

CANAAN
 as expanded from time of
JOSHUA
 -PT-
DAVID'S CONQUESTS.

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The Home Study Quarterly

FOR SENIOR SCHOLARS AND THE HOME DEPARTMENT.

Vol. II.

October, November and December.

No. 4.

EXAMINATION SYLLABUS, 1896.

HIGHER RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION.

Date of Annual Examination for all Departments, January 30th, 1897.

EACH DEPARTMENT IS INDEPENDENT OF ALL THE OTHERS.

DEPARTMENT I.—BIBLICAL.

All Grades.—International S. S. Lessons for 1896. *Additional for Senior.*—A paper on "The Life of David," by Rev. Peter Thompson, M. A. (Price 20 cents).

Diplomas, but not prizes or medals, will be given to all those, of any grade, who pass the examination on "The Life of David" only, without taking that on the S. S. Lessons. This is designed to meet the case of Bible Classes and Christian Endeavor Societies which wish to make a special study of this Hand-Book.

DEPARTMENT II.—DOCTRINAL.

All Grades.—"The Shorter Catechism," by Prof. Salmond, D. D. Part II., Section I. (Quest. 39-81). (Price 20 cents, 3 vols. in one, 45 cents).

All Junior and Intermediate candidates who shall be certified by their Pastors or Superintendents as having answered correctly every question in the Shorter Catechism at one recitation, will receive a Diploma.

DEPARTMENT III.—HISTORICAL.

All Grades.—Bible History from the Creation to the Death of Moses. Text Book "A Manual of Bible History," by Rev. William G. Blaikie, D. D., LL. D. Pages 1-163. By special arrangement with the publishers, the text-book can be obtained for *eighty-one cents*, if ordered through the convener, or vice-convener, or if the money is remitted direct to the publishers—The Copp, Clark Co., Ltd., Toronto.

The course in this subject will extend over four years:

1896—Bible History from the Creation to the death of Moses. Text-Book, pages 1-163.

1897—Bible History from the death of Moses to that of Solomon. Text-Book, pages 164-266.

1898—Bible History from the death of Solomon to Malachi. Text-Book, pages 267-381.

1899—Bible History from Malachi to the destruction of Jerusalem. Text-Book, pages 382-495.

REGULATIONS.

1. Examinations will be held at as many places in each Presbytery as the convenience of candidates may require; in every Sabbath school if desired. Presiding examiners will be appointed to make the necessary local arrangements and superintend the examination.

2. Examinations will be held simultaneously on the day and at the hour named for each paper.

3. Question papers will be sent to any minister, Sabbath school superintendent, teacher or other responsible person who may apply to the vice-convener, REV. W. FARQUHARSON, B. A., CLAUDE, ONT., for them before January 15th, 1897. In the requisition the candidates must be classified according to the grades (Junior, Intermediate or Senior) of the departments in which they wish to be examined. (See Regulation 5). It is not necessary to send names, as the coupon returned after the examination will contain all the particulars required for enrollment. The applicant will be held responsible for the proper observance of all regulations, and must either, if not a candidate, act as presiding examiner, or suggest the name of some trustworthy person, whose consent has been obtained, for appointment to that duty.

4. Candidates may enter in any of the prescribed departments, but are recommended to limit themselves to one, or at most two. When the same work is prescribed for successive, or subsequent years, as in the doctrinal and historical departments, no *second diploma*, prize or medal will be given for it to anyone, nor will a medallist be eligible for a prize. Successful candidates of a previous year are not excluded from entering, but *if the work is the same* as that of which they were formerly examined they must take a higher standing, *i. e.*, the holder of a diploma must obtain at least 75 per cent. on the second occasion, and one who has taken a prize, at least 90 per cent., in order to receive recognition.

5. Candidates between ten and fifteen years of age will rank as Junior; those aged fifteen and under twenty as Intermediate; and those twenty years of age and older as Senior. Ages to be reckoned as on January 30th, 1897.

6. Candidates obtaining 90 per cent. of the full marks in any department will be entitled to a silver medal; those obtaining 75 per cent., but less than 90 per cent., will be entitled to a book prize; and all other candidates who obtain 50 per cent. will be entitled to a diploma.

7. The value of each paper will be 200, and two hours will be allowed for writing the answers.

8. One question paper for the whole church will be set on each subject, and copies forwarded, under sealed covers, to the Presiding Examiners. The covers shall not be removed till the candidates are assembled, and the written answers shall be covered and sealed for transmission to the convener, before the candidates leave the place of examination. The packages must be posted thereafter without delay.

9. A Quarterly Examination on the S. S. LESSON (Department I.) will be substituted for the Annual whenever a special request is made to that effect. The examinations for the year 1896 will be held at the following dates:

- 1st Quarterly Examination on April 4th.
- 2nd Quarterly Examination on June 27th.
- 3rd Quarterly Examination on October 3rd.
- 4th Quarterly Examination on January 30th, 1897.

DEPARTMENT IV.—ESSAY.

Theme for all Grades: "Solomon and his Times."

Essays must not be sent in later than January 30th, 1897. Each essay must bear a motto written at the top of the first page, and the writer's name must on no account appear. It must be written on foolscap paper, and the sheets must be securely fastened together. Each essay must be the composition and in the hand-writing of the candidate. A list of books consulted in the preparation of the essay must be given at the beginning of the manuscript, and quotations must be carefully marked. The writer's name, address, congregation, age on January 30th, 1897, and motto, must be written upon a slip of paper and enclosed with the essay to the REV. W. FARQUHARSON, B. A., CLAUDE, ONT. Medals, prizes and diplomas will be given to essayists as in the examinations.

No essay in the Junior or Intermediate grades shall exceed 5,000 words, nor in the Senior 10,000 words in length.

The following *Instructions to Examiners of Essays* are published for the information of candidates.

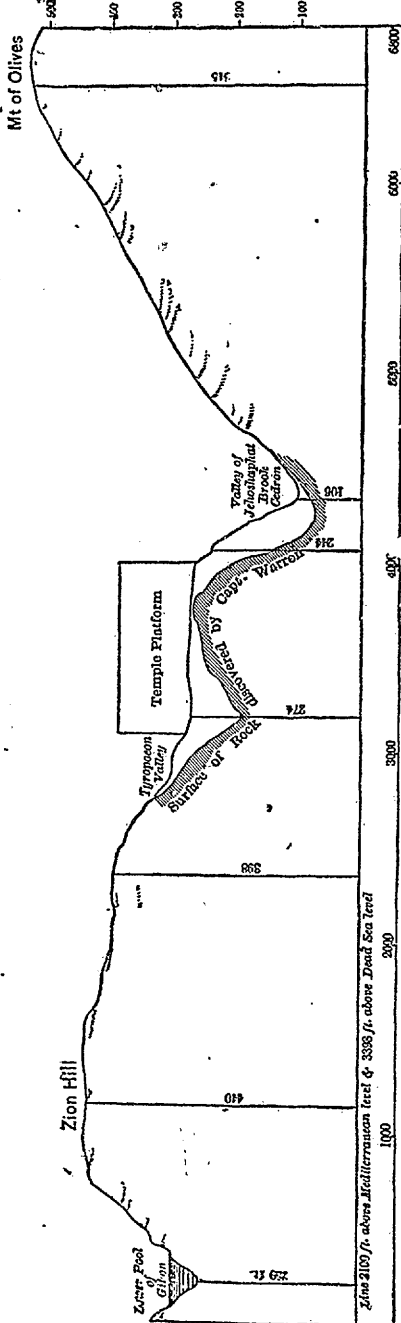
1. The merits of each essay to be estimated more by the excellence of its matter than its literary form.

2. A fixed round number, say 200, to be taken by all the judges as representing the "full marks" due to an essay in all respects such as might be expected from a young person of the maximum prescribed age.

3. Of these marks a certain definite proportion, say three-fourths, to be given on the ground of (A) excellence of substance, and the remainder for (B) excellence of form. The marks may be apportioned as follows:—

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| A | { | I. For fulness of historical research combined with accuracy of historical statement
—a maximum of 75. |
| | | II. For aptness, sagacity, originality of investigation, illustration, comment or deduction—75. |
| B | { | III. For excellence of style as regards choice of appropriate words and grammar, vigor, rhythm of sentence—25. |
| | | IV. For symmetry and proportion of the composition as a whole, indicating some feeling for literary form—25. |

THE SITE OF THE TEMPLE.



Profile section (east and west) through Jerusalem to the highest point of the Mount of Olives, showing the comparative elevations of Zion, Moriah, and the Temple Platform and the Mt. of Olives; and the rock-bed of the brook Kedron. The breadthwise distances are indicated, in feet, on the bottom line.

The Temple was built upon the summit of Mount Moriah, a spot already consecrated by the Trial of Abraham's Faith, and the sacrifice offered by David on the threshing-floor of Araunah. The rugged hill-top was levelled into a series of terraces, the peak being reserved as a foundation for the great altar of burnt offering. The surrounding courts occupied the receding levels from this central and most sacred spot. The precipitous sides of the rocky hill were faced with masonry, some of the stones of which were of enormous size, and are still in their original positions, bearing upon them the quarry marks of the Phœnician stonecutters. At the southeast corner this outer retaining wall rose from the Valley of Kedron to the dizzy height of 300 feet. Within these walls, and supported by massive arches, the solid floor of the temple court was laid, palaces and colonnades were erected and trees and shrubs planted. The diagram in the margin (taken from *Buller's Bible Work*) exhibits the comparative height of Mounts Zion, Moriah and Olivet. The rock foundation of the outer wall of the temple platform is shewn, the line above it represents the present surface. Although no streamlet now meanders between Moriah and Olivet the true Kedron has been found still flowing over its ancient pebbles deep below the rubbish which now forms the surface of the ground. The Temple built by Solomon in B. C. 1005 was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in B. C. 588. The second temple was built under the superintendence of Zerubbabel in B. C. 516. This building, having become greatly dilapidated, was almost wholly rebuilt by Herod the Great, and was finally destroyed by Titus in A. D. 70.

"The sunbeam of the orient day,
Saw nought on earth more bright and fair
But desolation swept away
And left no form of glory there.

But God, who reared that chiselled stone,
Now builds upon a higher plan,
And rears the columns of his throne,
His temple in the heart of man."

LESSON I—October 4th, 1896.

Solomon Anointed King. I KINGS I : 28-39.

(Commit to memory verses 28-30).

GOLDEN TEXT : "Keep the charge of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways." I Kings 2: 3.

PROVE THAT—Those in authority should be respected. I Pet. 2: 13.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Questions 39, 40, 41.

LESSON HYMNS: *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 16, 22, 57, 69.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* A mother's request. I Kings I : 1, 27. *Tuesday.* Solomon anointed king. I Kings I : 28-39. *Wednesday.* A danger averted. I Kings I : 41-49. *Thursday.* David's prayer for Solomon. Ps. 72. *Friday.* A prosperous king. I Chr. 29: 20-30. *Saturday.* The Prince of Peace. Isa. 9: 1-7. *Sabbath.* Everlasting dominion. Dan. 7: 9-14. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. Our lessons this Quarter treat of the life and writings of Solomon. The genius of David laid the foundations of the splendor of this reign. Our opening lesson describes the circumstances attending the accession of the new king.

LESSON PLAN. The King's Promise. vs. 28-31. II. The King's Instructions. vs. 32-35. III. The King's Successor. vs. 36-39.

