

LESSON VII—November 15th, 1896.

God's Blessing upon Solomon. I KINGS 9: 1-9.

(Commit to memory verses 4, 5).

GOLDEN TEXT: "The blessing of the Lord it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it."
Prov. 10: 22.

PROVE THAT—God hears prayer. Ps. 65: 2.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Questions 60, 61, 62.

LESSON HYMNS.—*Children's Hymnal*.—Nos. 6, 10, 222, 100.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* God's blessing upon Solomon. I Kings 9: 1-9. *Tuesday.* Wisdom and understanding. Deut. 4: 1-10. *Wednesday.* Conditions of prosperity. Deut. 11: 13-21. *Thursday.* Blessing of the Lord. Deut. 28: 1-14. *Friday.* Warnings fulfilled. 2 Kings 25: 1-10. *Saturday.* The heathen reproaching. Jer. 22: 1-9. *Sabbath.* Godliness is profitable. Ps. 112. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. This second dream from God was not sent immediately after the festival of the Dedication. At least twenty years (verse 10) had elapsed since the events narrated in our last lesson, but the vision refers to the prayer then offered up, Parallel passage 2 Chr. 7: 11-22.

LESSON PLAN. I. The Promise. vs. 1-5. II. The Warning. vs. 6-9.

Solomon erected a great many beautiful palaces¹ and founded cities and fortresses in different parts of his empire.² Everything that he undertook prospered, as God had promised. But in his success he seems to have forgotten his duty to God. This is a real danger to everyone.³ We all need disappointment and sorrow to remind us that we depend upon God for every blessing we have. Again God appeared to Solomon in a dream as when, at Gibeon,⁴ he offered him his choice of blessings. But now the vision is intended both to confirm the former promises and sharply admonish the king regarding his danger. God had testified at the time by the cloud filling the temple,⁵ that he had accepted Solomon's prayer offered some twenty years before at the dedication of the temple, but now he refers to it in order to connect the warning as well as the promise with that great occasion. God did not mean to retract one word of all he then said of blessings. His eye would ever be upon the temple and his people to watch over them and his heart would love them⁶ no matter how unworthy they might prove. Jesus shewed God's pity and compassion when he wept over Jerusalem. If ever we fail to get what God has promised the fault is ours not God's. David was not perfect, by any means, but he never faltered in his loyalty to God.⁷ He sinned grievously but he repented sincerely.⁸ He shewed his real sorrow

by never committing the same sin twice. At least this is true of those recorded in his life. That is the best test of repentance. If we don't try to avoid the sin we say we are sorry for we cannot really hate it. Again God repeats the promise that had made David so glad,⁹ but the old condition of obedience was attached to it. God promises no blessing absolutely; our fitness of heart to receive it is always implied. "At all" here means "wholly," "altogether." While there is hope of reform God is long-suffering¹⁰ and corrects his children. It is only when they shew that they will not repent that he finally casts them off. Children may receive the blessings promised to their fathers, but only on condition of imitating their parents' piety. If they love the world, or pleasure, or any sin more than God then he will turn away from them. This threat was partially fulfilled when the ten tribes revolted from under Rehoboam,¹¹ Solomon's son, but it is more completely so when Nebuchadnezzar carried away the king and people captives to Babylon and burnt Jerusalem and the temple.¹² It is again fulfilled in our day when we see the Jews dispersed and despised and the temple utterly destroyed, all because they rejected and crucified Christ.¹³ All sin is shameful, and even the world will not respect those who do wrong.¹⁴

¹I Kings 7: 1-8. ²2 Chr. 8: 4-6. ³Ps. 55: 19; 73: 5, 6. ⁴I Kings 3: 5. ⁵Ex. 29: 43; 2 Chr. 5: 14; 7: 1-3. ⁶Matt. 33: 37. ⁷Ps. 18: 20-24. ⁸Ps. 32: 5; Prov. 18: 13; I John 1: 8-10. ⁹2 Sam. 7: 12, 16. ¹⁰Ex. 34: 6, 7; 2 Pet. 3: 9. ¹¹I Kings 11: 34. ¹²2 Kings 25: 1-30. ¹³Mark 11: 9, 10. ¹⁴Prov. 18: 3; 10: 7.

LESSONS. 1. God hallows gifts that are made with a consecrated heart. 2. Obedience brings blessings. 3. God wants our whole heart. 4. God's judgments are sure. 5. Even the world despises unworthy Christians.