INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

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LESSON FOR OCTOBER 21

THE TEMPLE REBUILT AND DEDICATED.

LESSON TEXT—Ezra 3:8-13; 6:14-18.
GOLDEN TEXT—Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise.—Psalms 100:4.

The remnant which returned had now become settled in their new homes As it would be a considerable time before the temple could be rebuilt, arrangement was made for the religious life as early as possible, as religion was the very heart of the nation's life. They first set up the altar of the God of Israel (3:1-3) and offered burnt offerings thereon. They next revived the annual festivals (3:4-7) which had a powerful, unifying influence upon them.

I. The Appointment of Officers to Set Forward the Work of the Lord's House (v. 8, 9). Overseers were needed to direct this great work. Rubbish needed to be cleared away so the building operations could begin; timber needed to be cut in the Lebanon forests and floated down to Joppa; stones needed to be cut from the quarries; intelligent and consecrated men were needed to direct this work, as it was needful that it be done with the utmost expedition. The Lord's house demands the most systematic adjustment of its labors. Mere zeal will not make up for lack of intelligence.

II. The Foundation of the Temple Laid (3:10-13). This was done amid great rejoicing. The consciousness that the Lord's house was taking shape, even though the mere foundations could be seen, provoked great enthusiasm on the part of the people. Musicians were appointed to furnish music while the work was being done. Under the influence of music men will do better work, armies will march and fight better when bands are playing. While there was great joy, there was also, mingled sorrow. This was on the part of the elders who had seen the former temple. The meanness of the present temple in comparison with Solomon's temple caused their praise to be drowned with their sorrow. These people belonged to that class who think that nothing now is so good as in the former days. So completely were these voices commingled that the people could not discern the one from the other.

III. The Building of the Temple Delayed by Opposition. (Chapters 4 and 5). For a time matters went smoothly with them, but as soon as the work had taken such shape as to show that there was some prospect of success, the half-heathen Samaritans began to oppose them. No vital work of God will be allowed to go on without opposition. Satan resents and bitterly opposes all inroads upon his kingdom. These Samaritans sought to frustrate this work of God by:

(1) An Alliance With the Jews (4:2, 3). They wanted to bring the work in harmony with their own religious practices, as God's pure worship would be a constant rebuke to them. This is ever the way of the world, to seek to effect a compromise with God's children; but God's call is separation. "Come out from among them" (2 Cor. 6:14-18). Nothing so weakens God's cause as worldly alliance and compromise. There is but one answer to be given to such an offer of compromise. "Ye have nothing to do with us in building a house unto our God." We are in the world, but not of the world.

(2) Weakening the Hands of the People (4:4). Doubtless this included the withdrawal of supplies, the spreading of dissension among the workmen, and the employment of counselors against them.

(3) Letters of Accusation to the Persian King (4:6, 7). So severe was this opposition that the building was delayed for a term of years. These counselors succeeded in creating doubt as to whether Cyrus had ever issued a decree for their return. This wicked opposition resulted in the undoing of the opposers, for search was made and a copy was found. Darius confirmed this by his own decree, and directed that aid be given from the royal taxes so that the house of God might be built.

IV. The Temple Completed and Dedicated (6:14-18). The Prophets Haggai and Zachariah now appear, and by warnings, exortations and entreaties stir up the people so that the work goes forward to a successful completion. Without their aid probably the work would never have been completed. Human nature at times needs to be cheered and urged forward. These prophets did not themselves work in the building of the walls, yet their work was of even greater importance.

It is generally found that this is so with the religious leaders today. The words of cheer and encouragement of the Christian minister are needed daily for those who labor in the building of the Lord's house. Were it not for them many would give up the struggle. When the building was finished it was dedicated to God with great joy. This was possible because they had builded and finished their task according to the commandment of the God of Israel. The service of dedication was much after the order of that of Solomon's temple, only on a less magnificent scale.

THE KITCHEN CABINET

Let me tonight look back across the span
'Twixt dawn and dark, and to my conscience say—
Because of some good act to beast or man—
The world is better, that I lived today.

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

OCCASIONAL DISHES.

