

## FOR THE SABBATH SCHOOL

## International S. S. Lesson.

LESSON I.—SOLOMON ANOINTED KING.—OCT. 4.

(1 Kings i. 28-39.)

GOLDEN TEXT.—"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."—Psalm cxi. 10.

ANALYSIS.—Solomon's dream (v. 5).  
Solomon's prayer (v. 6-9).  
poecdy answer (vs. 10-16).

TIME AND PLACE.—B.C. 1015, Gibson.

VERSE BY VERSE.—V. 5. "Gibson."—An ancient city five miles northwest of Jerusalem. It was a sacred place, and the ancient tabernacle was there. "The Lord appeared."—On the night after Solomon had offered sacrifices.

V. 6. "This great kindness."—David himself regarded this as his crowning mercy. (1 Kings i. 48.)

V. 7. "I am but a little child."—That is, in experience. His age was about twenty years. "To go out or come in."—An expression signifying participation in public affairs.

V. 8. "That cannot be numbered."—The Jewish people probably numbered about six millions at that time, but the conquests of David had brought into subjection many neighboring tribes and nations, so that the subjects of his kingdom must have been in number far beyond this.

V. 9. "An understanding heart."—A clear judgment in the administration of his duties as king. "To judge thy people."—The functions of the judge, were included in those of the King, but the expression *judge* here doubtless includes all the work of administering the government.

V. 10. "The speech pleased the Lord."—It looked to no selfish end, but solely to the good of his people and the responsible duties the Lord had laid upon him.

V. 11. "Has not asked for thyself long life."—There was no thought of self in Solomon's prayer.

V. 12. "Have done according to Thy Word."—That is, have granted thy petition. "So that there was none like Thee."—The Lord not only granted his petition, but made him the wisest of all the kings of Israel.

V. 13. "And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked." If he had asked for riches and honor he might not have secured them, but the Lord gave them also, and he became the richest of kings.

V. 14. "If thou wilt walk in my ways."—In obedience to my commands. "Will lengthen thy days."—The condition upon which this promise was given was not observed, and so the promise was not fulfilled, and Solomon did not live and reign even so long as his father David, but died when he was not more than sixty years of age.

V. 15. "A dream."—Yet it was more than an ordinary dream. "Came to Jerusalem."—From Gibson. "Before the ark of the covenant."—This had been carried by David to Jerusalem and placed in a new tabernacle. "Burnt offerings."—Expressing entire consecration to God. "Peace offerings."—Expressing fellowship with God and assurance of His favor. "And made a feast." In connection with the sacrifices.

THOUGHTS.—Like Solomon we are commanded to ask. It is our duty to ask. Asking is an important part of our religion. "Prayer is the Christian's vital breath." Like Solomon, we have but to ask, and God will give. "Every one that asketh, receiveth." "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all men liberally." Jas. i. 5. If we have not wisdom, blessing, pardon, peace, it is all for want of asking, but the disposition of the heart and the desire must be for God's glory, or else our words are vain. "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts," Jas. iv. 3. Like Solomon, let us ask the best gifts. We are left to choose, and when the question is pressed, it is an important time in life. "Covet earnestly the best gifts." Wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." Jas. iii. 17. And such was the kind Solomon needed in his great work as king. Only such does God give. Choosing the best, the greatest, we obtain the lesser gifts. God gives "exceeding, abundantly, above all we ask or think," when we desire good from Him. Solomon was prepared to hear from God. He had gone with his people to worship God. This day was spent in serving God. His prayer was acceptable to God, and he received the assurance at night that it was answered. His heart was prepared for the answer. He was alone with God when it came. Prayer and devotion alone before God prepares us to receive his gifts.

