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## The Sabbath-School.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON.

Fourth Quarter-Lesson IX. — Dec. 1.

THE TEMPLE DEDICATED.  
—1 Kings 8:54-63.

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

We come now to one of the most influential events in the history of the world, the building of the first and the most beautiful temple for the worship of God. It marks an era in the religious history of the Jews. It made Jerusalem the religious capital.

THE TEMPLE.—Its site was on Mount Moriah, overlooking the valley of the Kidron and the Mount of Olives. The top of Moriah was levelled with immense labor; its sides, which were precipitous, were faced with a wall of stone. Thus the top was enlarged to a large quadrangle of perhaps 12 acres.

Materials. The temple was built of white limestone, largely taken from quarries under the city itself, with beams and inner walls of cedar, fir, and red sandal-wood overlaid with pure gold. The inner doors and walls were carved with palm-trees, cherubims, and flowers, all overlaid with gold, and garnished with precious stones. "Six hundred talents (about 30 tons) of gold were spent in gilding one room of the temple (the Holy of Holies).

The Workmen. The skilled laborers were largely Phoenicians, supplied by Hiram, king of Tyre. There were 3000 officers and overseers, and 30,000 Israelites levied to do the work one month and remain home two months in turn. Besides these there were 150,000 laborers probably from foreign subject nations.

Its Size and Shape. If a cubit was 18 inches, the temple proper was 90 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 45 feet high. The whole height was 30 cubits, but the rooms into which this space was divided, the Holy Place, and the Holy of Holies, were finished only 20 cubits, or 30 feet in height (1 Kings 6:16-20). In all its dimensions, length, breadth,—and height,—the sanctuary itself was exactly double those of the tabernacle. The whole was situated according to the points of the compass, the front entrance being towards the east.

Courts. The area of the present enclosure is about 35 acres. But "on the north-east, upwards of seven acres appear to have been added 1000 years later. Josephus also ascribes to Herod the honor of having doubled the extent of the original enclosure when he rebuilt the temple (20 B. C.). Probably, therefore, the platform constructed by Solomon's engineers was an area of about 12 acres, or a quadrangle of 900 feet by 600." There were two courts. The outer court was surrounded by a wall. This court was adorned with trees, and free to all the people. Within this was a smaller court, the court of the priests, enclosing the temple.

THE DEDICATION OF THE TEMPLE.—Completion. It required seven and one-half years to complete the temple.

Dedication. The dedication took place at the great national festival of the Tabernacles, about the first of October. The dedication was the grandest ceremony ever performed under the Mosaic dispensation.

God accepts the Temple as His own. Then took place the most important event in the dedication.—the manifestation of Jehovah in the new temple by the same symbol by which he had marked the ancient tabernacle as his earthly dwelling-place. A shining cloud, out-dazzling the morning sun, settled upon the throne, "so that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of God."

SOLOMON'S DEDICATORY PRAYER.—Ver. 54. Then Solomon proceeded to perform the supreme sacerdotal act by solemnly blessing the assembled people. This ended, he went forward to the great altar. Here he had built a brazen platform about seven feet square and five feet high, so as to be seen and heard by all the people. Here he knelt—the first instance in Scripture of this attitude,—and, stretching out his hands towards heaven, uttered a prayer of almost unequalled sublimity. *Kneeling on his knees.* An expression of devotion, submission, and reverence. *With his hands spread up to heaven.* An expression of appeal to God. *And blessed all the congregation:* closed the services with a benediction full of meaning and truth. *Blessed be the Lord, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised.* That place is now dedicated, and the king sees in this circumstance a proof that the rest is

now at last fully obtained. The rest hitherto enjoyed had been but partial. *The Lord our God be with us, as he was with our fathers.* The visible proof of this was in the glory which then filled the temple as it had filled the tabernacle. God's presence includes all other blessings, for he is the source of all. *That he may incline our hearts.* God "inclines the heart" and yet the heart must yield itself. We need continued help "to will" as "to do" of God's good pleasure. *To walk in all his ways and to keep his statutes.* A revival of true religion is always a revival of morality; and there is no time when it is so easy and so natural to do right as when under strong religious influences. *His judgments.* His decisions as to what is right; his law. *Let these my words.* The words of his prayer. *Be nigh unto the Lord:* be a perpetual prayer. *That he maintain the cause of his servant:* guide him, protect him, watch over him. *That all the people of the earth may know.* Israel was not made and kept a people of God for its own sake alone, but as the best way of proclaiming the true God to all nations. *Let your heart therefore be perfect with the Lord.* He saw clearly that every good he had hoped for his people depended on sincere, heart-deep obedience and love. God cannot give to a disobedient people the blessings of obedience. *As at this day.* He hoped they would not backslide from the feelings and resolves they were making.

