEST.

Jan. 22. B.C. 519.  
Lesson, Zech. 3:1-10. Golden Text, Heb. 1:14  
Memory vs. 7-8. Catechism Q. 6.

## HOME READINGS.

M. Zech. 1:1-21... The First and Second Visions.  
T. Zech. 2:1-13... The Third Vision.  
W. Zech. 3:1-10... The 4th Vis.—Joshua the H. Priest.  
Th. Heb. 4:12-5:10... Our Great High Priest.  
F. Rom. 5:1-21... Peace With God.  
S. Rom. 8:1-17... No Condemnation.  
S. Psalm 32:1-11... Transgression Forgiven.

Zechariah was a priest as well as a prophet. He was born probably in Babylon, and came to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel and Joshua. He began to prophesy in the second year of Darius Hystaspes, and continued for two years, acting in concert with the prophet Haggai.

*Introductory*.—Who was Zechariah? When did he begin to prophesy? How long did he continue his work? Title of this lesson? Golden Text? Lesson Plan? Time? Place? Memory verses? Catechism?

I. *The Filthy Garments*, vs. 1-3.—What did the Lord do? Who is meant by *the angel of the Lord*? For what purpose was Satan there? What did the Lord say to Satan? In what was Joshua clothed? What did these filthy garments represent?

II. *The Clean Garments*, vs. 4-7.—What did the Lord command? What did he say to Joshua? Of what was the change of raiment a token? What did the prophet then say? What did the placing of the mitre upon his head imply? What solemn declaration did the Lord then make? What was the Lord's counsel to the church of the Laodiceans? Rev. 3:17-18.

III. *The Promise of the Messiah*, vs. 8-10.—What did the Lord now promise? Who is meant by *My servant the Branch*? Where else is the Messiah spoken of under these names? How shall he be qualified for his work? What shall be the effect of his mission?

## LESSONS LEARNED.

1. Satan is still the accuser of the brethren.
2. Christ stops the mouth of their accuser.
3. Every pardoned sinner is a brand plucked from the burning.
4. Christ takes away the guilt of sin by his pardoning mercy.
5. He removes the pollution of sin by his renewing grace.