For the family which has toast daily and often have the slices trimmed and crumbs that are left from preparing sandwiches as well as crusts, the problem of wasting none needs careful thought. The crumbs should be well dried, ground through the meat chopper, then made into bread. Take four cupfuls of hot water, a half cupful of molasses, one yeast cake, two cupfuls of graham flour, and three cupfuls of bread crumbs, mix and add enough white flour to make a stiff dough, let rise, work down, place at once in tins, let rise again, and bake.

Four Quarts of Grapefruit Sherbet.—Sometimes when entertaining it may be convenient to use the following: Two and a half cupfuls of water, five cupfuls each of sugar and grape juice, three teaspoonfuls of gelatin, one and a fourth cupfuls of lemon juice. Soften the gelatin in an additional fourth of a cupful of water, boil the sugar and water 15 minutes, cool, add fruit juice and freeze as usual.

Chili Con Carne.—Take two pods of fresh or dried chili peppers, two pounds of round steak, one-fourth of a cupful of pork fat or drippings, one clove of garlic, a teaspoonful of salt, a cupful of dried beans, four tablespoonfuls of flour. Soak the beans over night and let simmer in fresh water until tender. Discard the seeds in the peppers or if the dried ones are used soak them until soft in warm water, then scrape the pulp into the water and discard the skin. Cut the steak in small pieces and cook in fat until well browned, add the flour to the fat in the pan and stir until well browned; add the chili peppers and water and stir until boiling. Cut two gashes in a clove of garlic and add it with the other things to the meat. Cover and let simmer two hours, adding water as needed, add salt. Meanwhile the beans should have become tender, season with salt and pepper, and mix all together.

Deviled Ham.—Cut cold boiled or baked ham in uniform slices. Mix together two tablespoonfuls of flour, one tablespoonful of mustard, half a teaspoonful each of salt and paprika, then add Worcestershire sauce to stir to a paste. Spread a little of this on both sides of the ham and broil about two minutes on each side. Serve hot as a luncheon dish.

This is the truth as I hear it
The clouds are rolling away,
And Spirit will talk with spirit
In the swift-approaching day.
War from the world shall be driven
From evil shall come forth good,
And men shall make ready for heaven
Through living in brotherhood.

—E. W. Wilcox.

GOOD THINGS FOR THE TABLE.

Prepare strips of stale bread about an inch and a half wide and four inches long, spread with butter on both sides and set into the oven until delicately browned on both sides. When ready to use, spread with mayonnaise dressing, press chopped white of egg in a narrow row all around the pieces of bread, then a row of the yolk of egg, in the center place a tip of tender cooked asparagus and sprinkle with finely chopped parsley. Serve a single canape as one service.

Hamburg Roast en Surprise.—Remove all the skin from a pound and a half of round steak, put the meat through a food chopper; add one egg, beaten light, one tablespoonful of fine chopped parsley, a teaspoonful of onion juice, a teaspoonful of salt, one fourth of a teaspoonful of paprika, and a third of a cupful of soft bread crumbs. Mix and shape into a loaf longer than wide and set into a baking dish; take out some of the mixture in the center to leave an open space equally distant from each end; into this break two eggs, cover with the meat and sprinkle the top with crumbs mixed with melted butter. Bake a half hour, basting five or six times with pork or bacon fat. Parboil a pint of potato balls, cut with a French cutter, fifteen minutes and place them around the meat when it goes into the oven. Baste the potatoes as the meat is basted. Serve around the meat. Make a sauce after the meat is removed from the gravy in the pan, adding flour, catsup, worcestershire sauce, salt and pepper for seasoning. If water is needed to add to the gravy save the water the potato balls were cooked in as it is rich in mineral salts.

Rice With Raisins.—Drop a cupful of rice into a kettle of salted water and keep it at a fast boil so that the grains do not stick together. When tender, drain and add a cupful of seeded raisins and pack into a buttered mold. Steam for 10 minutes, turn out and serve with plenty of butter and scraped maple sugar.

Nellie Maxwell

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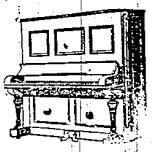
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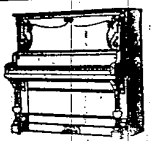
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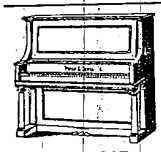
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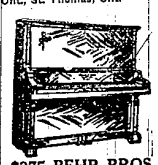
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