

**LESSON PLAN**

- I. Seeking, 1-3.  
 II. Surprised, 4, 5.  
 III. Satisfied, 6-10, 13.

**DAILY READINGS**

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Hon. Secretary, 56 Old Bailey, London, England.)

M.—The Queen of Sheba visits Solomon, 1 Kgs. 10 : 1-10, 13. T.—Solomon's grandeur, 1 Kgs. 10 : 16-24. W.—A greater than Solomon, Matt. 12 : 35-42. Th.—All vanity and vexation, Eccl. 2 : 1-11. F.—Give me understanding, Ps. 119 : 33-40. S.—The exaltation of Christ, Eph. 1 : 17-23. S.—Better than all the gold, Prov. 8 : 1-9.

**Shorter Catechism**—Ques. 24. *How doth Christ execute the office of a prophet?* A. Christ executeth the office of a prophet in revealing to us, by his word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.

**The Question on Missions**—5. How does the Settlement help to prevent crime and vice? It makes

a centre where young people may meet for good times that are clean and helpful. It studies individuals and helps to interest them in things worth while and to bring the power of God into their lives.

**Lesson Hymns**—Book of Praise : 19 (Supplemental Lesson), 434, 447, 52 (Ps. Sel.), 449 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY), 444.

**Special Scripture Reading**—Prov. 4 : 1-9. (To be read responsively or in concert by the whole School.) It is expected that each scholar will have his or her Bible, and so be prepared to take part in this reading, which may form part of the opening exercises of the School.

**Lantern Slides**—For Lesson, B. 339, Queen of Sheba at Solomon's Court. For Question on Missions, S.O.S. 120, Domestic Science Classes, or Teacher and Little Mother. (These Slides are obtained from Rev. F. A. Robinson, B.A., Presbyterian Lantern Slide Department, Room 626, Confederation Life Building, Toronto, at \$2.00 a dozen. Schools desiring slides may procure them on short notice by sending negatives, prints or photographs. Slides are colored to order.)

**Stereographs**—For Lesson, Beautiful Mosque El Aksa, South from the Temple Area (Underwood & Underwood, 417 Fifth Ave., New York City), set of 12 stereographs for this Quarter's Lessons, \$2.00. Five for August, 84c.; less than five in one order, 20c. each; stereoscopes, 90c. (postage or express is prepaid on all orders for stereographs or stereoscopes). In ordering please be sure to mention THE TEACHERS MONTHLY.

**THE LESSON EXPLAINED**

By Rev. J. M. Duncan, D.D.

**Time and Place**—About B.C. 995; Jerusalem and Sheba.

**Connecting Links**—Ch. 9 : 1-9 gives an account of a second appearance of the Lord to Solomon (compare Lesson III. ; ch. 3 : 4-15, July 18). Solomon, being pressed for ready money, ceded twenty cities in Galilee to Hiram, king of Tyre, in return for 120 talents of gold, equal to about three and a half millions of dollars, ch. 9 : 10-14. In vs. 15-25 we have a list of Solomon's public buildings, for the erection of which a levy of forced labor was made. Vs. 26-28 describe the construction and manning of a fleet.

**I. Seeking, 1-3.**

V. 1. *The queen of Sheba*; the modern Yemen, a country in southwestern Arabia, greatly superior to other portions of Arabia, both in climate and soil. The central district is a highland region, with mountains some 8,000 feet above the sea level. Fertile valleys branch out from the hills. These are "well timbered in places, and threaded by silvery streams of dancing waters; sloping fields, gay with crops and wild flowers; terraced or jungle-covered slopes." Here are grown the best vines in all Arabia. The air is pure and comparatively cool. *Heard*. The fame of Solomon would be spread abroad by the ships trading with Ophir (see Connecting Links) and by caravans traveling hither and

thither. *Concerning the name of the Lord*. With the name of Solomon would be linked everywhere the great temple which he had built, and descriptions of the building would contain references to Him in whose honor it had been built. *Prove him*; not trusting to hearsay. *With hard questions*; literally, "with riddles," like that of Samson (Judg. 14 : 12-14), of which Orientals were, and are, very fond. Perhaps, too, the queen wished to promote commerce between Solomon's realm and her own, and Matt. 12 : 42 suggests that she had some questions to ask on religious subjects.

Vs. 2, 3. *Came to Jerusalem*; a distance of from 1,500 to 2,000 miles, as far, at least, as from Montreal to Winnipeg. The slow and toilsome modes of travel in those days would make this a very long and trying journey. At 20 miles a day, which would be about the rate of travel, it would take at least 75 days. *A very great train*; a large caravan required for safety, dignity and the transport of the queen's gifts. *Spices*. The Arabian Sheba was the great spice country of the ancient world. *Gold*. See Ps. 72 : 15. *Precious stones*; probably the onyx, emerald, amethyst, sardonyx and pearl. *All in her heart*; "all the riddles she had been able to invent, or all the problems that had perplexed her." *Told her all . . . not any thing hid*.