

SCHOLARS' NOTES.

(From Westminster Question Book.)

LESSON II.

Oct. 12, 1884.] [1 Chron. 22: 6-19.]

DAVID'S CHARGE TO SOLOMON.

COMMIT TO MEMORY vs. 17-19.

6. Then he called for Solomon his son, and charged him to build a house for the Lord God of Israel.

7. And David said to Solomon, My son, as for me, it was in my mind to build a house unto the name of the Lord my God:

8. But the word of the Lord came to me, saying, Thou hast shed blood abundantly, and hast made great wars: thou shalt not build a house unto my name, because thou hast shed much blood upon the earth in my sight.

9. Behold, a son shall be born to thee, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies round about; for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quietness unto Israel in his days.

10. He shall build a house for my name; and he shall be my son, and I will be his father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel for ever.

11. Now, my son, the Lord be with thee; and prosper thou, and build the house of the Lord thy God, as he has said of thee.

12. Only the Lord give thee wisdom and understanding, and give thee charge concerning Israel, that thou mayest keep the law of the Lord thy God.

13. Then shalt thou prosper, if thou takest heed to fulfil the statutes and judgments which the Lord charged Moses with concerning Israel; be strong, and of good courage, dread not, nor be dismayed.

14. Now, behold in my trouble I have prepared for the house of the Lord a hundred thousand talents of gold, and a thousand thousand talents of silver; and of brass and iron without weight; for it is in abundance: timber also and stone have I prepared; and thou mayest add thereto.

15. Moreover, there are workmen with thee in abundance, hewers and workers of stone and timber, and all manner of cunning men, for every manner of work.

16. Of the gold, the silver, and the brass, and the iron, there is no number. Arise, therefore, and be doing, and the Lord be with thee.

17. David also commanded all the princes of Israel to help Solomon his son, saying,

18. Is not the Lord your God with you? and hath he not given you rest on every side? for he hath given the inhabitants of the land into mine hand; and the land is subdued before the Lord, and before his people.

19. Now set your heart and your soul to seek the Lord your God: arise, therefore, and build ye the sanctuary of the Lord God, to bring the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and the holy vessels of God, into the house that is to be built to the name of the Lord.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"Arise, therefore, and be doing, and the Lord be with you.—1 Chron. 22: 16.

HOME READINGS.

- M. 1 Kings 1: 38-53The Conspiracy De- feated
T. 1 Chron. 22: 1-19.....David's Charge to Solomon.
W. Ps. 122: 1-9The House of the Lord.
Th. 1 Chron 29: 20-30..... David's Death.
F. Ps 89: 1-14.....God's Covenant with his Chosen.
Sa. Ps 96: 1-13Declare his Glory.
S. John 4: 5-24Spiritual Worship- pers.

LESSON PLAN.

- 1. Solomon's Work. 2. David's Preparations. 3. The Princes' Part.
Time.—b.c. 1015. Place.—Jerusalem.

LESSON NOTES.

I.—V. 6. HE CALLED FOR SOLOMON—not long before his death. V. 8. THOU HAST SHED BLOOD—it was not fitting that he who had been a man of strife and war should build a house for God's mercy-seat. V. 9. A MAN OF REST—whose reign should be a time of peace. SOLOMON—the name means peaceful. (See 1 Kings 5: 4.) V. 10. HE SHALL BUILD—see 2 Sam. 7: 13, 14, and Lesson III. of last quarter. V. 12. THE LORD GIVE THEE WISDOM—our next lesson will tell us how this prayer was answered.
11.—V. 14. IN MY TROUBLE—in the midst of wars and troubles from his foes and his children. A HUNDRED THOUSAND TALENTS OF GOLD—this talent of gold is estimated at \$26,230. A THOUSAND THOUSAND TALENTS OF SILVER—\$1,000,000. BRASS—copper or bronze. V. 16. NO NUMBER—an unlimited supply. ARISE, THERE- FORE—the means are provided and God will work with you.
11.—V. 17. THE PRINCES OF ISRAEL—the leading men of the kingdom. V. 18. REST ON EVERY SIDE—God had given them victory, peace, a good land. V. 19. SET YOUR HEARTS—make it your great concern to serve the Lord in all respects, as well as to build the temple. If the heart is engaged for the Lord, the hand, the foot, all, will be employed for him.