28. Then—Adoni'jah, following the example of his brother Ab'salom, had formed a conspiracy to snatch the crown from his aged father. Na'than the prophet heard of it and informed Bathshe'ba, Solomon's mother, who at once told David. While she was speaking Nathan came into the royal presence and confirmed the report. **Bathshe'ba—**Who had withdrawn when Nathan came in. **29. The king swear—**This was a solemn renewal of a previous promise (verse 13). **Out of all distress—**His mercies had been many and striking and David often very gratefully remembered them (Ps. 25: 22; 31: 7; 34: 6, 7, 17, 22). **30. Shall reign after me—**God had doubtless told David that Solomon was to succeed him and so he was certain that he would place him on the throne. Now the king will carry out God's plan without any further delay. **Live forever—**As we would say "God save the king." Bathshe'ba had no wish for the king's removal by death out of the way of her son. **32. Za'dok—**One of the two high priests. The other, Abi'athar, had joined Adoni'jah's party. **Nathan—**David's faithful counsellor and the tutor of Solomon (2 Sam. 12: 25). **Bena'iah—**Captain of the royal guards, probably the troops called elsewhere Cherethites, Pelethites and Gihborim (2 Sam. 20: 6, 7). **33. Mine own mule—**No one was allowed to do this

without the king's permission, on pain of death. This would shew the people that David himself approved of what was being done. **Gi'hon—**A fountain and pool on the west of Jerusalem (2 Chr. 32: 30; 33: 14). Adoni'jah's party were assembled at En-ro'gel in the valley of Kedron on the east of the city. **34. Anoint him—**With the sacred oil kept in the tabernacle (Ex. 30: 23-33). This signified the outpouring upon the young king of the gifts and graces from God necessary to the exercise of his office. Only kings and priests were anointed. **35. Ruler—**R. V. "prince." The title given by God specially to those who should lead his people (1 Sam. 9: 16; 25: 30; 2 Kings 20: 5; and Christ in D'n. 9: 25). **36. Amen—**"Be it so." This pious soldier felt that all they did to place Solomon on the throne would be useless without God's help and blessing (Ps. 127: 1; Jer. 28: 6). **37. Make his throne greater—**No doubt the promises to David were well known to the intimate counsellors of the king and they shared his high expectations regarding the future (1 Chr. 17: 11-27). **38. The Cher'ethites and the Pe'lethites—**Probably foreigners enlisted for immediate attendance on the king. **39. God save king Solomon—**The people made loud demonstrations of loyalty and the banquet of Adoni'jah came to an abrupt conclusion.

LESSONS. 1. We should faithfully keep our promises. 2. We should remember God's mercies. 3. Without God's blessing no enterprise can succeed. 4. God will bestow all the gifts and graces needed for the performance of duty. 5. Loyalty to the Queen is a Christian duty.

LESSON II—October 11th, 1896.

Solomon's Wise Choice. I KINGS 3: 5-15.

(Commit to memory verses 11, 12.)

GOLDEN TEXT: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Ps. 111: 10.

PROVE THAT—We need the Lord's guidance. Ps. 37: 5.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Questions 42, 43, 44.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 1, 78, 220, 72.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Solomon's wise choice. I Kings 3: 5-15. *Tuesday.* The choice of Moses. Heb. 11: 17-26. *Wednesday.* Joshua's choice. Josh. 24: 14-24. *Thursday.* The excellency of wisdom. Job 28: 12-28. *Friday.* Which to choose. Deut. 30: 11-20. *Saturday.* Righteousness the first choice. I Tim. 6: 6-16. *Sabbath.* The best knowledge. Phil. 3: 1-14. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. Solomon treated those implicated in the plot of Adoni'jah with wise leniency and his authority was unquestioned henceforth. The closing scenes of David's life are described in I Chr. 22, 28 and 29 chapters. For sublimity and pathos the narrative is unexampled. His private charge regarding certain obnoxious and dangerous persons (I Kings 2: 1-9) is painful reading and forcibly reminds us of the ever ideas regarding some points of morality which possessed even good men in Old Testament times. Read in connection with our lesson 2 Chr. 1: 1-13; I Kings 4: 29.

LESSON PLAN. I. Solomon's Prayer. vs. 5-9. II. God's Answer. vs. 10-15.

5. Gib'oon—About six miles north of Jerusalem. Here the ancient tabernacle stood, and upon the brazen altar first erected under the shadow of Mt. Sinai, Solomon offered a thousand burnt-offerings by way of a solemn inauguration of his reign. In a dream—God often spoke to his people in dreams (see Gen. 31: 11; Matt. 1: 20; 2: 13, 19) and also to heathens (see Gen. 4: 25; Dan. 2: 1-49). It is very foolish to attach importance to ordinary dreams, but when God speaks to us in one we shall have no difficulty in recognizing the fact. Ask what I shall give thee—God is able and willing to give us anything we need (Ezek. 36: 37; Matt. 21: 22; Jas. 4: 2). 6. Solomon prefaces his request by three arguments, or reasons why God should grant it; (1) God was gracious to his father and he would ask the same favor for himself; (2) God had placed him on the throne and so he had a claim on his support and direction; and (3) His felt insufficiency and dependence on God. Solomon shewed that he was already wise when he approached God so wisely. 7. I am but a little child—He was probably 18 or 20 years of age, but feels his inexperience in the face of the responsible duties now resting upon him (I Chr. 22: 5; 29: 1). Such humility is pleasing to God (Gen. 18: 27; 32: 10; Job 42: 4-6; Isa. 6: 5; Jer. 1: 6; Luke 7: 6; I Tim. 1: 15). Go out or come in—Perform properly the duties of my position in public or private (Ps. 121: 8). Real strength and wisdom come to those who lean on God

(2 Cor. 3: 5; 12: 10). 8. A great people—God's promises to Abraham were now fulfilled (Gen. 13: 16; 15: 5). The actual number of Israelites at this time was probably about 6,000,000. 9. An understanding heart—Literally, "a hearing heart," one that discerns clearly the truth and acts upon it. What Solomon asks for is ability to judge righteously in matters coming before him (Prov. 2: 3-9; Jas. 1: 5). 11. The life of thine enemies—i. e. The defeat of his foes in battle (I Sam. 17: 47; Ps. 18: 39). Long life is a real blessing (Ps. 91: 16; Prov. 3: 2; 32: 41). Although wealth has its dangers (Matt. 13: 22; Mark 10: 24; I Tim. 6: 10), it may be a means of good to ourselves and others (I Tim. 6: 17-19). 12. I have done according to thy words—Such prayers are always answered (I John 5: 14, 15; Jas. 1: 5). 13. God always gives more than we ask (Eph. 3: 20). See the words of Jesus in Matt. 6: 33 and 13: 12. Anyone may have blessings from God on the same conditions as Solomon. Godliness has promise of the life that now is (I Tim. 4: 8). 14. Then I will lengthen thy days—The promise of long life had a condition attached to it which Solomon did not fulfil. He was not an old man when he died. 15. Stood before the ark—The king's burnt-offerings, and peace-offerings, and the feast to his servants were a thanksgiving service for the gifts bestowed upon him in the dream.

LESSONS. 1. Jesus bids us ask and we shall receive. 2. The children of pious parents should remember their father's God. 3. We should seek first the kingdom of God. 4. God always gives us far more than we ask. 5. Riches, honors, and a long life are blessings only to those who employ them rightly.

LESSON III—October 18th, 1896.

Solomon's Wealth and Wisdom. I KINGS 4: 25-34.

(Commit to memory verses 29, 30).

GOLDEN TEXT: "Them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed." I Sam. 2: 30.

PROVE THAT—God prospers the upright. Prov. 14: 11.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Questions 46, 47, 48.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 156, 74, 236, 253.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Solomon's wealth and wisdom. I Kings 4: 25-34. *Tuesday.* Wisdom's invitation. Prov. 8: 13-21, 32-36. *Wednesday.* The source of wisdom. Ps. 119: 97-104. *Thursday.* Insufficiency of worldly wisdom. I Cor. 1: 20-31. *Friday.* True glory. Jer. 9: 12-24. *Saturday.* God-given wisdom. Dan. 1: 11-20. *Sabbath.* Spiritual wisdom. I Cor. 2: 1-13. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. The preceding portion of our chapter is occupied with a list of Solomon's officers (vs. 1-20) and a description of the extent of his kingdom (vs. 21-24). In all this there is the fulfillment of the divine promise. To dwell merely upon the outward glory of such a kingdom would profit little if we did not point the moral which it teaches. The first half of our lesson affords an excellent text from which to speak of the use and abuse of temporal blessings. Solomon found all to be but vanity and vexation of spirit, but surely God did not mean that it should be so. The second half of our passage naturally suggests thoughts upon the right employment of education and mental ability. Talents which are not consecrated by piety are apt to prove a snare rather than a blessing.

LESSON PLAN. I. Solomon's Wealth. vs. 25-28. II. Solomon's Wisdom. vs. 29-34.

25. Safely—"Confidently," they had a sense of security (Jer. 23: 6.) **Every man under his vine and under his fig tree**—A proverbial expression for peace and prosperity. The vine shaded the house and under the fig tree there was a place of quiet retirement (John 1: 50.) **From Dan**—in the extreme north (Judges 18: 29.) **Even to Beersheba**—in the farthest south (Gen. 21: 31.) As we would say "From Halifax to Vancouver." **26. Forty-thousand stalls**—This is probably a mistake in copying for 4,000, which is the number given in 2 Chr. 9: 25. Since Solomon had only 1400 war chariots (ch. 10: 26) he would not likely require more than two for each with a few spare ones besides. In thus multiplying horses, Solomon violated the law (Deut. 17: 16.) **Horsemen**—Should be "saddle-horses." **27. They lacked nothing**—rather "They suffered nothing to be lacking." He had a well-organized and efficient service. **28. Barley**—Oats are not grown in Palestine. **Dromedaries**—The dromedary has but one hump, the camel has two. It is swifter than the camel and is accounted the more valuable animal. **29. Largeness of heart**—A comprehensive mind capable of mastering a great variety of subjects, such as poetry, philosophy, natural history, &c. The Bible often speaks of "the heart" where he would say "the mind." **Even as the sand that is on the sea shore**—A proverbial expression for a great number, or unlimited quantity of anything. **30. The children of the East country**—The Chaldeans, Persians, Arabians, &c. Job was one of these wise men (Job 1: 3.) From these regions came the "wise men" unto Bethlehem when Christ was born (Matt. 2: 1.) **The wisdom of Egypt**—The wise men of Egypt opposed Moses (Ex. 7: 11) and Stephen refers to the wisdom of the Egyptians in his speech (Acts 7: 22.) **31.** We know nothing about the men referred to in this verse. Who would now think anyone worthy to be named in comparison with Solomon? Human fame perishes. The honor that God gives endures. **32. Three thousand proverbs**—Less than one-third of these are preserved in the Book of Proverbs which bears Solomon's name, and all of its contents are not from his pen. All his songs have perished except the Song of Songs, Psalms 72, 127, 128, and perhaps 1 and 2. **33. He spake of trees**—He gave descriptions, probably in the form of books, of the whole vegetable world. **The cedar * * * the hyssop**—These are placed in antithesis, the former as the largest and most glorious of trees, the latter as the smallest and most insignificant of plants. **He spake also of beasts**—He was an enthusiastic naturalist. **34. There came of all peoples to hear the wisdom of Solomon**—There came embassies from distant nations shewing respect and friendship. Wise men wished to "light their candle at his lamp."

LESSONS. 1. Those are safe who are under God's blessing and protection. 2. Those who are engaged in the King's service must be faithful. 3. If we improve the talents we have God will increase them. 4. If God thought it worth while to make anything, it is worth our while to learn about it. 5. The humblest christian knows more than the wisest heathen.

LESSON IV—October 25th, 1896.

The Proverbs of Solomon. PROV. I: 1-19.

(Commit to memory verses 7-10).

GOLDEN TEXT: "My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not." Prov. I: 10.

PROVE THAT—We should listen to our parents. Prov. I: 8.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Questions 49, 50, 51, 52.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 15, 117, 83, 116.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* The proverbs of Solomon. Prov. I: 1-19. *Tuesday.* The way of understanding. Prov. 2: 1-9. *Wednesday.* Better than rubies. Prov. 8: 1-11. *Thursday.* Wisdom and folly. Prov. 10: 1-14. *Friday.* Looking to the end. Prov. 14: 1-12. *Saturday.* Rejecting reproof. Prov. 15: 1-12. *Sabbath.* Good and evil. Prov. 15: 20-33. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. The collection of proverbs that passes under the name of Solomon is the work of many authors at different periods. To those originated by the wise king, or edited under his direction, others have been added at later periods the whole retaining the title which they originally bore.

LESSON PLAN. I. Wise Words. vs. 1-9. II. -Warning Words. vs. 10-19.

