

LESSON V—Nov. 1st, 1896.

Building the Temple. 1 KINGS 5: 1-12.

(Commit to memory verses 4, 5.)

GOLDEN TEXT: "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." Ps. 127:1.

PROVE THAT—We should be friendly. Prov. 18: 24.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Questions 53, 54, 55, 56.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 158, 63, 219, 113.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Building the temple. 1 Kings 5: 1-12. *Tuesday.* The temple finished. 1 Kings 6: 1-14. *Wednesday.* A beautiful house. 1 Kings 6: 21-30. *Thursday.* Seven years in building. 1 Kings 6: 31-38. *Friday.* Site of the temple. 2 Chr. 3: 1-10. *Saturday.* The pattern of the temple. 1 Chr. 28: 11-21. *Sabbath.* A spiritual temple. Eph. 2: 13-22. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. The building of the temple was the great event of Solomon's reign and marked an important era in the making of the nation and in the progress of the kingdom of God. To the accomplishment of this work David's old friend Hiram, king of Tyre, contributed timber and skilled workmen. Large trees did not grow in Palestine, nor were the Israelites accustomed to the erection of great buildings. This alliance with the Phoenicians was mutually advantageous. Phoenicia depended for its supplies of food upon the fertile countries to the east and south, and for this it exchanged the cedar and stone of its mountains. Solomon and Hiram remained fast friends to the end of their lives. See the parallel narrative in 2 Chr. 2: 1-18.

LESSON PLAN. I. Solomon's Request. vs. 1-6. II. Hiram's Reply. vs. 7-12.

1. **Hi'ram, king of Tyre**—Probably the son of David's friend (2 Sam. 5: 11; 2 Chr. 2: 13). **Tyre**—(*The Rock*) was built on a rocky island on the coast of Phoenicia. Hiram sent a message of congratulation to Solomon on his accession. **Was ever a lover of David**—"Ever" is literally "all the days" *i. e.* of their reigns. He, or his father, had assisted David in building the palace on Mount Zion. 3. **Could not build a house**—(1 Chr. 22: 8; 28: 3). Hiram knew this because cedar wood had been sent to David for the proposed temple (1 Chr. 22: 4). **Unto the name of the Lord his God**—The "name of Jehovah" is the visible manifestation of the divine presence (Deut. 12: 5, 11). This was specially displayed in the Holy of Holies, between the cherubim over the mercy-seat. **For the wars which were about him**—See 2 Sam. 7: 8-13. **Under the soles of his feet**—Until he had completely conquered them, "trampled them down" (Rom. 16: 20; Eph. 1: 22). 4. **Occurrent**—Old English word for "occurrence." He refers to such as rebellion, famine, plague &c., of which David had many (2 Sam. 15: 14; 20: 1; 21: 1; 24: 15). The wars with Ha'dad and Re'zon were later than this (1 Kings 11: 14, 23). 5. **As the Lord spake**—(2 Sam. 7: 12, 13; 1 Chr. 17: 12; 22: 10). He will carry out God's plan and his father's wishes.

6. **I will give hire**—See verse 11. **Can skill**—Old English for "knows how." The Phoenicians were famous shipbuilders and carpenters. **Sidon'ians**—Si'don was a seaport in Phoenicia, north of Tyre. The name stands for Phoenicians generally. 7. **He rejoiced greatly**—He was glad to be the friend of David's son, and it offered a very desirable commercial and political alliance. **Blessed be the Lord**—This was only a polite recognition of Jehovah as Solomon's God, and does not imply that Hiram believed in him. Compare the language of the Queen of She'ba (ch. 10: 9) and contrast that of Melchiz'edec (Gen. 14: 19; Heb. 7: 1-4). See also Daniel's testimony before Nebuchadnezzar (Dan. 2: 20, 21). 8. **Fir**—More properly "cypress." 9. **Flores**—Now spelled "Floats," rafts. The R. V. is better "I will make them into rafts to go by sea." **Unto the place**—Jop'pa (2 Chr. 2: 16) the port nearest to Jerusalem, about 40 miles distant. **Twenty thousand measures of wheat**—The "measure," or *cor* (or *homer*) was about eight bushels—160,000 bushels annually. **Twenty measures of pure oil**—R. V. marg. "beaten oil," obtained by pounding the olives in a mortar before they were quite ripe. The oil which came from the press was coarse; 20 *cors* would be 1,280 gallons.

LESSONS. 1. We should resolutely perform the work God has given us to do. 2. Friendly assistance in christian work is to be welcomed. 3. We all have different gifts, graces and opportunities. 4. Honestly pay for all that you get. 5. Keep a friend as long as you can.