God's Approval. At the close of this benediction and the public religious services, "fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the house. God's love to manifest to his people in his house his glorious goodness and power.

THE FESTIVAL.—Vers. 62,63. The Feast of the Tabernacles was held at this time for seven days; but in this case the festival continued for 14 days—seven before the feast, and the seven of the feast, with two additional days, for the people were not dismissed till the twenty-third day. *Two and twenty thousand oxen,* etc. These were peace offerings, and were mostly eaten by the people. The vast numbers of people required a large amount of food.

### PRACTICAL HINTS.

The leaders in talent, in wealth, in position, and in influence should be also leaders in prayer.

Churches should be formally dedicated to God.

Churches sincerely dedicated to God will be consecrated by God. The Presence will not be the less real, but all the more real, because it is spiritual.

Such churches will be missionary churches, proclaiming to all nations the one true God.

### The Age of Trees.

The average natural age of the oak is from 1,500 to 2,000 years; of the elm, 350 to 500 years; the maple, 600 to 800 years; the yew tree, largest of all, 2,500 to 3,000 years; the cedar, 800; linden, 1,200, and the cypress 350. There are trees now standing believed to be more than 5,000 years old.

### The Eleventh Commandment.

To mind one's own business, not in the spirit of the priest or the Levite, who passed by on the other side, instead of assisting the wounded man on the highway, but by refraining from meddling with the affairs of healthy people, by refraining from gossip and scandal and the circulation of idle reports, from interference between friends or in other people's domestic affairs—if this be the eleventh commandment, who keeps it?

### Journalism in Missouri.

A Missouri weekly asks its readers to excuse lack of editorial matter by explaining that the editor is "now lying in bed, with one foot in the grave, while four of the best physicians of the town surround our couch and sew up the gaping wounds which disfigure us." He fell over a cow which was lying on the sidewalk.

A lank, cadaverous-visaged poet, who is often seen walking along Newspaper row, was recently asked if he would not enjoy life more keenly if he were a trifle more corpulent. "No," he swiftly and disdainfully answered, "corpulence befits aldermen, bootlers and saloon-keepers. Though a literary man, I never indulge in malt, which—to paraphrase from Emerson—is 'making the Western wits fat and mean.' You will find that the majority of intellectual people are not gross, though many of them are what might be termed plump. Point me out ten fat men and I will point you out nine stupid men. Was Apollo coarse and unctuous? Was the Greek conception of a perfectly modeled body that of one weighing three hundred pounds? No. Art and poetry ever have sought to immortalize such lithe and willowy forms as that of Venus, such trim, athletic limbs as those of Diana, such graceful symmetry as that of Hebe. Really, I would rather be a snail than a fat man."

"Assuming," observed the poet's questioner, "that as a rule those not fat are the most intellectual and eminent in the world, how do you account for the fact that of all the people who obtain divorces only about one-fourth are fat people?"

"Oh," returned the poet, "you might as well ask why there are not as many fat people in the world as lean. I am not married, but if I ever do take a wife you may rest assured that she will not be a woman of such dimensions as to attract offers from dime museum managers."  
Then the long-haired votary of the muse pursued his fanciful way toward a fifteen-cent restaurant.

## IN SHARP CONTRAST.

The Model as Painted by an Artist and as Seen in Real Life.

"Womanhood"—a background of misty gray, shadows soft and dreamy, a woman floating through the shadows, with white arms raised high above her head, clothed only in thin, gray draperies, trailing and fading into the clouds in which she floated. Every curve of the gleaming white limbs, every line of the slender body was revealed by the clinging, transparent folds, which only heightened the loveliness they could not conceal, and fell away softly from the full, white throat and snowy breast. The face was uplifted and turned slightly away, in an exquisite pose, but something in the chaste lines of the beautiful figure revealed all the purity, sacredness and idealism of womanhood. Men, says the New York Sun, looked at the picture with earnest faces, women's chatter hushed as they approached it. "It almost makes me cry, it is so pure and beautiful," said a pretty, impulsive girl. "I could be always good if it hung in my room." The artist stood in the angle of the railing as the people crowded up to see his work, and some one said: "Is it an ideal figure?" to which he answered: "I painted it from life, except the face, which is idealized a little."