1. **Proverbs.**—A proverb has been called "The wit of one: the wisdom of many." It is a pointed, pithy saying embodying a well-established truth relating to practical affairs. 2. **Wisdom.**—The principal object of Solomon in writing this book was to inspire reverence for God and regard for his commandments. (Ps. 111: 10). **Instruction.**—implies education and training in the practice of wisdom. **Words of understanding**—or "discernment." True and discreet sayings. To be able to perceive what statements regarding any subject are to be believed and acted upon. 3. **To receive the instruction of**—We would say "to be instructed in." **Wisdom**—R. V. "wise dealing," not the same word as in last verse. (Heb. 5: 14). **Justice**—R. V. "righteousness," what is in accordance with the will of God. (Deut. 33: 19). **Judgment.**—What is the usage and custom amongst men. (1 Sam. 8: 3). **Equity.**—What is right and reasonable. Character, not knowledge, is the highest aim of education. 4. **Subtilty.**—R. V. marg. "prudence." Ability to detect evil under the mask of good, such as was shewn by Christ. (Mark 3: 24; Luke 20: 20-26). **Simple.**—The ingenuous and inexperienced, the guileless. The Book of Proverbs was written specially for young men. 5. **That the wise man may hear** (R. V.)—Another object of the book is to make wise men wiser still. "He who is not increasing knowledge is losing it." (ch. 9: 9; Mark 4: 25; Luke 8: 18; 19: 26). **Wise counsels.**—literally "steersmanship." The wise man's advice is like the cords or chains by which the ship is steered. (Job 37: 11, 12). 6. **The interpretation.**—R. V. marg. "riddle," a saying which requires explanation. **Dark**

sayings.—Enigmas, sayings purposely obscure, or with a deeper meaning than lies on the surface, so that the study of them may fix the truth on the mind. 7. **The fear of the Lord.**—Not a slavish dread, but a reverential and filial regard in which love blends with profound homage. **Beginning.**—Marg. "chief part." Both the starting point and true spirit of all wisdom worth possessing. (Job 28: 28; Ps. 111: 10; Prov. 9: 10; Ecc. 12: 13). 8. **Disobedience to parents and disregard of their advice** are the first steps to dishonor and ruin. (Eph. 6: 1-3; Col. 3: 20; Prov. 30: 17). 9. **Those who heed well the instructions of a pious home** will be admired for their virtue and discretion. (Prov. 23: 15, 16, 24, 25; Ps. 112: 2; Isa. 44: 3-5). 10. **The secret of moral strength in youth** lies in the power to say "No" when urged to do wrong. (Ps. 1: 1; Eph. 5: 11). 11. **The innocent without cause.**—Either those who have given us no reason for doing them harm, or those whose innocence will be no protection against us. This may stand as a type of all methods of advancing our own interests at the expense of others. 12. **The grave.**—R. V. "Sheol," the great underworld of the dead. They would utterly destroy their victims and with them all traces of their crime. Those who tempt you to sin will always say "Nobody will know." 13. **They urge** "See how much we shall make by it." No amount of profit will justify dishonesty. 15. **Refrain thy foot.**—"Tear yourself away from them." (Ps. 1: 1; 119: 101). 17. **Surely you will not be led away now** that I have shewn you what such a life ends in. 18. **They are really robbing and murdering themselves** (ch. 15: 27; 1 Tim. 6: 10).

LESSONS. 1. It is wise to heed those who are older and have more experience than ourselves. 2. Those who try to act rightly every time will grow wiser and wiser. 3. It is very foolish as well as very wicked to disregard the advice of parents. 4. Do not be afraid to say "No" when tempted to do wrong. 5. It never pays to break God's commandments.

LESSON V—Nov. 1st, 1896.

Building the Temple. I KINGS 5: 1-12.

(Commit to memory verses 4, 5.)

GOLDEN TEXT: "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." Ps. 127: 1.

PROVE THAT—We should be friendly. Prov. 18: 24.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Questions 53, 54, 55, 56.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 158, 63, 219, 113.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Building the temple. I Kings 5: 1-12. *Tuesday.* The temple finished. I Kings 6: 1-14. *Wednesday.* A beautiful house. I Kings 6: 21-30. *Thursday.* Seven years in building. I Kings 6: 31-38. *Friday.* Site of the temple. 2 Chr. 3: 1-10. *Saturday.* The pattern of the temple. I Chr. 28: 11-21. *Sabbath.* A spiritual temple. Eph. 2: 13-22. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. The building of the temple was the great event of Solomon's reign and marked an important era in the making of the nation and in the progress of the kingdom of God. To the accomplishment of this work David's old friend Hiram, king of Tyre, contributed timber and skilled workmen. Large trees did not grow in Palestine, nor were the Israelites accustomed to the erection of great buildings. This alliance with the Phoenicians was mutually advantageous. Phoenicia depended for its supplies of food upon the fertile countries to the east and south, and for this it exchanged the cedar and stone of its mountains. Solomon and Hiram remained fast friends to the end of their lives. See the parallel narrative in 2 Chr. 2: 1-18.

LESSON PLAN. I. Solomon's Request. vs. 1-6. II. Hiram's Reply. vs. 7-12.

1. **Hiram, king of Tyre**—Probably the son of David's friend (2 Sam. 5: 11; 2 Chr. 2: 13). **Tyre**—(*The Rock*) was built on a rocky island on the coast of Phoenicia. Hiram sent a message of congratulation to Solomon on his accession. **Was ever a lover of David**—"Ever" is literally "all the days" *i. e.* of their reigns. He, or his father, had assisted David in building the palace on Mount Zion. 3. **Could not build a house**—(1 Chr. 22: 8; 28: 3). Hiram knew this because cedar wood had been sent to David for the proposed temple (1 Chr. 22: 4). **Unto the name of the Lord his God**—The "name of Jehovah" is the visible manifestation of the divine presence (Deut. 12: 5, 11). This was specially displayed in the Holy of Holies, between the cherubim over the mercy-seat. **For the wars which were about him**—See 2 Sam. 7: 8-13. **Under the soles of his feet**—Until he had completely conquered them, "trampled them down" (Rom. 16: 20; Eph. 1: 22). 4. **Occurrent**—Old English word for "occurrence." He refers to such as rebellion, famine, plague &c., of which David had many (2 Sam. 15: 14; 20: 1; 21: 1; 24: 15). The wars with Ha'dad and Re'zon were later than this (1 Kings 11: 14, 23). 5. **As the Lord spake**—(2 Sam. 7: 12, 13; 1 Chr. 17: 12; 22: 10). He will carry out God's plan and his father's wishes.

6. **I will give hire**—See verse 11. **Can skill**—Old English for "knows how." The Phoenicians were famous shipbuilders and carpenters. **Sidon'ians**—Si'don was a seaport in Phoenicia, north of Tyre. The name stands for Phoenicians generally. 7. **He rejoiced greatly**—He was glad to be the friend of David's son, and it offered a very desirable commercial and political alliance. **Blessed be the Lord**—This was only a polite recognition of Jehovah as Solomon's God, and does not imply that Hiram believed in him. Compare the language of the Queen of She'ba (ch. 10: 9) and contrast that of Melchiz'edec (Gen. 14: 19; Heb. 7: 1-4). See also Daniel's testimony before Nebuchadnezzar (Dan. 2: 20, 21). 8. **Fir**—More properly "cypress." 9. **Flores**—Now spelled "Floats," rafts. The R. V. is better "I will make them into rafts to go by sea." **Unto the place**—Jop'pa (2 Chr. 2: 16) the port nearest to Jerusalem, about 40 miles distant. **Twenty thousand measures of wheat**—The "measure," or *cor* (or *homer*) was about eight bushels—160,000 bushels annually. **Twenty measures of pure oil**—R. V. marg. "beaten oil," obtained by pounding the olives in a mortar before they were quite ripe. The oil which came from the press was coarse; 20 *cors* would be 1,280 gallons.

LESSONS. 1. We should resolutely perform the work God has given us to do. 2. Friendly assistance in christian work is to be welcomed. 3. We all have different gifts, graces and opportunities. 4. Honestly pay for all that you get. 5. Keep a friend as long as you can.

LESSON VI—November 8th, 1896.

The Temple Dedicated. 1 KINGS 8 : 54-63.

(Commit to memory verses 62, 63).

GOLDEN TEXT: "The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him." Hab. 2: 20.

PROVE THAT—We should remember God's goodness. Ps. 89: 1.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Questions 57, 58, 59.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 160, 176, 41, 141.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* The temple dedicated. 1 Kings 8: 54-63. *Tuesday.* Assembly of the people. 2 Chr. 5: 1-10. *Wednesday.* The word fulfilled. 2 Chr. 6: 1-11. *Thursday.* Prayer of dedication. 2 Chr. 6: 12-21. *Friday.* A refuge in trouble. 2 Chr. 6: 22-31. *Saturday.* The cry of penitence. 2 Chr. 6: 32-42. *Sabbath.* The glory of the Lord. 2 Chr. 7: 1-11. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. The temple was dedicated at the feast of Tabernacles, October B. C. 1004, after 7½ years of labor. The building was divided into three parts: the outer court, which was ornamented with trees, where the worshippers assembled; the Holy place, where the altars, &c., stood and which was for the priests only; the Holy of Holies, in which the ark was deposited and which no one was allowed to enter except the high priest, and he only on the Day of Atonement. To the dedication all the heads of tribes and families were assembled, together with a vast multitude of the people. The sacred vessels were reverently carried to their places, and when the ark was deposited behind the veil and the priests who carried it had retired from the Holy of Holies, a bright cloud filled the temple as a token that God now took up his earthly abode between the Cherubim. Solomon then offered the dedicatory prayer. Parallel passage 2 Chr. 5 and 6.

LESSON PLAN. I. Divine Promises Fulfilled. vs. 54-56. II. Divine Presence Invoked. vs. 57-60. III. Divine Service Enjoyed. vs. 61-63.

54. He arose—He had been kneeling (2 Chr. 6: 13). Standing was, among the Jews, the usual posture in prayer (Luke 18: 11, 13). This is the first mention in the Bible of kneeling. From before the altar—He occupied a brazen scaffold about five feet high so as to be seen by all the people. **55.** And blessed—This is not the priestly benediction (Num. 6: 27). David did so too (2 Sam. 6: 18). He invoked a blessing upon himself and them. **56.** According to all that he promised.—(Deut. 12: 9-11). The rest enjoyed in Joshua's time (Josh. 21: 44, 45) was but partial. Only under Solomon were all their enemies subdued. There is a better rest yet to come (Heb. 4: 9). By the hand of Moses—See Lev. 26: 3-13; Deut. 28: 1-14. All God's promises are certain of fulfilment (2 Cor. 1: 20). **58.** Incline our hearts—(Ps. 119: 36; 141: 4). The very "inclination" to serve God must come from the Holy Spirit (Phil. 2: 13; Heb. 13: 21; John 6: 44, 65; Song of Sol. 1: 4). Worship and service should be a delight. **59.** As the matter shall require—R. V. "as every day shall require." We need God's daily care for our daily needs (Matt. 6: 11, 34; Deut. 33: 25). **60.** That all the people of the earth may know—The pious Jews of ancient times

hoped that some day the whole world would worship the true God (Isa. 2: 2, 3; 52: 10; Jer. 50: 5; Zech. 8: 21-23). As heirs of Israel's hope, what is our duty? (Matt. 28: 19, 20; Rom. 10: 13-15.) **61.** Let your heart therefore be perfect—Wholly and undividedly devoted to the Lord. Entirely consecrated. This is the condition on which God's blessing rests. Solomon forgot his own advice (ch. 1: 4, compare 15: 3, 14; 2 Kings 20: 3, and the warning in 1 Cor. 9: 27.) As at this day—Their hearts were full of love and adoring gratitude when they knelt under the cloud of glory. It was easy then to make good resolutions. But bye and bye the impression might wear off and they would then grow careless. Our Sunday resolves should be our week-day performances (Hos. 6: 4). In 2 Chr. 7: 1, we read that at the close of this prayer fire came down from heaven and consumed the sacrifices and the glory of the Lord again filled the house. Compare the dedication of the first altar (Lev. 9: 24). **62.** These were burnt offerings in which the people, practically the whole nation, took part. **63.** Peace offerings—A thanksgiving sacrifice. The fat only of the victim was burnt, the rest was eaten by the offerer and his friends (Deut. 12: 7; Lev. 7: 11-15.)

