

6. The nethermost. Those on the lower stories, or ground floor. **Five cubits broad.** In order to preserve the sanctity of the house, the floor of these chambers, of which there were three stories, rested upon beams on a separate wall from that of the temple. This wall was thicker by a cubit for each lower story, so that it formed a series of steps, and the higher stories were wider than the lower. **Narrow rests.** That is, as otherwise translated, "rebatelements around the house outside," or ledges around its wall, on which the chambers rested.

7. Built of stone made ready. Each stone was squared and fitted to its place on the wall at the quarry. In the excavations under and around the temple, at its lowest foundations, no chips of stone are found. **Before it was brought.** There are quarries at Bethlehem, others near Jerusalem, and still others under Mount Moriah itself, from either or all of which the stone may have been taken for the temple. **Neither hammer nor axe.** 5. So God's invisible Church, his true temple, grows silently in the world.

8. The door. Whether this was the only door is uncertain; but it was certainly the only access to the chambers on the second and third floors. **Right side.** The south side. **They went up.** The priests ascended by winding stairs to their rooms, which may have opened into each other, or upon a balcony running around them all.

9, 10. Covered the house. That is, roofed it. Some have imagined a gable-roof, but a flat roof is universal in the Orient. **Boards of cedar.** The cedar of Lebanon, floated down the sea to Joppa, and thence carried overland. This is a very durable wood. **Built chambers.** A repetition of the fact in vers. 5, 6; stated here to name the material of which their floors were made. **Five cubits high.** Each was of this height, so that the three stories were fifteen cubits or twenty-two feet high, a story less than the height of the temple proper, leaving room for the row of windows named in verse 4.

11, 12. The word of the Lord came. Probably by a prophet. **If thou wilt.** This was to make Solomon know that magnificent buildings and a costly ritual would not take the place of practical godliness. **6. There is a condition with every promise of God.** **7. The Lord honours obedience more than sacrifice.** **Spake unto David.** God had promised David that he should be succeeded by one of his sons, and that the throne should remain in the line of his descendants. This promise is now renewed to Solomon, upon certain conditions.

13, 14. I will dwell. God hereby promised to show the tokens of his presence among the Israelites, and to give them especial care, as his own people. This did not mean that other nations were hated by God; for all who would serve him could enjoy the same privileges. **Finished it.** Seven years were occupied in

the work; and the building stood four centuries, until destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Mine house shall be called an house of prayer.—Isa. 56, 7.

OUTLINE.

1. A House for the Lord, v. 1-10.
2. The Lord in his House, v. 11-14.

LESSON HYMNS.

No. 670, Methodist Hymn-Book.

Behold the sure foundation-stone
Which God in Zion lays,
To build our heavenly hopes upon,
And his eternal praise.

Chosen of God, to sinners dear,
We now adore thy name;
We trust our whole salvation here,
Nor can we suffer shame.

The foolish builders, scribe and priest,
Reject it with disdain;
Yet on this rock the Church shall rest,
And envy rage in vain.

What though the gates of hell withstood,
Yet must this building rise;
'Tis thine own work, almighty God,
And wondrous in our eyes.

No. 671, Methodist Hymn-Book.

O thou, whose own vast temple stands,
Built over earth and sea,
Accept the walls that human hands
Have raised to worship thee!

Lord, from thine inmost glory send,
Within these courts to bide,
The peace that dwelleth without end,
Serenely by thy side?

May erring minds that worship here
Be taught the better way;
And they who mourn, and they who fear,
Be strengthened as they pray.

May faith grow firm, and love grow warm,
And pure devotion rise,
While round these hallowed walls the storm
Of earthborn passion dies.

No. 672, Methodist Hymn-Book.

O Lord of hosts, whose glory fills
The bounds of the eternal hills,
And yet vouchsafes, in Christian lands,
To dwell in temples made with hands;

Grant that all we who here to-day
Rejoicing this foundation lay,
May be in very deed thine own,
Built on the precious Corner-stone.

Endue the creatures with the grace
That shall adorn thy dwelling-place;
The beauty of the oak and pine,
The gold and silver, make them thine.

To thee they all pertain; to thee
The treasures of the earth and sea;
And when we bring them to thy throne
We but present thee with thine own.