

gates); then the vast assembly without, v. 7; the company within, v. 8a; the assembly without, v. 8b.

The first verse of Psalm 122 will give a

fitting ending to the Lesson, with Hymn 389 or 462: no better, happier place than God's house, no more joyous occupation than His worship.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON

By Rev. J. M. Duncan, B.D.



The Valley of Sorek is one of the great features of Southern Palestine. It rises to the north of Jerusalem, and runs right through to the country of the Philistines. Near where it leaves the hill country of Judah, to descend into the Shephelah, or foothills, is Kirjath-jearim, the "Forest City" or "Town of the Woods", eleven miles west of Jerusalem. This valley offers an easy and natural approach to Jerusalem and the highlands of Judah. The Philistines followed it in the days of the judges and of David; up it the kine, lowing as they went, dragged the cart with the ark to Beth-shemesh; and, at the present day, it is followed by the railway from Jaffa, on the Mediterranean Sea, to Jerusalem. In or near the valley, may have been fought the battles in which the ark was taken by the Philistines, and in which the Philistines were defeated through Samuel's prayers. In Hebrew, the word Sorek means a particular kind of vine, which produced a purple grape, and the Valley of Sorek may have derived its name from the growth of this vine in the vineyards that covered its slopes. Delilah lived in this valley (see Judg. 16:4).

ADDED HINTS AND HELPS

In this section will be found further assistance under various headings.

Some Test Questions

[NOTE: These Questions are not intended for use in the class, but as samples of questions by which the teacher may test the thoroughness of his own preparation of the Lesson. He will also find it of great advantage to be familiar with the Questions set for the scholars in the HOME STUDY, INTERMEDIATE, and PRIMARY QUARTERLIES and LEAFLETS.]

1. How did the Philistines act when David became king of all Israel? What were the results of the conflict that followed?

2. How many men did David gather together? For what purpose were they summoned?

3. In whose keeping had the ark been? For how long had he had it in charge? Who

had brought it thither?

4. By whose name was the ark called? Where had the Lord chiefly chosen to manifest Himself to Israel?

5. On what was the ark placed? By what was the ark drawn? Who drove the oxen?

6. In what way did the company manifest their enthusiasm?

7. What led Uzzah to touch the ark? Why was this wrong? How was he punished? Where did this take place?

8. How did Uzzah's death affect David? Where did he leave the ark? How long did it remain here?

9. What was the result to Obed-edom and his household of the presence of the ark?

10. When David heard of this what did he