LESSONS. 1. Outward reverence during prayer is becoming. 2. God's promises cannot fail. 3. God will not forget our prayers. 4. Inconsistent Christians hinder the progress of Christ's kingdom. 5. God requires of us "perfect hearts."

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.

1. The king's house—The whole range of buildings connected with the royal residence mentioned in ch. 7: 1-8. They occupied thirteen years in building. Solomon gave his attention first to God's house and hastened its erection, but proceeded more leisurely with his own palaces (Ps. 132: 4, 5). All Solomon's desire—(2 Chr. 7: 11). The reference is to the edifices which he set his heart upon erecting (2 Chr. 8: 9; Eccl. 2: 10). 2. The second time—He seems to have received another message while building the temple (ch. 6: 11-13), but this may have been delivered by Nathan, or some other prophet. This was the second direct communication from God. As he had appeared unto him at Gibeon—*i. e.* in a dream (ch. 3: 5; 2 Chr. 7: 12). 3. I have heard thy prayer—The prayer offered at the dedication (ch. 8: 59). God answered Solomon's prayer at the time by the cloud of glory. Hallowed—As he had manifested his acceptance of the tabernacle (Ex. 29: 43; 2 Chr. 5: 14; 7: 1-3). My name—The visible token of the divine presence and favor (ch. 8: 29; Deut. 12: 11; Luke 11: 2). Mine eyes and mine heart—"The eye to watch and the heart to cherish." Again God gives Solomon more than he had asked for (ch. 8: 29; Eph. 3: 20). 4. As David thy father walked—David was not perfect but he never faltered in his loyalty to God. He loved him with heart, and soul, and strength, and mind (Ps. 18: 20-24; 1 Kings 14: 8; 15: 5). 5. I will establish—in answer to his prayer (ch. 8: 25, 26). God is the real "King-maker" (Prov. 8: 15; Dan. 2: 21; Rom. 13: 1). 6. If ye shall at all—*i. e.* wholly, entirely, altogether. The punishment that follows is that of complete apostasy (2 Chr. 7: 19). While there is hope of reform God is long-suffering and corrects his children. Only when their rejection of him is final and complete does he cast them off (2 Sam. 7: 14, 15). Ye or your children—We can inherit the blessings promised to our fathers (Acts 2: 39) only if we imitate their piety (Ezek. 18: 5, 10, 14). Serve other gods—The Israelites had been very prone to idolatry in the past (Ex. 22: 1-6, see how often in the book of Judges it is said that "they did evil in the sight of the Lord") and this tendency led at last to the infliction of the punishment here threatened (2 Chr. 26: 14-17). 7. Then will I cut off Israel—The same threat occurs in Deut. 4: 26; 28: 37, 35, 63. For its sad fulfilment read 2 Kings 25: 1-30. God gives sinners ample warning and bears with them for a long time, but he does not forget to keep his word at last. Cast out of my sight—This was just the opposite of what Solomon had prayed for (1 Kings 8: 29). A proverb and a bye-word—Men would speak of them with contempt and scorn (Deut. 28: 37). Shame and sin can never be separated (Prov. 18: 3; 10: 7). 8. At this house which is high—*Lit.* "and this house shall be high" *i. e.* a conspicuous example of the judgment denounced. The R. V. reads "and though this house be high." Its present glory shall make its ruin the more notable (2 Chr. 7: 21). See also Deut. 29: 24, 25; Jer. 22: 8. 9. All this was fulfilled in the destruction of Solomon's temple by Nebuchadnezzar and the captivity in Babylon. It found a second fulfilment when, because of their rejection of Christ, the second temple was destroyed by the Romans and the Jews dispersed among the nations (Lev. 26: 31, 32; Isa. 5: 5, 6; Dan. 9: 26, 27; Micah 3: 12; Luke 13: 35; Jer. 2: 19).

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.

LESSON VIII—November 22nd, 1896.

Rewards of Obedience. PROV. 3: 1-17.

(Commit to memory verses 1-4.)

GOLDEN TEXT: "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Prov. 3: 6.

PROVE THAT—We should trust in the Lord. Prov. 3: 5.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Questions 63, 64, 65, 66.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 75, 250, 223, 78.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Rewards of obedience. Prov. 3: 1-17. *Tuesday.* God's word in the heart. Deut. 6: 1-13. *Wednesday.* Blessings to the obedient. Deut. 6: 17-25. *Thursday.* The safe way. Prov. 3: 19-26. *Friday.* Despise not discipline. Heb. 12: 1-11. *Saturday.* Doers of the word. Jas. 1: 19-27. *Sabbath.* Friends of Jesus. John 15: 1-14. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. We study to-day a choice portion of one of the most beautiful chapters in the Bible. Try and commit our lessons to memory.

LESSON PLAN. The Rewards of, I. Obedience. vs. 1-4. II. Faith. vs. 5-8. III. Liberality. vs. 9, 10. IV. Patience. vs. 11, 12. V. Wisdom. vs. 13-17.

1. Forget not—We forget what we do not care to remember (John 14: 15; 15: 14). My law—R. V. marg. "teaching" (Deut. 8: 1, 30; 16, 20). Thine heart—Mere outward obedience amounts to nothing. God wants the willing service of loyal hearts (Matt. 15: 8; 23: 27; Jer. 31: 33). 2. Years of life (R. V.)—The words imply a long and prosperous life. One who trusts and obeys God avoids those vices and perils which shorten and embitter life (Ps. 34: 12-14; 1 Tim. 4: 8; 6: 6). 3. Mercy—Unselfishness and loving sympathy with others. The grace spoken of in 1 Cor. 13. Truth—Integrity, honesty, straightforwardness. These are the two cardinal virtues of man and attributes of God (ch. 14: 22; 16: 6; 20: 28; Ps. 25: 10; 40: 11; 57: 10; 108: 4; 138: 2). Bind them—as you would an ornament that you were proud of. Glory in your obedience (ch. 1: 9). Upon the table—i. e. "tablet." See Luke 1: 63. (ch. 7: 3; Jer. 17: 1; 2 Cor. 3: 3). We write down what we wish to remember. What is thus inscribed upon the heart becomes the rule of our life (Jer. 31: 33; Rom. 7: 22). 4. Good understanding—R. V. marg. "good repute," or reputation. One who is true and kind is beloved by both God and man. 5. Trust in the Lord—This is a rock on which you may build securely (Ps. 37: 3, 5, 7). Thine own understanding—You must use your own best judgment in every case, but always remember to ask God to guide you to what is right and to bless your plans with success so far as is best for you (Jer. 9: 23, 24; 10: 23; Prov. 20: 24). 6. Acknowledge him—Lit. "take notice of him," recognize him as a source of all success and the One to whom you are responsible for all you say and do (Phil. 4: 6). 7. Wise in thine own

eyes—Be not puffed up with conceit of your own cleverness (Rom. 12: 16). This is as bad as too much self-reliance (verse 5). One who fears God will distrust his own inclinations and so avoid much of the evil that he would be led into (ch. 14: 16; 16: 6; Job. 1: 1; 28: 28). 8. This verse means that trusting and obeying God will be as good for the soul as anything that promotes health and strength is for body and bones. 9. Honor the Lord—By giving to his cause a liberal portion of your riches, and the first and best of all you get. 10. God will bless the liberal hearted (Mal. 3: 10-12; Prov. 11: 24, 25; 22: 9; Luke 6: 38; 2 Cor. 9: 6, 7). 11. Despise not—Do not be impatient and fretful, refusing to accept it as sent by God. Be weary—Do not feel angry and disgusted (Job 5: 17, 18; Ps. 94: 12; 119: 67, 12). Prosperity is no positive sign of God's love but chastening is (Deut. 8: 5; Heb. 12: 5-8; Rev. 3: 19). 13. Happy—"O the blessednesses of the man." What varied and abundant blessings are his in body and in soul, in time and in eternity (Prov. 8: 34-36). 14. The merchandise of it—That is, what wisdom buys. The gain it brings. This is, in our word, salvation (Job. 28: 13-28; Matt. 13: 45, 46; 16: 26). 15. Length of days—Long life. Wisdom is here personified and offers blessings with both hands. Other things being equal, the godly man has the best prospect of reaching a hale and hearty old age. Riches and honor—Although a good man may not be a millionaire he has more satisfaction out of his moderate wealth than the possessor of unblest thousands (ch. 8: 18; 1 Tim. 4: 8). 16. True religion in the heart brings peace of conscience, reconciliation with God, and harmony in our social relations. (Matt. 11: 29, 30).

LESSONS. 1. God does not want the outward life if we will not give him the heart. 2. Honesty and kindness are the two virtues most admired everywhere. 3. A humble opinion of oneself is most becoming and Christ-like. 4. Disappointment and sorrow are sent to make us better. 5. Strive to "win Christ."

LESSON IX—November 29th, 1896.

The Fame of Solomon. I KINGS 10: 1-10.

(Commit to memory verses 6-8).

GOLDEN TEXT: "Behold, a greater than Solomon is here." Matt. 12: 42.

PROVE THAT—God gives liberally. Jas. 1: 5.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Questions 67, 68, 69.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 157, 29, 21, 164.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* The fame of Solomon. I Kings 10: 1-13. *Tuesday.* Excelling in greatness. I Kings 10: 14-23. *Wednesday.* World-wide renown. I Kings 10: 24-29. *Thursday.* Unsatisfying. Eccl. 2: 1-11. *Friday.* Supremacy of God. Ps. 89: 1-8. *Saturday.* A greater than Solomon. Matt. 12: 38-42. *Sabbath.* The glory of Christ. Rev. 1: 9-18. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. We read in Lesson III. that "that there came of all people to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all the kings of the earth, which had heard of his wisdom." Our lesson gives an account of one of these royal seekers after wisdom. Parallel passage 2 Chr. 9: 1-12.

LESSON PLAN. What the Queen, I. Heard. vs. 1-3. II. Saw. vs. 4, 5. III. Said. vs. 6-9. IV. Gave. vs. 10.

1. She'ba—Now called Yemen, or Arabia Felix, on the east shore of the Red Sea (Matt. 12: 42). Concerning the name of the Lord—Solomon's fame was connected with the temple he had built to the name of the Lord and with the wisdom divinely bestowed upon him. To prove him—To test his wisdom and cleverness. Hard questions—riddles. Compare Samson's (Judges 14: 12-14), perhaps in Prov. 30: 15-31 we have the answers to similar puzzling questions. Orientalers are very fond of this kind of mental exercise. 2. A very great train—An extensive caravan accompanied by an armed escort as became wealth and dignity. Arabia has always been famed for its spices. Communed with him—Doubtless they had frequent interviews and besides exchanging riddles, they talked about the great questions of religion and statesmanship. 3. Solomon was able to solve all her questions and explain her difficulties satisfactorily. 4. The house that he had built—his palace, not the temple, as is evident from the domestic details following (ch. 7: 1). 5. The meat of his table—Its quantity, variety, &c., (ch. 4: 22, 23). All the table service was of gold (ch. 10: 21). The sitting of his servants—The nobles and principal officers who sat at the royal banquets in the order of their rank. The attendance—Lit "standing." Of his ministers—servants also, not ministers of state, but personal attendants. Those who stood to serve the king and his guests (Acts 13: 5). His ascent—A stately causeway over the Tyropoean valley between Mt. Zion and Mt. Moriah, of which the remains have been discovered (2 Kings 16: 18). There was no more spirit (breath) in her

—She was amazed and lost in admiration (Josh. 5: 1). She had expected to find herself in some degree the equal of Solomon, but all thought of rivalling him in anything was banished completely. 6. This frank confession shews that the queen was a generous, unselfish woman, without a spark of jealous envy in her breast. 7. Fame usually exaggerates but there are some things which must be seen in order to be appreciated (1 Cor. 2: 9). 8. Happy are thy men—Lit. "O the happinesses of thy men," as in Ps. 1: 1; 2: 12, &c. The plural suggests the number and variety of the advantages enjoyed by Solomon's servants. It is clear that the queen of Sheba valued wisdom above riches and rubies. Her intercourse with Solomon had been of such benefit to her mind and heart that she envied those who could always enjoy such improving discourse. The company of the wise and good is always to be preferred to that of the rich and great who lack these qualities. 9. Blessed be the Lord thy God—It is not likely that the queen became a convert to the true God. She does not say "my God;" she makes no offering to the temple; and it was quite consistent with a heathen belief to acknowledge Jehovah as the God of Solomon and the source of all his prosperity, without feeling under any obligation to worship him too, far less to accept him as the only living and true God (ch. 5: 7; Ezra 1: 3). Her compliment to Solomon here is a very graceful one. 10. A hundred and twenty talents of gold—Over three million dollars, some say six. Compare Hiram's gift (ch. 9: 14). With the interchange of princely gifts this famous visit came to an end.