WHAT HAVE I LEARNED?

- 1. That God selects his servants for the special work he would have them do.
2. That he opens their way before them and helps them in their work.
3. That his promised presence should give us strength and courage for our work.
4. That we should be ready both to pray and work, and also to give, for God's service.
5. That the more God has done for us the more we should do for him.

LESSON III.

Oct. 19, 1884.] [1 Kings 3: 6-15.]

SOLOMON'S CHOICE.

COMMIT TO MEMORY vs. 9, 10.

6. In Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, Ask what I shall give thee.

8. And Solomon said, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou has given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.

7. And now, O Lord my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father; and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.

8. And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude.

9. Give, therefore, thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad; for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?

10. And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.

11. And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment;

12. Behold, I have done according to thy word; lo I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.

13. And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honor; so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days.

14. And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days.

15. And Solomon awoke; and, behold, it was a dream. And he came to Jerusalem, and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and offered up burnt-offerings, and offered peace of- ferings and made a feast to all his servants.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"Wisdom is the principal thing, therefore get wisdom."—Prov. 4: 7.

HOME READINGS.

- M. 1 Kings 3: 1-15.....Solomon's Choice.
T. 1 Kings 3: 16-28.....Solomon's Wisdom.
W. Prov. 4: 1-13Wisdom the Princi- pal Thing.
Th. James 1: 1-12.....Prayer for Wisdom.
F. Prov. 9: 1-12.....The Call for Wis- dom.
Sa. Job 28: 12-28.....Where and What is Wisdom?
S. Prov. 2: 1-5The Lord Giveth Wisdom.

LESSON PLAN.

- 1. The Choice Made. 2. The Choice Approved. 3. The Choice Exceeded.
Time.—b.c. 1015. Places.—Gibeon, Jerusalem.

LESSON NOTES.

I.—V. 5. GIBEON—a town about six miles north-east of Jerusalem, where the old taber- nacle and altar still remained. ASK WHAT I SHALL GIVE THEE—thus graciously signifying his acceptance of Solomon's offering. V. 6. SOLOMON SAID—he first acknowledged God's goodness to David his father, and then con- fessed his own insufficiency for the work laid upon him. V. 7. BUT A LITTLE CHILD—not ab- solutely in years, but in experience and skill for government. V. 8. AN UNDERSTANDING HEART—practical sagacity, that he might rule wisely. (see Prov. 2: 5; James 1: 5.) The desire to be wise is an evidence of wisdom. WHO IS ABLE—the best prepared often feel their insufficiency the most. (Compare 2 Cor. 2: 16.)
II.—V. 10. PLEASED THE LORD—Solomon had chosen well, and God granted him his desire.
III.—V. 13. THAT WHICH THOU HAST NOT ASKED—God always exceeds men's requests. Matt. 6: 33; Eph. 3: 20. No wisdom was added an absolute promise of riches and honor, and a conditional promise of long life. V. 14. IF THOU WILT WALK IN MY WAYS—Solomon failed to fulfil these conditions, and therefore, though he had riches and honor, his life was not pro- longed, as it otherwise would have been.

WHAT HAVE I LEARNED?

- 1. That wisdom is more to be desired than riches or honor.
2. That the Lord delights to give great bless- ings.
3. That he often gives us more than we ask.
4. That children should be thankful for God's mercies to their parents.
5. That answers to prayer should be ac- knowledged with thanksgiving.

WAS IT AN ACCIDENT?

Many a seeming accident illustrates Cowper's lines:
"God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform."

