

The Prisoned Angel.

A block of marble caught the glance Of Buonarroti's eyes, Which brightened in their solemn depths Like meteor-lighted skies...

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN JEWISH HISTORY.

B.C. 992] LESSON X. [Dec 8 SOLOMON AND THE QUEEN OF SHEBA.

1 Kings 10. 1-13. Memory verses, 6 S. GOLDEN TEXT.

She came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, a greater than Solomon is here. Matt. 12. 42.

OUTLINE.

- 1. The Queen, v. 1-5. 2. Her Wonder, v. 6-9. 3. Her Gifts, v. 10-13.

TIME.—992 B. C.

PLACE.—Jerusalem.

CONNECTING LINKS.—The reign of Solomon was magnificent. He not only governed justly, but he made his kingdom one of the wonders of the earth...

EXPLANATIONS.—Concerning the name of the Lord. Doubtless this means the report of his name abroad. Hard questions. Enigmas or riddles, which were a delight to the Orientals...

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. The Queen. Who was the Queen of Sheba? In what quarter of the world did Jesus say she lived? Matt. 12. 42.

What custom common among Orientals is suggested by verse 1? What does this visit show in regard to Solomon's fame? What act of the king might have brought her into her notice? Chap. 9. 26.

2. Her Wonder.

What was the effect of her observations on herself? What was the character of her words to Solomon? What commentary was only a few years later furnished on verse 8? 1 Kings 12. 4.

3. Her Gifts.

What Oriental custom still remaining is suggested by verses 10 and 13? What illustration of the prodigality of kings in giving was once afterward given in Israel's history? 2 Kings 5. 5.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Here is illustration of the lesson of Jesus: "To him that hath shall be given." There were many lepers in Israel: no gifts for them.

Jesus taught the great lesson from this visit: "The queen visited Solomon, and revered him. 'I am greater than Solomon.'" Do you reverence him?

Homage for the king! But let the king be Jesus. The queen saw Solomon's riches. Have you seen the riches of Christ? She saw the power of Solomon. Have you felt the power of Christ's love?

HINTS FOR HOME STUDY.

- 1. To understand Solomon's power, read the story of his life in 2 Chron. If you can get Stanley's History of the Jewish Church, read about Solomon in vol. 2, pp. 184-287, or in Leikie's Hours with the Bible, vol. 3, pp. 337-455. 2. Do not fail to read the remainder of chapter 10. 3. Write from your study a brief story of Solomon's life.

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. From whence did Jesus say the Queen of Sheba came? "From the uttermost parts of the earth." 2. For what did she come? "To test Solomon's wisdom." 3. What was her own testimony of him and his kingdom? "The half has not been told." 4. How does Jesus say she will appear in the judgment? "In condemnation of her generation."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Accountability.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

56. Does God care for you? I know that he cares for me, and watches over me always by his providence. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.—Psalm 23. 6.

B.C. 984] LESSON XI. [Dec. 15

SOLOMON'S FALL.

1 Kings 11. 4-13. Memory verses, 9, 11. GOLDEN TEXT.

Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.—1 Cor. 10. 12.

OUTLINE.

- 1. The King's Folly, v. 4-8. 2. The Lord's Anger, v. 9-13.

TIME.—984 B. C.

PLACE.—Jerusalem.

CONNECTING LINKS.—The honours conferred upon Solomon, the great wealth that flowed into his kingdom, and his power

among the nations, proved sources fruitful of temptation. His court became a centre of sensual pleasure and indulgence of every kind, and the worship of Jehovah was defiled by abominations copied from the idolatrous peoples around. Solomon himself gave way to his pride and lust, and his last years were disgraced by debauchery and profligacy.

EXPLANATIONS.—When Solomon was old—He was not more than fifty-two years old, but his life had been very eventful. Turned away his heart.—Incredible almost, he became an idolater. The hill before Jerusalem. This is still called the Mount of Offence. Will rend the kingdom.—A prophecy of the divided monarchy which came to pass very soon after Solomon's death.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

- 1. The King's Folly. What was the natural effect of Solomon's luxurious life? How did his court differ from that of other Oriental monarchs? How did his court differ from that of David? To what sins did he become addicted? What was the cause of his lapse from righteousness? Had this sin ever been forbidden? Deut. 7. 3, 4; 23. 3-6. In what visible forms did he show his idolatry? What name remained to mark the site of his folly?

2. The Lord's Anger.

What is meant by the Lord being angry with him? On what two occasions had the Lord appeared unto him? Chap. 3. 5; 9. 2. By what command had God given him warning concerning this sin? Chap. 9. 6, 7. What punishment was he to be made to suffer? What would Solomon know that division must mean for his kingdom? What was the one saving feature in the coming doom? How was this prophecy fulfilled? Chap. 12. 16, 19, 20.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Solomon did not become wicked in his old age suddenly. He had been growing so for forty years.

Solomon tried to serve God and mammon. He failed. Men are still trying and still failing.

David sinned, and bitterly repented. Solomon sinned, and never thought of repentance.

Had it not been for David's credit, his son's account would have been far overdrawn. It was David's account that saved his kingdom.

Worldliness ruined Solomon. It will ruin every one on whom it fastens. "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."

HINTS FOR HOME STUDY.

- 1. Study out the causes of Solomon's fall. 2. Find what particular commandments there were against connection with the Ammonites, and the reasons therefore. 3. Locate the Hill of Offence, or Mount of Corruption, as it was called. 4. Learn the character of the worship of Ashtoreth. 5. Find instances in after history of kings who followed Solomon's example.

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What was the occasion of Solomon's fall? "His heart was not perfect with God." 2. What form did his sins assume? "He worshipped false gods." 3. What was the effect on his character? "It corrupted and debased him." 4. What was the effect on his kingdom? "It caused its division." 5. Why did this come upon him? "He had broken God's covenant." 6. How does our Golden Text warn us? "Wherefore let him," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Apostasy.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

57. What is the Providence of God? The Providence of God is his preservation of all his creatures, his care for all their wants, and his rule over all their actions.

In him we live, and move, and have our being. Acts 17. 28. Hebrews 1. 3; Nehemiah 9. 6; Psalm 103. 19; Psalm 145. 15, 16; 1 Timothy 6. 15.

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