LESSONS. 1. We should not let slothfulness or love of ease keep us from church or Sabbath school. 2. The fame that comes because of our devotion to God is alone worth having. 3. We should seek the society of the wise and good. 4. We should not envy, but imitate, those who excel us in any virtue. 5. Good rulers are God's gift.

LESSON X—December 6th, 1896.

Solomon's Sin. 1 KINGS II: 4-13.

(Commit to memory verses 9, 10).

GOLDEN TEXT: "Let him that thin' th be standeth take heed lest he fall." 1 Cor. 10: 12.

PROVE THAT—Idolatry is forbidden. Lev. 26: 1.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Questions 70, 71, 72.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 11, 131, 120, 122.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Solomon's sin. 1 Kings II: 4-13. *Tuesday.* Ahijah's prophecy. 1 Kings II: 29-38. *Wednesday.* Wise counsel forsaken. 1 Kings 12: 1-11. *Thursday.* The kingdom divided. 1 Kings 12: 12-20. *Friday.* Danger of evil companionship. Deut. 7: 1-11. *Saturday.* Resisting warning. Jer. 44: 1-11. *Sabbath.* Idols of the heart. Ezek. 14: 1-8. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. The Bible does not pass over the faults of the good men whose lives it records. It tells of Noah's drunkenness, Moses' loss of temper, David's sin, and Solomon's lapse into idolatry. When one so greatly favored did not stand we need to take heed to ourselves lest we too "depart from the living God."

LESSON PLAN. I. Solomon's Sin. vs. 4-8. II. Solomon's Sen.ence. vs. 9-13.

4. When Solomon was old—During the latter half of his reign, when he was about fifty or fifty-five. His wives—Solomon affords a notable warning of the evils of polygamy (Deut. 17: 17; Neh. 13: 26). Turned away his heart—He never served idols himself but he erected shrines for them and sanctioned their worship (Ex. 34: 12-16; Deut. 7: 2-4). Not perfect—completely devoted to the love and service of God only (ch. 8: 61; 9: 4). He tried to serve two masters (Matt. 6: 24; Josh. 24: 15). 5. Ash'tor-eth—Supposed to represent the moon, or the planet Venus. Zidonians—people of Sidon, a general name for the subjects of Hiram. Milcom—same as Molech, the god of fire and worshipped with human sacrifices (1 Chr. 28: 3; Jer. 7: 31). The abomination—the hateful, detestable idol, so called because of the peculiarly horrible character of its worship (Jer. 32: 35; Lev. 20: 1-5). Ammonites—Descendants of Lot. They dwelt on the east of the Dead Sea between the Arnon and the Jabbok. 6. Did evil—This is the usual expression for disloyalty to God (Judges 2: 11; 3: 7, &c.) The recognition of idolatry and superstition by gifts and donations, by attendance at such services, or in any other way, is a sin against God (2 Cor. 6: 17). 7. A high place—The tops of hills were originally favorite places for religious worship, hence a temple anywhere came to be called "a high place." Che'mosh—The god of war. His worship was similar to that of Molech. Probably to it the sacrifice mentioned in 2

Kings 3: 27 was offered. Moab—The Moabites were descendants of Lot and lived on the east of the Dead Sea, south of the river Arnon. The hill—The southern peak of the Mount of Olives, called afterwards, from this defilement, "the mount of corruption" (2 Kings 23: 13) or of "offense." Before Jerusalem—The Hebrews named the points of the compass beginning with the east, so that the Mt. of Olives would naturally be spoken of as "in front of Jerusalem." 8. Strange wives—The foreign women whom he had married. These are only a few samples of the idols which he permitted to be honored. 9. The special favors bestowed upon Solomon made his conduct all the more inexcusable (1 Kings 3: 5; 9: 2; Amos 3: 2; Luke 10: 12-15). 10. Had commanded him—ch. 6: 12; 9: 6. Also in the law of Moses (Deut. 17: 14-20). 11. Said unto Solomon—by some prophet, perhaps Ahijah, or Iddo. I will surely rend—The revolt of the ten tribes is referred to. When we are unfaithful to our privileges these are taken from us and given to others. Thy servant—Officer, or employee (Eccl. 2: 18). David's joy would not be his (ch. 3: 6). The person referred to was Jeroboam (ch. 11: 26-40. 12, 13. The judgment had two gracious and merciful mitigations (1) It was postponed until after his death; compare ch. 21: 29; 2 Kings 22: 20), and (2) a remnant would be left to his son. The house of David would still stand and the house of the Lord would remain with his descendants.

LESSONS. 1. The society of the irreligious is dangerous to piety. 2. Religious considerations should determine our choice of companions. 3. God is displeased with us when we do wrong. 4. Because he loves us he punishes us. 5. Mercy is mingled with judgment.

LESSON XI—December 13th, 1896.

Cautions Against Intemperance. PROV. 23: 15-25.

(Commit to memory verses 19-21).

GOLDEN TEXT: "For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty." Prov. 3: 21.

PROVE THAT—We should avoid bad company. Prov. 4: 14.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Questions 73, 74, 75.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 5, 116, 173, 40.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Cautions against intemperance. Prov. 23: 15-25. *Tuesday.* "Who hath sorrow?" Prov. 23: 29-35. *Wednesday.* Woe to the drunkard. Isa. 5: 11-19. *Thursday.* God's anger against sin. Isa. 5: 20-25. *Friday.* Wine a mocker. Prov. 20: 1-11. *Saturday.* Avoiding evil-doers. Ps. 26. *Sabbath.* Be separate. 2 Cor. 6: 11-18. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. Not long ago in one of the towns in the United States a travelling menagerie was exhibiting its collection of fierce and of curious animals. In order to attract the crowd a young lion was chained near the entrance. It was believed to be perfectly tame and harmless and its keeper was by its side. Nevertheless the wise gave it a wide berth and contented themselves with admiring at a distance. A little girl, however, innocently ran up to it and before anyone could interfere the ferocious nature of the animal awoke, and seizing the child, as a cat would a mouse, he shook her and crushed her to death in an instant. The frantic mother could hardly be restrained by force from throwing herself on the savage beast. Like this young lion, as soon as the cub of the drinking habit has become full grown, it will assert its power, destroy self-control and hurry its thoughtless victim to disgrace and death.

LESSON PLAN. I. True Wisdom. vs. 15-19. II. Self Control. vs. 20, 21. III. Filial Piety. vs. 22-25.

15. If thine heart be wise—The kind of wisdom spoken of concerns the character, affections and conduct more than the reason and understanding. Not merely knowing, but doing the right is a proof of wisdom (ch. 4: 23). Even mine—repeated for the sake of emphasis. Nothing can give a parent greater joy than to see his children growing up into virtuous and respected men and women. **16. Reins**—The kidneys, literally, but representing the inmost parts of our being. The joy is deep and real. **Right things**—The art of saying just what we ought to say should be cultivated. Our words shew what we are (Luke 6: 45). **17. Envy**—Do not be emulous of them, imitate them because you desire their pleasures (Ps. 73: 3-12, 16, 17-20). **All the day long**—Be God-fearing all the time whether it brings you worldly prosperity or not (ch. 24: 1, 2, 19, 20). **18. An end**—R. V. "reward," margin "sequel," or future. Every course of life has its inevitable consequences; these, to the righteous, are a reward, to the wicked a punishment (Ps. 37: 1-37). The final, or "end," result is reached in the next world (ch. 11: 7; 14: 32; 24: 14). The true christian will not be disappointed at last (Ps. 14: 9; John 10: 28). **19. Guide thine heart in the way**—Our fallen nature inclines to self indulgence, but practice self control.

Keep the desires directed towards worthy objects. This requires an effort, and only steadfast principle will gain the mastery over the fleshly lusts which war against the soul (1 Pet. 2: 11). The way referred to is the way of understanding (ch. 9: 6; Matt. 7: 14). **20. Winebibbers**—Those who are always "tippling." The reference is to those who spend much of their time and means in the pleasures of the table. **Riotous**—R. V. "gluttonous." Animal food did not form part of the ordinary diet of the people and when it was served up at the feasts of the wealthy it was partaken of to excess amid boisterous and rude behaviour. **21. Drowsiness**—the stupidity and unfitness for business resulting from carousals. **22.** As no conduct is more beautiful in youth than respectful and affectionate regard for a parent's wishes and comfort, so nothing is more indicative of future sorrow than the opposite behaviour. **23. Buy the truth**—pay any price for the knowledge that makes wise unto salvation (2 Tim. 3: 15; Isa. 55: 1). **Instruction**—The discipline that sets us right when we go wrong (Jas 1: 12). **24, 25.** Wise, sober, and God-fearing children are the crown of the parents' life, but dissipated and undutiful ones bring down their grey hairs with sorrow to the grave.

LESSONS. 1. Be careful what you say and how you say it. 2. It is foolish to envy the pleasures of the ungodly. 3. Drunkenness, gluttony and laziness generally go together. 4. We are never too old to love and respect our parents. 5. We may have the best riches for nothing.

LESSON XII—December 20th, 1896.

The Birth of Christ. MATT. 2: 1-12.

(Commit to memory verses 10, 11).

GOLDEN TEXT: "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." Luke 2: 10.

PROVE THAT—If we come to Jesus he will receive us. John 6: 37.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Questions 76, 77, 78.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 17, 66, 233, 21.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* The birth of Christ. Matt. 2: 1-12. *Tuesday.* The sojourn in Egypt. Matt. 2: 13-23. *Wednesday.* The angel choir. Luke 2: 8-20. *Thursday.* Simeon's prophecy. Luke 2: 25-35. *Friday.* Filled with wisdom. Luke 2: 36-40. *Saturday.* Sent to save. 1 John 4: 7-14. *Sabbath.* The incarnate God. John 1: 1-14. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. Again the joyful season has come round when nearly the whole christian world remembers the birth of Jesus. As we gather in spirit around his manger-cradle let the charity and love reign in our hearts. We can best celebrate the visit of the wise men who brought costly gifts to the Babe of Bethelhem by giving freely to those whose homes are less comfortable and whose lives are not so bright as our own.

LESSON PLAN. I. The Child Sought. vs. 1-2. II. The Child Feared. vs. 3-8. III. The Child Worshipped. vs. 9-12.

