

**BUILDING THE TEMPLE,****1st November.**

Les. 1 Ki. 5: 1-12. Gol. Text. Ps. 127: 1.  
 Mem. vs. 5-7. Catechism Q. 53-56.

Solomon's Message to Hiram. vs. 1-6.  
 Hiram's Gracious Reply. vs. 7-9.  
 A Covenant of Peace. vs. 10-12.

*Time.*—B.C. 1012-1005.

*Place.*—Mount Moriah.

The young king Solomon soon began preparations for building the temple, according to David's desire. He sent to Hiram, king of Tyre, for Sidonian artificers, and a supply of cedar wood of Lebanon for its construction. Hiram responded promptly, and a treaty was formed between the two monarchs. After about three years of preparation, the foundations of the temple were laid, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign, on Mount Moriah, where had been the threshing-floor of Araunah. 2 Sam. 24: 18-25. The massive stones and beams, already prepared, were brought and laid in their appointed places; and thus, without the sound of hammer or axe or any iron tool, the temple arose. It was seven years in building.

**LESSONS.**

1. Every one has his own work to do for God.
2. Each one of us may build a temple for the Lord.
3. We should put into God's work our most precious things.
4. It is a great privilege to help in God's work.
5. The Lord blesses those who honor and serve Him.

**THE TEMPLE DEDICATED,****8th November.**

Les. 1 Ki. 8: 54-63. Gol. Text, Hab. 2: 20.  
 Mem. vs. 62-63. Catechism Q. 57-59.

The Prayer of Dedication. vs. 54.  
 The Blessing of the People. vs. 55-61.  
 The Offering of Sacrifices. vs. 62-63.

*Time.*—Probably B.C. 1004, about October, at the time of the Feast of Tabernacles.  
*Place.*—Jerusalem, on Mount Moriah.

The temple was finished in the eighth month of the eleventh year of Solomon's reign. We are told that it was dedicated in the seventh month. Assuming that this did not take place until after its completion, it is probable that the dedication was made in the seventh month of the twelfth year. It was an imposing ceremony, conducted with great magnificence in the presence of a large assembly of the people. Numerous sacrifices were offered, and the ark of the covenant was brought by the priests from the tabernacle where David had placed it,

and put into the Holy of Holies. The temple was filled with a cloud, the token of the presence of the Lord, and Solomon offered the prayer of dedication. To-day's lesson gives Solomon's benediction at the conclusion of the solemn service, and an account of the sacrifices offered. A dedication feast of seven days, and the feast of tabernacles lasting seven more days, followed, after which the people were dismissed amid general rejoicing. The parallel account is found in 2 Chron. 5-7.

**LESSONS.**

1. Every word of God proves true and faithful.
2. The only true dedication is in lives of obedience.
3. God will remember our prayers if we are faithful.
4. Our hearts should be given to God in love and service.
5. We should present our bodies a living sacrifice to God.

*West. Ques. Book.*

**AN EVERY-DAY DUTY.**

Men pray for holiness as if it were something apart from their every-day life, something that had nothing at all to do with their conduct in their domestic, social, and business relations. They sing, "Nearer, my God, to thee," with glowing fervor, but never think that the prayer can be answered only by the uplifting of their own lives to the plane of God's requirements.

Holiness is not a mere sentiment, not a vague vision of glory overhanging us like a heavenly cloud, not a rapture or an ecstasy, not something that God sends down to wrap us like a garment in its radiant folds. If being holy means anything at all, it means being true, honest, upright, pure, gentle, patient, kind, and unselfish. We really have no more religion than we get into our every-day practice. Wherein our devotion is higher than our living, it counts for nothing.

You will find it less easy to uproot faults than to choke them by gaining virtues. Do not think of your faults, still less of others' faults. In every person who comes near you look for what is good and strong, honor that, rejoice in it; as you can, try to imitate it, and your faults will drop off like dead leaves when their time comes.—*John Ruskin.*

Gold is good in its place, but living, brave and patriotic men are better than gold.—*Abraham Lincoln.*

A holy act strengthens the inward holiness. It is a seed of life growing into more life.—*F. W. Robertson.*

If I had my ministry to go over again, I would give more attention to the children.—*Ashbel Green.*