

LESSON VI—November 8th, 1896.

The Temple Dedicated. 1 KINGS 8: 54-63.

(Commit to memory verses 62, 63).

GOLDEN TEXT: "The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him." Hab. 2: 20.

PROVE THAT—We should remember God's goodness. Ps. 89: 1.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Questions 57, 58, 59.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 160, 176, 41, 141.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* The temple dedicated. 1 Kings 8: 54-63. *Tuesday.* Assembly of the people. 2 Chr. 5: 1-10. *Wednesday.* The word fulfilled. 2 Chr. 6: 1-11. *Thursday.* Prayer of dedication. 2 Chr. 6: 12-21. *Friday.* A refuge in trouble. 2 Chr. 6: 22-31. *Saturday.* The cry of penitence. 2 Chr. 6: 32-42. *Sabbath.* The glory of the Lord. 2 Chr. 7: 1-11. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. The temple was dedicated at the feast of Tabernacles, October B. C. 1004, after 7½ years of labor. The building was divided into three parts: the outer court, which was ornamented with trees, where the worshippers assembled; the Holy place, where the altars, &c., stood and which was for the priests only; the Holy of Holies, in which the ark was deposited and which no one was allowed to enter except the high priest, and he only on the Day of Atonement. To the dedication all the heads of tribes and families were assembled, together with a vast multitude of the people. The sacred vessels were reverently carried to their places, and when the ark was deposited behind the veil and the priests who carried it had retired from the Holy of Holies, a bright cloud filled the temple as a token that God now took up his earthly abode between the Cherubim. Solomon then offered the dedicatory prayer. Parallel passage 2 Chr. 5 and 6.

LESSON PLAN. I. Divine Promises Fulfilled. vs. 54-56. II. Divine Presence Invoked. vs. 57-60. III. Divine Service Enjoined. vs. 61-63.

54. He arose—He had been kneeling (2 Chr. 6: 13). Standing was, among the Jews, the usual posture in prayer (Luke 18: 11, 13). This is the first mention in the Bible of kneeling. From before the altar—He occupied a brazen scaffold about five feet high so as to be seen by all the people. **55.** And blessed—This is not the priestly benediction (Num. 6: 27). David did so too (2 Sam. 6: 18). He invoked a blessing upon himself and them. **56.** According to all that he promised.—(Deut. 12: 9-11). The rest enjoyed in Joshua's time (Josh. 21: 44, 45) was but partial. Only under Solomon were all their enemies subdued. There is a better rest yet to come (Heb. 4: 9). By the hand of Moses—See Lev. 26: 3-13; Deut. 28: 1-14. All God's promises are certain of fulfilment (2 Cor. 1: 20). **58.** Incline our hearts—(Ps. 119: 36; 141: 4). The very "inclination" to serve God must come from the Holy Spirit (Phil. 2: 13; Heb. 13: 21; John 6: 44, 65; Song of Sol. 1: 4). Worship and service should be a delight. **59.** As the matter shall require—R. V. "as every day shall require." We need God's daily care for our daily needs (Matt. 6: 11, 34; Deut. 33: 25). **60.** That all the people of the earth may know—The pious Jews of ancient times

hoped that some day the whole world would worship the true God (Isa. 2: 2, 3; 52: 10; Jer. 50: 5; Zech. 8: 21-23). As heirs of Israel's hope, what is our duty? (Matt. 28: 19, 20; Rom. 10: 13-15.) **61.** Let your heart therefore be perfect—Wholly and undividedly devoted to the Lord. Entirely consecrated. This is the condition on which God's blessing rests. Solomon forgot his own advice (ch. 1: 4, compare 15: 3, 14; 2 Kings 20: 3, and the warning in 1 Cor. 9: 27.) As at this day—Their hearts were full of love and adoring gratitude when they knelt under the cloud of glory. It was easy then to make good resolutions. But bye and bye the impression might wear off and they would then grow careless. Our Sunday resolves should be our week-day performances (Hos. 6: 4). In 2 Chr. 7: 1, we read that at the close of this prayer fire came down from heaven and consumed the sacrifices and the glory of the Lord again filled the house. Compare the dedication of the first altar (Lev. 9: 24). **62.** These were burnt offerings in which the people, practically the whole nation, took part. **63.** Peace offerings—A thanksgiving sacrifice. The fat only of the victim was burnt, the rest was eaten by the offerer and his friends (Deut. 12: 7; Lev. 7: 11-15.)

LESSONS. 1. Outward reverence during prayer is becoming. 2. God's promises cannot fail. 3. God will not forget our prayers. 4. Inconsistent Christians hinder the progress of Christ's kingdom. 5. God requires of us "perfect hearts."