1. Bethlehem of Judea—There was another Bethlehem about six miles west of Nazareth, in the tribe of Zebulun (Josh. 19: 15). Herod—Called Herod the Great. He rebuilt the temple in great magnificence, but was a cruel tyrant. Wise men—R. V. marg. "Magi," see Esther 1: 13; Dan. 2: 4E. They belonged to a priestly caste who devoted themselves to the study of science, particularly of astronomy. They probably came from Persia and naturally expected to find the young king at the royal palace in the capital city. 2. There was a general expectation throughout the east at this time that a powerful monarch was to be born. This was doubtless due to a dim knowledge of the Jewish prophecies, but his true character was not well known. There may have been some wonderful conjunction of the planets at this time, but the star which led the wise men was miraculous, for it pointed out the very house in which the child was. 3. He was troubled—Herod was a usurper and feared that the lawful king would dethrone him. The people feared the cruelty and bloodshed by which Herod would try to keep his throne. 4. Chief priests—These were the heads of the twenty-four courses into which the priests were divided (1 Chr. 24: 26). Scribes—These copied and taught the law. The Christ (R. V.)—It is evident from this question that Herod knew what sort of a king the wise men meant. 6. They had no difficulty in answering a question out of the Bible, but did not seem to care to come to Him of whom the Bible spoke (Micah 5: 2; John 7:

42; read John 5: 39, 40). That shall rule—R. V. "Which shall be shepherd of," shall rule in love and mercy (John 10: 11; Isa. 40: 11). 7. Privily—Privately. He did not want anyone to know that he had consulted with them. He thought that the star probably appeared just when the Child was born, and thus he would have some clue to his age, so he made very particular enquiries on this point. From the information he obtained he concluded that if he slew all under two years old he would certainly slay Jesus. 8. Worship him also—Herod had a heart like that of Judas. He would pretend to worship when he meant to kill. 9, 10. The star seems to have disappeared for a time and now again gives its guiding light. 11. The house—The throng of visitors had left Bethlehem and the "Holy family" were more comfortably lodged than on their arrival about six weeks before. Fell down—A reverent attitude. Worshipped—A reverent heart. Presented—A willing gift. They gave no homage to Mary. Treasures—Treasure-chests. Gifts—They treated him like a king. God intended these gifts to defray the expense of the coming journey to Egypt. Gold—Ps. 72: 15. Emblematic of his royalty. Frankincense—Used in religious rites and emblematic of his divinity. Myrrh—Used in embalming and emblematic of his death. These were fragrant gums very precious. 12. There is no plot of villany so secretly laid but God knows all about it and can frustrate it.

LESSONS. 1. Jesus is seeking to save. 2. Only the wicked are troubled when Jesus comes. 3. We may know all about Jesus and yet not love him. 4. If we really want to find Jesus the Holy Spirit will guide us to him. 5. We should give our best to Jesus.

LESSON XIII—December 27th, 1896.

REVIEW.

GOLDEN TEXT: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: "Fear God and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man." Eccl. 12: 13.

PROVE THAT—We should tell others of Jesus. Matt. 28: 19.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Review Questions 79-81.

LESSON HYNNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 5, 189, 249, 211.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* 1 Kings 1: 28-39. *Tuesday.* 1 Kings 3: 5-15. *Wednesday.* 1 Kings 5: 1-12. *Thursday.* 1 Kings 8: 54-63. *Friday.* Matt. 2: 1-12. *Saturday.* 1 Kings 9: 1-9. *Sabbath.* 1 Kings 11: 4-13. *Monday.* Acts 1: 1-14. *Tuesday.* Luke 24: 44-53. *Wednesday.* Heb. 10: 1-13. *Thursday.* John 16: 1-11.

REVIEW CHART—FOURTH QUARTER.

LESSON.	TITLE.	GOLDEN TEXT.	LESSON PLAN.	TEACHINGS.
I. 1 Kings 1: 28-39.	S. A. K.	Keep.....	K. P.—K. I.—K. S.	God's king will reign.
II. 1 Kings 8: 5-15	S. W. C.	The fear.....	S. P.—G. A.	We need God's guidance.
III. 1 Kings 4: 25-34	S. W. W.	Them that.....	S. W.—S. W.	God prospers the upright.
IV. Prov. 1: 1-19.	P. S.	My son.....	W. W.—W. W.	Take your parents' advice.
V. 1 Kings 5: 1-12	B. T.	Except.....	S. R.—H. R.	We should be friendly.
VI. 1 Kings 8: 54-63	T. D.	The Lord.....	D. P. F.—D. P. I.— D. S. E.	Remember God's goodness.
VII. 1 Kings 9: 1-9.	G. B. S.	The blessing.....	T. P.—T. W.	God hears prayer.
VIII. Prov. 3: 1-17.	R. O.	In all thy.....	R. O.—F.—L.—P.— W.	Trust in the Lord.
IX. 1 Kings 10: 1-10	F. S.	Behold.....	W. Q. H.—S.—S.—G.	Seek the company of the wise and good.
X. 1 Kings 11: 4-13	S. S.	Let him.....	S. S.—S. S.	Idolatry is forbidden.
XI. Prov. 23: 15-26.	O. I.	For the.....	T. W.—S. C.—F. P.	Avoid bad company.
XII. Matt. 2: 1-12.	B. O.	And the.....	O. S.—C. F.—O. W.	Jesus will receive us.

REVIEW QUESTIONS.

PERSONS. Who was Solomon's mother? Who was his teacher? What high priest was disloyal to him? What high priest was loyal? Who was captain of David's body guard? Name some of the wise men with whom Solomon is compared. What heathen king assisted in building the temple? What queen visited him?

PLACES. Where was Solomon anointed? Where was he when God appeared first to him in a dream? Which were accounted the most learned nations in Solomon's time? Whence were timber and stone for the temple procured? What were the two chief cities of Phoenicia? From what country did Solomon's royal visitor come? What heathen worship did Solomon encourage at Jerusalem?

EVENTS. What led David to give orders for Solomon's anointing at this time? How would it be evident to all that what was done was in accordance with the king's wishes? What was Solomon doing at Gibeon? How did the Lord appear to him? What did he choose? What did he not choose that others might have preferred? What was the state of the country under Solomon? How many proverbs and songs did he write? On what other subjects did he speak? What was the chief event of his reign? Why was Hiram so willing to assist him? How was the timber conveyed to Joppa? What did Solomon pay to Hiram for his help? What part did Solomon take in the dedication of the temple? When did God appear the second time to Solomon? What calamities did he threaten in case of apostasy? For what purpose did the Queen of Sheba visit Solomon? What evidence of the wealth of her country did she bring with her? What was Solomon's sin? What was its punishment?

TEACHINGS. How did David shew his faith in God's promise regarding Solomon? How did Benai's shew his devout spirit? Why did Solomon choose wisdom? What did God give him in addition? How was his wisdom shewn in his management of his affairs? Why did he write the book of Proverbs? What does he say regarding obedience to parents? Why should we not listen to those who tempt us to do wrong? What does the co-operation of Gentiles in building the temple suggest? What testimony does Solomon give to God's faithfulness? To what does he exhort the people? On what condition did the prosperity of the nation depend? What is promised to those whose hearts the law of wisdom is written? What is promised to those who honor the Lord with their substance? Why should we not despise the chastening of the Lord? With what is wisdom contrasted in nature? What does she offer? What are the results of drunkenness and gluttony?

LESSON I—October 4th, 1896.

Solomon Anointed King. I KINGS I : 28-39.

BIBLE SEARCH LIGHTS.

Compare Adonijah and Absalom in regard to character and disposition. What notable men did Adonijah persuade to join his company? (1 Kings 1: 7). Where was his feast held? (1 Kings 1: 9) Who revealed the plot? To whom did he first speak? How was David informed of it? Whose granddaughter was Bathsheba? (2 Sam. 11: 3; 23: 34). Was the genius of Solomon in any degree hereditary? (2 Sam. 16: 23). By what other name was he called? (2 Sam. 12: 25). Had he any brothers? (2 Chr. 3: 5). Who was his tutor? (2 Sam. 12: 25).

29. Shew that this solemn expression was sometimes lightly used (Jer. 4: 2; 5: 2; Hos. 4: 15). What is the christian's refuge in trouble and danger? (Ps. 34: 7, 22; Heb. 1: 14; Ps. 84: 11, 12).

30. What right had David to make this promise? (2 Sam. 7: 11-13; 12: 25). What gracious promise may believers claim for their children? (Acts 2: 39; Gal. 3: 29).

31. What danger had been now averted? (2 Kings 11: 1). What greater danger ought we to avert by promptitude? (Ps. 95: 8; John 3: 15, 36).

32. When did Zadok connect himself with David? (1 Chr. 12: 28). How did he shew his loyalty at the time of Absalom's rebellion? (2 Sam. 15: 24). Who was his colleague in the high-priesthood? What title for the first time appears in connection with the name of Nathan? (1 Kings 1: 23; 1 Sam. 9: 9). What books, unfortunately lost, did he write? (1 Chr. 29: 29; 2 Chr. 9: 29). To what tribe did Benaiah belong? (1 Chr. 27: 5). Give some of his exploits. (2 Sam. 23: 20, 21). To what rank did Solomon promote him? (1 Kings 2: 35).

33. Where was Gihon situated? (2 Chr. 32: 30; 33: 14). Where else do we find this name? (Gen. 2: 13).

LESSON II—October 11th, 1896.

Solomon's Wise Choice. I KINGS 3 : 5-15.

BIBLE SEARCH LIGHTS.

Who brought to the conspirators the news of Solomon's accession? (Kings 1: 42). What did Adonijah do and how did Solomon treat him? (1 Kings 1: 50). For what implied offence was he ultimately executed? (1 Kings 2: 25). What was Joab's final end? (1 Kings 2: 28-34). How did Solomon treat Abiathar? (1 Kings 2: 26, 27).

5. Where do we first read of Gibeon? (Josh. 9: 3-15). What is the possible reason for the removal of the tabernacle from Nob to Gibeon? (1 Sam. 22: 19). Mention some of the famous dreams divinely sent. (Gen. 31: 11; 37: 5, 9; 41: 25; Dan. 7: 1; Matt. 1: 20; 2: 13, 19). Shew that God's purposes regarding us do not render our prayers unnecessary. (Ezek. 36: 37). Why does God not answer some prayers for good things? (Jas. 4: 3).

6. What special blessings are promised to the children of God's people? (Gen. 26: 24; 1 Kings 15: 4; Ps. 37: 26; 112: 2; Isa. 44: 3).

7. What other reference is made to Solomon's youth? (1 Chr. 22: 5; 29: 1). For commendation of humility see Ps. 9: 12; 10: 17; 25: 9; 149: 4; Prov. 3: 34; 15: 33; Isa. 57: 15; 1 Pet. 5: 5.

8. What was God's promise to Abraham regarding his descendants? (Gen. 13: 16; 15: 5). What was the actual population? (2 Sam. 24: 9; 1 Chr. 21: 5, 6).

9. From whom does wisdom come? (Job 28: 12-28; Jas. 1: 5). The best object of knowledge—Phil. 3: 10; Eph. 1: 18; 3: 19; John 17: 3.

10. What was Moses' choice? (Heb. 11: 25). What was Joshua's choice? (Josh. 24: 15). What should be our first choice? (Matt. 6: 33).

11. Is long life a blessing? (Ps. 91: 16; Prov. 3: 2; 22: 41). What are some of the dangers connected with wealth? (Matt. 13: 22; 1 Tim. 6: 10). How should riches be used? (1 Tim. 6: 17-19). What spirit should we cherish towards our personal enemies? (Matt. 6: 12; Col. 3: 13; 1 Pet. 3: 9). Is it right to pray for victory in battle? (Heb. 11: 32, 33).

12. What is God's mode of giving? (Eph. 3: 20).

13. Did Solomon fulfil the condition? (1 Kings 1: 1-8). What choice is set before every one? (Deut. 30: 19; Matt. 6: 24).

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.

- 1.—What news had David just received? (5)

- 2.—What promise had David made to Bathsheba? (3)

- 3.—For whom did David send? (5)

- 4.—What did he tell them to do? (6)

- 5.—What did the anointing signify? (6)

Name.....

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.

- 1.—What was Solomon doing at Gibeon? (5)

- 2.—What is meant by “an understanding heart?” (5)

- 3.—What did Solomon not ask for? (4)

- 4.—What condition was attached to the promise of long life? (5)

- 5.—What better choice might be made than even that of Solomon? (6)

Name.....

LESSON III—October 18th, 1896.

Solomon's Wealth and Wisdom. I KINGS 4: 25-34.

BIBLE SEARCH LIGHTS.

What instance of Solomon's sagacity is given? (I Kings 3: 16-28). What was the daily provision for Solomon's household? (I Kings 4: 22, 23).

