

spiritual Church of believers. . . . Show the opportunity then as a type of the opportunity now. 1. It was a time of *peace*. There had been a struggle, but it was over. So now the era of doctrinal and ecclesiastical strife is past, and God's people are at peace, and the era of Christian work is beginning. 2. It was a time of *power*. Never before had Israel been so mighty at home and abroad. So now the Church is stronger in the world than at any past time in her history. 3. It was a time of *wealth*; vast stores accumulated by David for the use of his son. Now, God lays the wealth of the world in the coffers of his Church. . . . Next, show what the opportunity demanded of the worker then, and demands now. 1. *Wisdom* (v. 12), to know the opportunity, and employ it. 2. *Obedience* (v. 12, 13), the spirit of fidelity to God's commands. 3. *Courage* (v. 13), in the face of difficulties. 4. *Liberality* (v. 14-16), to use treasure which God has given for his work. 5. *Unity* (v. 17-19), princes and people labouring and giving together for the advancement of God's cause.

References. FOSTER'S ILLUSTRATIONS : Verse 7-11 : Poetical, 4046. Ver. 13 : Prose, 7519. Ver. 19 : Poetical, 291.

Primary and Intermediate.

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LESSON THOUGHT. *God with us in our work.*

THE DYING KING.

Now King David was about to die. Do you think he was afraid? Hear what he says in this psalm which you all love : "Though I walk through the valley and the shadow of death," etc. Let children repeat it softly. But before David went out of the world he talked a great deal with his son Solomon, and told him what to do. God had told David of a great work which he wanted Solomon to do for him. It was something he could not let David do because he had been a man of war. [Teacher, recall as much of the lesson of July 20 as seems best.] David wanted to build a house for the Lord, but when the Lord said No, he cheerfully did what he could—gathered things together for it. This seems a very little to do, but David was willing to do a little if he could not do the whole. Read verses 14, 15, and 16, and tell that David also had made a pattern of the temple for Solomon. [Teacher should read I Chronicles, 28th and 29th chapters, and tell the children enough to make the story clear and vivid.]

GOD'S TEMPLE.

Tell story of a little boy who heard the people talking about building a new church.

They thought they were too poor to build one, though it was needed very much. But this boy, only nine years old, thought he would do what he could. So on Monday morning, after he had heard the minister talking about it, he went early to the minister's house, carrying two or three bricks on his little wheelbarrow "to help build the new church." The minister was almost discouraged, but this cheered him so that he went out telling about the boy's faith, and other folks took courage too, and in a little while the new church was built. Show picture of the temple, or sketch outline of it, and tell that all the people had a chance to give something to help build a house for the Lord. This is work which children can help do if they love God.

GOD'S TEMPLE IN THE HEART.

Every child can help to build the temple in the heart. Those who help to build a house for God's worship have to think about it and work, or they will not do anything. So if we want to make a temple for God in our hearts we must think and work and pray. We must think about God's commands to obey them. We must work to resist temptation, and we must pray all the time for God to help. Teach Golden Text, and show that the time to "be doing" is now. Sing, "O what can little hands do?"

Lesson Word-Pictures.

A little court-scene. Let us step in and witness it. Solomon has been summoned before the king. He hardly understands its object, but he responds at once. There he stands before David : Solomon the young, the strong, the erect, the kingly, the magnificent : David the old, the white-haired, the wrinkled and stooping, but still the king with the crown on his head. There, too, is Bath-sheba, wondering what may be needed of her son. There are the princes of Israel, represented in those men of dignity and years. Close at hand are the royal guards. Big and brawny and armed, they stand motionless, gripping their long, keen spears, their sharp swords swung at the side. Listen, Solomon ! The king is about to charge thee. Charge with what ? To build up a great royal house, to furnish it with a golden throne, to buttress it with armies and navies, to make land and sea tributary to its greatness ? See ! How Solomon listens ! Bath-sheba questions with both of her eyes. The princes wonder. Even the mute, stolid guards look curious. Hark ! It is indeed to build a house, but this is the house of the Lord. This is the palace of the Great King. Do you shrink, Solomon ? "Be strong, and of good courage," cries the stout-hearted old