ILLUSTRATION.—It was a beautiful autumn when Miss T—entered college. Her hopes and ambitions were high, and she

expected to have smooth sailing. Some months before, she had been induced to read a weekly paper which contained continued stories, of rather an exciting character. It was quite a new thing for Miss T—for she had never allowed herself time from her studies, and home duties, to read such literature. But because she appeared to be so "out of date," as they told her, she took up the story paper, in order to "keep up with the rest." She entered college. Her new studies charmed her, yet she found that taste for light reading was spoiling her memory, and calling her thoughts away from good things. She did not tell her teacher one word about her trial, but he was a noble Christian man, and had for many years taught among young people, and well knew the temptations that come into their lives. Very soon his pupils began to respect him as a father, and take his counsel. Among his lectures, which were like fatherly talks, he touched upon the subject of novel reading. What an unfolding of startling facts he presented! What terrible wrecks had been made, of many, through the habit of novel reading. He urged upon his class, as sons and daughters to settle the question, if it were not already settled, that none of them would ever be caught in the awful snare, which Satan laid by choosing cheap literature. That lecture took hold on Miss T—. She saw her own picture. Her case was surely fast becoming like many others, whom her teacher described. Without telling any one her emotions, she went home that night thinking deeply. Sleep would not release her from the agony of her mind. She concluded the question by declaring she would take her teacher's advice. From that day she climbed upward, and her life developed into one of peace and delight, and her influence and example ever tended to lead the young to follow her footsteps.

## CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR.

WORLD'S C. E. PRAYER CHAIN, SUBJECT FOR OCTOBER:—*For Our Missionaries.* Pray especially for those missionaries laboring in hard, discouraging, and perilous fields. Pray for the "volunteers," who are making ready to go to the front.

## DAILY READINGS.

## Our Best.

First Day—The Lookout Committee—2 Cor. v. 20.

Second Day—The Prayer-meeting Committee—2 Chron. vii. 14.

Third Day—The Social Committee—Neb. viii. 10.

Fourth Day—The Flower Committee—1 Chron. xvi. 29.

Fifth Day—The Sunshine Committee—Rom. xii. 10.

Sixth Day—The Birthday Committee—Psalm xc. 12.

PRAYER MEETING TOPIC, Oct. 18.—How CAN WE IMPROVE OUR COMMITTEE WORK? Matt. xxv. 14-30. (A meeting to consider the work of all the Committees.)

Every redeemed man is called to be a witness for his Lord. Not only by a godly walk, but by personal effort must I serve and make known my Lord. My tongue, my speech, is one of the principal means of intercourse with others and influence upon them. It is but a half dedication, when I do not also bring the offering of the lips, to speak for the Lord.

Such work must be the work of love. Let souls feel that you love them tenderly. Let the humility and gentleness of love, as this was to be seen in Jesus, be seen also in you. At every turn surrender yourself to Jesus to be filled with His love: not by feeling but by faith in this love, can you do your work.

Such work must be the work of faith, of faith working by love: faith that the Lord desires to use you and will use you. Be not afraid on account of your weakness: learn in the Scriptures what glorious promises God from time to time gave to those who had to speak for Him. Surrender yourself continually to God to be used for the rescue of souls, and take your stand on the fact that He who has redeemed you for this end, will for this end bless you. Although your work is in weakness and fear, although no blessing appears to come, be of good courage: at His time, we shall reap. Be filled with faith in the power of God, in His blessing upon you, and in the certainty of the hearing of prayer.

But above all,—for this is the principal point,—carry out this work in fellowship with Jesus. Live closely with Him—live entirely for Him—let Jesus be in all your own life and He will speak and work in you. Be full of the blessing of the Lord, full of His Spirit and His love, and it cannot be otherwise than that you should be a blessing. You shall be able to tell what He is continually for you. You shall have the love and the courage, with all humility, to put to souls the question, "Is it well with you? Have you indeed the Lord Jesus as your Saviour?" And the Lord will make you experience the rich blessing which is promised to those who live to bless others.

Young Christian, be a witness for Jesus. Live as one who is wholly given away to Him to watch and to work for His honor.