25. What evidence that there was a real division of the nation before the time of Rehoboam? (2 Kings 2: 32; 2 Sam. 19: 41-43; 24: 9). Where is the blessedness of Messiah's kingdom described in similar terms? (Mic. 4: 4; Zech. 3: 10). What prophet uses the same idea in declaring his confidence in God? (Hsa. 3: 17). To whom did Jesus say "when thou wast under the fig tree I saw thee?" (John 1: 50). What promises were now fulfilled to Israel? (Gen. 12: 1; 13: 14, 15; 15: 18).

26. What injunction of the Mosaic law did Solomon here violate? (Deut. 17: 16). In what sense is "the divine right of kings" true? (Prov. 8: 15, 16).

29. To whom is wisdom certainly promised? (Prov. 8: 17). What is the text-book of wisdom? (Ps. 119: 98, 100). What other persons received a special gift of wisdom? (Dan. 1: 20).

30. What persons mentioned in the Bible belonged to "the children of the East?" (Num. 23: 7; Job. 1: 3; Dan. 2: 48; Matt. 2: 1). Where are the wise men of Egypt first mentioned? (Gen. 41: 8). How did they withstand Moses? (Ex. 7: 11). What reference in the N. T. to the wisdom of the Egyptians? (Acts. 7: 22). When the world's wisdom fails what does Divine Wisdom teach? (I Cor. 1: 21, 27, 28).

34. What prophecy of a similar recourse to Jerusalem for wisdom? (Isa. 2: 2, 3). Who is our "Solomon?" (Col. 2: 3). What is the sum of all true saving knowledge? (I Cor. 2: 7). By what power is that knowledge made effectual? (I Cor. 2: 4, 10, 11). In what knowledge then ought we to pride ourselves? (Jer. 9: 23, 24).

LESSON IV—October 25th, 1896.

The Proverbs of Solomon. PROV. 1: 1-19.

BIBLE SEARCH LIGHTS.

How far do the genuine Proverbs of Solomon extend? (ch. 22: 16). What is the authorship of the next section of the book ch. 22: 17—24: 34? When was ch. 25: 1—29: 27 compiled? Who is the author of ch. 30? Who is the author of ch. 31: 1-9? With what anonymous poem does the book close?

2. What is really the final reward of the searcher after wisdom? (Prov. 2: 3-6; Ps. 111: 10).

3. How does Paul describe the mature Christian? (Heb. 5: 14).

4. What kind of subtlety is not to be commended? (Ps. 55: 21; Eph. 4: 25; Col. 3: 9; Rev. 21: 8, 27). What kind is approved of? (Matt. 10: 16; Rom. 16: 19; Eph. 5: 15; I Cor. 9: 19-23; 10: 33). Give examples of true penetration from the life of Christ. (Mark 3: 24; Luke 20: 20-26). Where does the Bible address specially young men? (Ps. 119: 9; Titus 2: 6; I John 2: 13). What special promise is given to youthful piety? (Prov. 8: 17).

5. How are those whose wisdom does not increase described in the N. T.? (2 Tim. 3: 7). How is the general principle implied in this verse stated by Christ? (Mark 4: 25; Luke 8: 18; 19: 26).

6. Why did Christ speak in parables? (Matt. 13: 10-13).

7. What evil is denounced against disobedient children? (Prov. 20: 20; 30: 17). What promise to the obedient? (Deut. 5: 16).

10. How are we to resist temptation? (Matt. 26: 41; I Cor. 10: 13; Gal. 5: 16; Eph. 4: 27; 6: 10-17; Heb. 2: 18; 12: 3; Jas. 1: 12-15; Rev. 12: 11).

15. Does custom excuse evil-doing? (Ex. 23: 2). What danger is there in associating with unprincipled people? (Num. 33: 55; 2 Chr. 19: 2; I Cor. 15: 33).

18. Is it possible for the transgressor to escape punishment? (Num. 32: 23; Ps. 90: 8; 139: 11; Prov. 13: 21; I Cor. 4: 5).

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.

- 1—How is the peaceful condition of the country described? (5)
- 2—How is God's gift to Solomon described? (5)
- 3—With what two countries is the wisdom of Solomon compared? (5)
- 4—How many proverbs and songs did Solomon compose? (5)
- 5—What interest did he take in natural history? (5)

Name.....

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.

- 1—What was the chief reason why the Book of Proverbs was written? (5)
- 2—What will be the result of seeking wisdom? (5)
- 3—What is the first condition of obtaining true wisdom? (5)
- 4—With what arguments do sinners entice "the simple?" (5)
- 5—To whom do evil-doers bring the most harm? (5)

Name.....

LESSON V—November 1st, 1896.

Building the Temple. I KINGS 5: 1-12.

BIBLE SEARCH LIGHTS.

1. What message did Hiram send to Solomon? (1 Kings 5: 1). What friendly relations existed between the king of Tyre and David? (2 Sam. 5: 11; 1 Chr. 22: 4). How long previous was this? (Compare the dates given at the top of the margin). Is it probable that David's friend was the father of Solomon's friend? (2 Chr. 2: 13).

3. Read the more complete form of the letter in 2 Chr. 2: 1-7. Was there a political reason (2 Chr. 22: 9) as well as a moral one (1 Chr. 22: 8) why David could not build the temple? If David was not wrong in waging war why was his doing so made a reason for forbidding him to build the temple? Give other instances in which the Bible recognizes "the fitness of things" (8: 26; Ezra 4: 14; Matt. 15: 26; Luke 15: 32; 2 Tim. 2: 21). What promise has the Christian of a similar victory over his spiritual enemies? (Rom. 16: 20; Eph. 16: 22).

4. Is Solomon in this respect a type of Christ? (Ps. 72: 7; Isa. 9: 6, 7; Eph. 2: 14).

5. What remarkable omission in the narrative here? (1 Chr. 29: 1-9; 2 Chr. 2: 37, and compare 1 Kings 6: 2 with 2 Chr. 3: 3).

6. How far did the boundaries of the land given to Israel extend? (Josh. 13: 5, 6). Why did they not take possession of it all? (Judges 1: 31; 2: 2, 3; Ex. 23: 33; 1 Kings 11: 5). What lesson of brotherly co-operation may we learn from this verse? (1 Cor. 12: 14, &c.)

7. What fuller acknowledgement of God does Hiram make according to the narrative in 2 Chronicles? Give other instances of similar words from heathen kings. (Dan. 2: 47; 3: 28; 4: 34-37; Ezra 1: 2).

11. Was there a similar arrangement when the second temple was built? (Ezra 3: 7). Was this alliance ever broken? (Amos 1: 9).

LESSON VI—November 8th, 1896.

The Temple Dedicated. I KINGS 8: 54-63.

BIBLE SEARCH LIGHTS.

When was the building of the temple begun? (1 Kings 6: 1). What were its dimensions? (verses 2, 3). What remarkable fact was connected with the erection of it? (6: 7). When was the building finished? (6: 38). What other buildings did Solomon erect? (7: 1, 2, 8). What two pillars did he erect before the door of the temple? (7: 21). Who made them? (7: 13, 14). By whom was the ark carried into the temple? (8: 6). On what other occasions was it carried by priests? (Josh. 4: 10; 6: 4; 8: 33). Whose duty was it usually to carry it? (Num. 4: 15). What did the ark contain? (1 Kings 8: 9). What else was laid up in the Holy of Holies beside the ark? (Heb. 9: 3, 4). How did God manifest his acceptance of this temple as his dwelling place? (1 Kings 8: 10, 11.) What other dwelling place does he have? (Isa. 57: 15; 66: 1, 2; Ps. 34: 18; 138: 6).

54. What postures in prayer are mentioned in the Bible? Ezra. 9: 5; Dan. 6: 10; Luke 22: 41. Gen. 24: 52; Ex. 4: 31; Matt. 26: 39; Rev. 11: 16. 1 Sam. 1: 26; Luke 18: 11, 13.

55. What was the form of the solemn priestly benediction? (Num. 6: 23-27).

56. Of what rest was the peaceful time of Solomon a type? (Heb. 4: 1, 9, 11). What stronger ground of confidence in God's promises have we? (Rom. 8: 32.)

57. Of what ancient promise are these words an echo? (Deut. 31: 6, 8; Josh. 1: 5.) May we claim it for ourselves? (Heb. 13: 5.)

58. Give some proof-texts for the doctrine of man's natural inability to change his own nature without the operation of the Holy Spirit. (Jer. 13: 23; John 6: 44, 65; Rom. 9: 16; 1 Cor. 2: 14.)

63. What temple are we called upon to dedicate? (1 Cor. 6: 15-20.) How does "the glory" fill these temples? (Rev. 3: 20; John 14: 23.)

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.

1—What friendly service had Hiram rendered to David?

2—What did Solomon need that Hiram could give? (5)

3—What did Hiram need that Solomon could give? (5)

4—How was the timber conveyed to Jerusalem? (5)

5—What did Solomon pay annually to Hiram? (5)

Name.....

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.

1—How long was the temple in building and where was it situated? (5)

2—What promise had now been fulfilled? (4)

3—For what four things did Solomon pray for in verses 57-60? (6)

4—What is meant by “a perfect heart”? (5)

5—What occurred immediately after Solomon’s prayer was ended? (5)

Name.....

LESSON VII—November 15th, 1896.

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

BIBLE SEARCH LIGHTS.

1. What notable buildings, besides the temple, did Solomon erect? (I Kings 7: 1-8). What cities did he build? (2 Chr. 8: 4-6). On whom did the burden of these building operations chiefly fall? (2 Chr. 2: 17, 18; 8: 7-9). Is unbroken prosperity spiritually dangerous? (Ps. 55: 19; 73: 5, 6).
2. In what connection was the appearance here referred to? (I Kings 3: 5). Had Solomon received any communication from God since then? (I Kings 6: 11-13).
3. This verse seems to indicate that the vision came immediately after the dedication of the temple, but the sharp language of reproof rather suggests that there had been some falling away already on Solomon's part that called for it. What proof did Christ give of God's undying regard for Jerusalem? (Matt. 23: 37). What temples are we required to dedicate to God? (2 Cor. 6: 16; I Cor. 3: 16, 17; 6: 19; Eph. 1: 21, 22). How does he hallow them? Will he ever forsake these temples? (John 6: 40; 10: 28, 29).
4. David's life was not blameless, why then does God hold it up as a model for Solomon? (Ps. 18: 20-24; 32: 5; Prov. 28: 13; I John 1: 8-10).
5. When was this promise partially withdrawn? (I Kings 11: 34). When was it wholly withdrawn in a temporal sense? (Gen. 49: 10). In whom is the promise finally fulfilled? (Mark 11: 9, 10).
6. Illustrate God's long-suffering with his wayward children. (Ex. 34: 6, 7; 2 Chr. 36: 15; Isa. 1: 18; 44: 22; 54: 7-9; Micah 7: 18, 19; 2 Pet. 3: 9).
- 7-9. What similar warning is addressed to christian churches? (Rev. 2: 5). Even the world does not respect bad men. (Prov. 18: 3; 10: 7; Jer. 2: 19).

LESSON VIII—November 22nd, 1896.

Rewards of Obedience. PROV. 3: 1-17.

BIBLE SEARCH LIGHTS.

1. If we remember God's law, what will God forget? (Jer. 31: 34; 50: 20; Heb. 8: 12; 10: 16, 17). Of what is our obedience a proof? (John 14: 15, 21; I John 2: 4, 5; 5: 3). What does God say of mere outward service? (Isa. 29: 13; Ezek. 33: 31; Matt. 15: 7, 8).
2. Where are gold chains mentioned as marks of honor? (Gen. 41: 42; Dan. 5: 7, 29; Ezek. 16: 11; S. S. 1: 10). What similar exhortations in the law itself? (Ex. 13: 9, 16; Deut. 6: 8; 11: 18). What superstitious practice did a literal interpretation of these passages give rise to? (Matt 23: 5). To what is the word "tables," in the sense of "writing tablets," almost exclusively applied in the Old Testament? (Ex. 24: 12). The only other cases in which this word is used are Prov. 3: 3; 7: 3; Isa. 30: 8; Jer. 17: 1; Hab. 2: 2).
3. Give some N. T. passages regarding the vanity of human wisdom (Luke 14: 11; 16: 15; 18: 14; I Cor. 1: 18-31; 2: 5-14; 8: 2; I Pet. 5: 5).
4. What proportion were the Jews required to give to the support of religion? (Lev. 27: 30, 33; Deut. 12: 6, 7, 17-19; Num. 18: 26-32). What instances of tithe-paying before Moses? (Gen. 14: 20; 28: 22). What is the wider principle laid down by Christ? (Matt. 10: 8; Mark 12: 41-44; I Cor. 8: 12).
5. To what climax of blessedness does chastening raise the child of God? (Rom. 5: 3-5; Jas. 1: 12). In what spirit must it be received in order to produce this result? (Luke 22: 42, 43; Rom. 8: 28).
6. In whom may we obtain this priceless Wisdom? (I Cor. 1: 24, 30; Eph. 1: 17; Col. 2: 3; Phil. 3: 8).