High up in an old tenement-house with dark passages, and up tumble-down stairs, in a tiny room a woman sat crouching over a smoking fire, endeavoring to coax its coals into life and warmth. Her dress was old and faded and soiled, a tear on the shoulder revealing the white flesh; her shoes were ragged and down at the heel, fastened by one or two buttons; her hands were smeared with coal dust. A frowsy boy came banging into the room with a bun in one hand and a greasy newspaper in the other. "Here's the paper the boss sent up to your man, and is he any better, he says."

"He is worse," answered the woman, apathetically, as she took up the paper and went into another tiny room where, on a ragged couch, a man with consumption was watching her with burning eyes. She turned the paper to the art notes, and, after a little search, said: "The picture has sold for \$1,000, and I only had \$20 for the pose, and it was so hard and made my arms ache so I couldn't fix 'em in the night so I could go to sleep. The coal's nearly out and the rent isn't paid, and your medicine is all gone."

"What was the pose, Annie?"

"This. See!" She raised slowly on one toe and threw her hands above her head. The clinging, limp, faded dress outlined curves of gracious beauty, the soiled sleeves fell back from dimpled white arms, the hands, save where the coal smirched blackened them, were white as snow, and they were faultless in shape. Through the rent in her dress the bare shoulder gleamed like marble, and the loosely-fastened collar slipped back from a full, beautiful throat, the gray dusk of the twilight shrouded her with dreamy shadows and the uplifted face was turned away.

### A FEMALE LOBBYIST.

How She Manages to Gather Honey from Every Honey-Bearing Flower.

"A fine figure of a woman," as Joe Gargery observes in "Great Expectations," passes by into the Capitol, sweeping under-garment of silk and genuine seal fur with as broad spread of canvas as the yachts Puritan or Volunteer. Her age ranges probably between forty and forty-five, her figure is practically embonpoint, but her face is rosy with health and her features still preserve the stamp of beauty. Her eyes are big and gray, scintillating under the flashes of dark eyelashes and brows, and were her attire less pronounced she would be styled elegant. This lady enters the reception room, and sends her card to several members, who at once respond, and soon she is surrounded by a coterie of conscript fathers, vieing with each other in playing the gallant. She jests and jokes with them all, inviting them to call at her residence, and, having played her cards adroitly, leaves the Capitol in a well-appointed coupe, with the driver in livery. Sometimes she is accompanied by her daughter, a pretty girl of eighteen, and a splendid type of the blonde.

This lady is a professional lobbyist, and plies her vocation with marked success. Whispers in the air are heard occasionally in criticism of her private character from those of her own sex, but, says the gallant correspondent of the Kansas City Times, neither man nor woman has ever brought forward an accusation direct and positive so far as it is generally known. She has had her fingers, however, in many a Congressional pie, whereof she received a slice of greater or lesser proportions, and no one is more thoroughly posted in the avenues and channels of legislation. She obtains a copy of every bill introduced and of the reports thereon, and if the game be worth the candle, hunts up its history and parentage. Then when the case is thoroughly digested she offers to make or mar, as the case may be, wherever the best financial opportunity is presented, and her efforts are usually attended with success. She is shrewd, and gathers honey from every honey-bearing flower.

### RATS CARRYING EGGS.

An Omaha Man Watches the Performance and Describes It.

L. L. Cloud, of Omaha, in a Chicago paper says: Last summer the girl kept complaining that she could never find any eggs in the barn. I did not think much of it at first, but finally when the complaint was repeated almost every day I began to think it was rather strange that we should not get more than three or four eggs when we had at least five dozen hens, and so determined to look into the matter. It was more than a week, though, before I solved the mystery, and then it was merely by accident. I was standing in the barn one Sunday morning when a hen came cackling from her nest in the manger, and a few minutes after a big rat came from his hole, ran across the barn and climbed into the manger. I could hear him, and was idly watching to see what he was doing, when you can imagine my surprise to see him rolling the egg in front of him toward the edge of the manger. After a good many efforts he finally succeeded. He paused there, gathering the egg up under his "chin;" he rolled himself completely around it, resembling the form of a hedgehog when alarmed, then he deliberately rolled over the edge of the manger, and dropped squarely on his back on the floor, two feet below, thus saving the egg whole. Immediately he began to squeal with all his strength, and just as I was starting to put him out of his misery, thinking he had broken his back in the fall, two other rats appeared on the scene. They ran up to the first one, as he lay on the floor, and each seizing hold of a hind leg began to drag him, egg and all, across the barn. Just as they reached the hole, and the first old grizzled fellow disappeared, pushing the egg in front of him, it dawned on me that I had at last found out where our eggs had been going.

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