Dr. Hamlin, so long the head of Roberts' College, Constantinople, tells one of these "accidents." One hot day in July, 1838, while passing the Galata Custom House, a crowd attracted his attention. Forcing his way through it, he saw a poor sailor lying by the side of the wall, apparently dying of cholera.
"Do you speak English?" asked Dr. Hamlin.

"Yes," said the man, following the word with an oath.

"Are you an Englishman or an Amer- ican?"

"American"—another oath.

Worse expressions showed that profanity had become his mother-tongue. Dr. Ham- lin, after many appeals to the crowd, whose brutal natures were stirred by the prospect of seeing him die, secured assistance and removed the sailor to a house.

For several weeks he was nursed and visit- ed by the missionaries. He recovered and sailed for Boston. On the morning he left, he called on his missionary friend to say good-bye. Lingered for a moment by the door, he said:

"I have been a very wicked man, Mr. Hamlin, and have done all the evil I could in the world, and now I am going to do all the good I can."

Three years after, Dr. Hamlin received a letter from him, which thus began:

"Dear Mr. Hamlin,—Thank God I still survive the dead! I am here workin' and blowin' the gospel trumpet on the Eri Kanal."

When Dr. Goodell, an old missionary, saw the letter, he asked that he might begin the answer, and taking a sheet of paper, wrote:

"Dear Mr. Brown—Blow away, brother, blow! Yours in blowing the same gospel trumpet." WILLIAM GOODSELL.

Twenty-five years after, Dr. Hamlin, while dining at a hotel in Paris, was accost- ed by an American gentleman.

"I am just from Honolulu, Sandwich Islands," said the gentleman. "I have known a man there by the name of Brown, who has done a great deal of good among the sailors. He can go everywhere and anywhere with the Bible. He has told me how he was once dying, a blasphemous dog (his own words), in the streets of Constanti- nople, and you picked him up and saved him, soul and body. Is it all true, or is it in part a sailor's long yarn?"

What seemed the accidental passing of Mr. Hamlin down a street in Constantinople was the means by which God saved "a blasphemous dog," and sent him "blowin' the gospel trumpet" along the "Eri Kanal," and among the islands of the Pacific. Is there such an accident in God's moral govern- ment?—Youth's Companion.

REGULATING THE ELEPHANT.

BY KATE W. HAMILTON.

Everybody had heard that the great elephant was loose, and several families whose gardens he had torn up and whose boys he had trampled upon were certain of it. There was great excitement, and the town held a meeting to decide what should be done. They did not want to exterminate him; in fact, many of them did not believe they could exterminate him, for he was a pretty big elephant. Besides, he was useful in his proper place—in shows, in India and in story books.

"Our best plan is to try and regulate him," said an enthusiastic speaker. "Let us build tollgates all along the route we find he is going to take, and make him pay—"

"Yes, but that leaves him roaming round," shrieked an old woman. "I don't want my boy killed."

"Keep your boy away from him; that's your business. Why, madam, don't you know that an elephant's hide and tusks are valuable for mechanical and surgical purposes, and that he is useful in India? Besides, there's the toll he will pay. We shall by this means get money enough into the public treasury to build schools for a good many boys who are not trampled to death."

"That's the plan. Regulate him! Regulate him!" shouted the crowd.

So they appointed a great many com- mittees, and drafted constitutions and by- laws, and circulated petitions, and by the time the elephant had killed several more boys and trampled down a quantity of gardens they had erected very comfortable toll houses for the gatekeepers and gates for the elephant; and then they waited in great satisfaction to see the animal regulated.

Slowly the great feet trampled onward; slowly the great proboscis appeared in view; and with a sniff of contempt, the elephant lifted the gate from its hinges and walked off with it, while the crowd stared after him in dismay.

"Well!" exclaimed the keeper, catching his breath; "we haven't made much

money so far, but the regulatin' plan would have been first rate if the elephant hadn't been a leetle stronger than the obstruction."

But they were not the first men nor the last who have tried to stop a pretty big elephant with a very big slim gate.—For- ward.

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