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.

- 1.—On what other occasion did God appear to Solomon? (4)
- 2.—What promise did he make to Solomon? (5)
- 3.—What was the condition attached to it? (5)
- 4.—What punishment was threatened if this condition was not fulfilled? (5)
- 5.—At what two periods in the history of the Jews did these evils come upon them? (6)

Name.....

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.

- 1.—What are the rewards of obedience? (5)
- 2.—What two virtues procure favor and good understanding? (5)
- 3.—What temporal reward is promised to the liberal giver? (5)
- 4.—Why should we not rebel against Gods' chastening? (5)
- 5.—What rewards does wisdom offer? (5)

Name.....

LESSON IX—November 29th, 1896.

The Fame of Solomon. I KINGS 10: 1-10.

BIBLE SEARCH LIGHTS.

1. What commercial relations did Solomon have with the countries on the Red Sea? (1 Kings 9: 26-28; 10: 15). Why was Solomon thus exalted? (Ps. 91: 14; 1 Sam. 2: 30). What similar honor is in store for Christians? (John 12: 26). What lesson did Christ draw from this visit? (Matt. 12: 42). How earnestly should we search for wisdom? (Prov. 2: 4, 5).
 2. What example does the Queen of Sheba here set to Christians? (Mal. 3: 16; Eph. 5: 19; 1 Thess. 5: 11). What kind of questions are profitless? (2 Tim. 2: 23). When shall desire for knowledge be fully satisfied? (1 Cor. 13: 12).
 3. With what subjects is the Christian's wisdom concerned? (1 Cor. 2: 6, 7). How does he acquire it? (1 Cor. 2: 10). What is necessary to receiving it? (1 Cor. 2: 14, 15; Prov. 28: 8; John 7: 17; 1 John 2: 27).
 - 4, 5. Where did Solomon get gold? (1 Kings 10: 11). What display of it did he make? (ch. 10: 16, 17). What became of these shields? (ch. 14: 26). Mention some other articles imported by Solomon. Of whose glory is that of Solomon a type? (Isa. 60: 3, 6, 9, 17). When will this be fulfilled? (Rev. 11: 15).
 - 6, 7. In what respect will the Christian's surprise be as great as that of the Queen of Sheba? (1 Cor. 2: 9). Is man's incredulity in regard to spiritual blessings as excusable as that of the Queen of Sheba? (John 3: 11; 1 John 1: 1; Rom. 10: 9; Heb. 3: 19).
 8. Against what kind of speech are we warned? (Prov. 8: 15; Dan. 2: 21; Rom. 13: 1). What important consequence depends on our speech? (Matt. 12: 37). What seasoning should be applied to our speech? (Col. 4: 6). How should our wisdom shew itself? (Jas. 3: 13).
 9. From whom do rulers derive their authority? (Prov. 8: 15; Dan. 2: 21; Rom. 13: 1). What obligations does this lay upon us? (Rom. 3: 1-7; Eccl. 8: 2).
 10. What present should we bring to Jesus? (Prov. 23: 26). What does he give in return? (2 Tim. 4: 8; 1 Pet. 5: 4; Rev. 2: 10).
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LESSON X—December 6th, 1896.

Solomon's Sin. I KINGS 11: 4-13.

BIBLE SEARCH LIGHTS.

- 4-8. How long did Solomon reign? (ch. 11: 42). Was polygamy forbidden in the law? (Deut. 17: 17). What does Jesus say about it? (Mark 10: 6-9). What was said regarding marriages with the heathen? (Deut. 7: 3, 4). What New Testament precept bears upon this question? (2 Cor. 6: 14). How many wives did Solomon have? (vs. 3). Solomon forgot one of his own precepts (Prov. 1: 10). A warning to Christians. (Eph. 5: 11). He tried to serve two masters. (Matt. 6: 24; Josh. 24: 15). By whom were these high places destroyed? (2 Kings 23: 13).
- 9-13. Do special privileges imply special obligations? (Luke 10: 12-15). Will misuse of privileges lead to their forfeiture? (Matt. 25: 28). What other examples of a sentence suspended in mercy? (ch. 21: 29; 2 Kings 22: 20; 2 Pet. 3: 9).

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.

- 1.—What famous queen came to visit Solomon and where was her country? (5)
- 2.—What was the object of her visit? (4)
- 3.—What did she say of the report she had heard before coming? (4)
- 4.—On what account did she declare Solomon's servants happy? (6)
- 5.—What graceful compliment did she pay Solomon with respect to his being made king? (6)

Name.....

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.

- 1.—Who turned Solomon's heart away after other gods? (4)
- 2.—Name some of the idols worshipped? (6)
- 3.—What is mentioned as an aggravation of Solomon's guilt? (5)
- 4.—What punishment was declared against him? (4)
- 5.—What merciful limits were set to the doom pronounced? (6)

Name.....

LESSON XI—December 13th, 1896.

Cautions Against Intemperance. PROV. 23 : 15-25.

15. What is the beginning of wisdom? (Ps. 111: 10). What is the highest object of knowledge? (Job 22: 21). What does the heart of the wise discern? (Eccl. 8: 5). From whom does heart wisdom come? (John 14: 6).

16. Where do wisdom and truth dwell? (Ps. 51: 6; Job 38: 36). How did David regard the danger of imprudent speech? Ps. 39: 1; 141: 3). What does Solomon call the mouth of a righteous man? (Prov. 10: 11, 20, 21, 31, 22; 15: 4). What does he say of fitly spoken words? (Prov. 25: 11). What does Jesus say of the value of words? (Matt. 12: 37; Luke 6: 45). What does Paul say? (Eph. 4: 29). What does James say? (Jas. 3: 2, 13).

17. What constitutes the whole duty of man? (Eccl. 12: 13; Deut. 10: 12; Micah 6: 8; Heb. 12: 28).

18. When will the final award come? (Luke 16: 25). In what other passages does Solomon shew his knowledge of the doctrine of a future life (ch. 11: 7; 14: 32). What further assurance of reward have we in the New Testament? (Heb. 3: 6; Matt. 7: 14; 10: 22; Rev. 2: 10).

19. What is the way in which the heart is to be guided? (Luke 16: 25; Acts 9: 2; 19: 9, 23). With whose help can we best guide our hearts? (John 16: 13).

20, 21. What was the punishment of drunkenness and gluttony under the Mosaic law? (Deut. 21: 20). What warning have we of the danger lurking in the wine cup? (Prov. 20: 1; 21: 17; 23: 29-32; Isa. 5: 11, 22; 28: 7; Hos. 4: 11). What warning against teaching others to drink? (Hab. 2: 15). Will drunkenness exclude from heaven? (1 Cor. 6: 10; Gal. 5: 21). What New Testament warnings against self indulgence? (Luke 12: 19; 21: 34; Phil. 3: 19; 1 Tim. 5: 6; 1 Pet. 2: 11; 4: 3; 1 John 2: 15-17).

22. What promise is given to filial piety? (Ex. 20: 12; Eph. 6: 2, 3). On what grounds is this duty urged? (Eph. 6: 1; Col. 3: 20; 1 Tim. 8: 8). What penalties are attached to unfilial conduct? (Prov. 20: 20; 30: 17).

23. What price is asked for the truth? (Isa. 55: 1; Rev. 3: 18). What is the value of discipline? (Rom. 5: 3). In what parables does Christ repeat the thought of this verse? (Matt. 13: 44-46).

LESSON XII—December 20th, 1896.

The Birth of Christ. MATT. 2 : 1-12.

BIBLE SEARCH LIGHTS.

1. Where was the home of Mary? (Luke 1: 26). What brought her to Bethlehem? (Luke 2: 1-4). What prophecy did this fulfil? (Micah 5: 2). From what king was he descended? (John 7: 42). What previous mention have we of wise men? (Esther 1: 13; Dan. 2: 12).

2. Who called Jesus a star? (Num. 24: 17; Isa. 60: 3). What does he call himself in Rev. 22: 16?

4. When were the priestly courses instituted? (1 Chr. 24: 26). What evidence in this verse that Herod quite understood who "the king of the Jews" was? Compare his feelings with those of Simeon and Anna.

5, 6. What memories surround Bethlehem? Where is this prophecy found? (Micah 5: 2). What did Jesus say of those who searched the Scriptures but would not come to him? (John 5: 39, 40).

7, 8. Who knew what was in Herod's heart? (Matt. 2: 13). Who imitated Herod at a later date? (Matt. 26: 4).

9, 10. What encouragement here for those who are seeking Christ? (Isa. 42: 16).

11. What prophecies were partially fulfilled by this visit? (Ps. 72: 10, 15; Isa. 60: 6). Should offerings always accompany worship? (Ex. 23: 15; 34: 20; Deut. 16: 16; Ps. 96: 8; 1 Cor. 16: 2).

12. Have all Christ's followers the same watchful Guardian? (Ps. 34: 7; Heb. 1: 14).

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.

- 1.—Why should we not envy sinners? (6)
- 2.—How does true wisdom shew itself? (6)
- 3.—What do drunkenness and gluttony lead to? (4)
- 4.—What are we urged to buy? (6)
- 5.—For whose sake should we try to do what is right? (3)

Name.....

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.

- 1.—Who came seeking Jesus and what did they ask? (4)
- 2.—Why were Herod and the people of Jerusalem troubled? (6)
- 3.—Whom did Herod call together and what did he ask them? (4)
- 4.—What did he inquire of the wise men and what did he tell them to do? (4)
- 5.—How were the wise men guided to the house where Jesus was? (3)
- 6.—What did they do when they came in? (4)

Name.....

LESSON XIII—December 27th, 1896.

REVIEW.

(The maximum value of each correct answer is 4).

- 1.—What promise had David made to Bathsheba?
- 2.—Why was Solomon made king so suddenly and before David was dead?
- 3.—What did Solomon ask God to give him?
- 4.—On what condition was long life promised?
- 5.—How is the peaceful condition of Israel under Solomon described?
- 6.—Of how many proverbs and songs was Solomon the author?
- 7.—What is the foundation of all true wisdom?
- 8.—For whom do wicked men really “lay wait”?
- 9.—Why was David not permitted to build the temple?
- 10.—What did Hiram give Solomon and with what was he paid?
- 11.—For what did Solomon bless God?
- 12.—How did he and the people shew their thankfulness and joy?

- 13.—On what condition did God promise to establish Solomon's throne?
- 14.—What would be the consequence of apostasy?
- 15.—What promise is given to those who honor God with their substance?
- 16.—What does "wisdom" offer to those who seek her?
- 17.—What royal visitor came to Solomon?
- 18.—On what account especially did she esteem Solomon's servants happy?
- 19.—What was Solomon's sin?
- 20.—What was its punishment?
- 21.—What are the inevitable consequences of drunkenness and gluttony?
- 22.—What is better worth buying than anything else?
- 23.—Who were the wise men?
- 24.—Why was Herod alarmed?
- 25.—What use, probably, was made of the gifts of the wise men?

Name.....

EXCUSE FOR ABSENCE.

Dear Teacher,—Please excuse my absence from Sabbath School to-day, I cannot come because I have read the "Daily Fortions" and answered the questions as well as I could. I have committed to memory verses in addition to the Golden Text, and Questions in the Catechism and have recited them to I was at church I send with this my Weekly Offering of cents.

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