

# INTERNATIONAL BIBLE LESSONS.

## FOURTH QUARTER: STUDIES IN JEWISH HISTORY.

B. C. 1048.]

## LESSON 1. THE TRIBES UNITED UNDER DAVID.

[Oct. 6.]

Authorized Version.

Revised Version.

2 Sam. 5. 1-12.

[Commit to memory verses 1-3.]



1 Then came all the tribes of Is'-ra-el to Da'-vid unto He'-bron, and spake, saying, Behold, we are thy bone and thy flesh.

2 Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Is'-ra-el: and the LORD said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Is'-ra-el, and thou shalt be a captain over Is'-ra-el.

3 So all the elders of Is'-ra-el came to the king to He'-bron; and king Da'-vid made a league with them in He'-bron before the LORD: and they anointed Da'-vid king over Is'-ra-el.

4 Da'-vid was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years.

5 In He'-bron he reigned over Ju'-dah seven years and six months: and in Je-ru'-sa-lem he reigned thirty and three years over all Is'-ra-el and Ju'-dah.

6 And the king and his men went to Je-ru'-sa-lem unto the Jeb'-u-sites, the inhabitants of the land: which spake unto Da'-vid, saying, Except thou take away the blind and the lame, thou shalt not come in hither: thinking, Da'-vid cannot come in hither.

7 Nevertheless, Da'-vid took the stronghold of Zi'on: the same is the city of Da'-vid.

8 And Da'-vid said on that day, Whosoever getteth up to the gutter, and smiteth the Jeb'-u-sites, and the lame and the blind, that are hated of Da'-vid's soul, he shall be chief and captain. Wherefore they said, The blind and the lame shall not come into the house.

9 So Da'-vid dwelt in the fort, and called it the city of Da'-vid. And Da'-vid built round about from Mil'o and inward.

10 And Da'-vid went on, and grew great, and the LORD God of hosts was with him.

11 And Hi'-ram king of Tyre sent messengers to Da'-vid, and cedar trees, and carpenters, and masons: and they built Da'-vid a house.

12 And Da'-vid perceived that the LORD had established him king over Is'-ra-el, and that he had exalted his kingdom for his people Is'-ra-el's sake.

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2 and thy flesh. In times past, when Saul was king over us, it was thou that leddest out and broughtest in Is'-ra-el: and the LORD said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Is'-ra-el, and thou shalt be prince over Is'-

3 ra-el. So all the elders of Is'-ra-el came to the king to He'-bron; and king Da'-vid made a covenant with them in He'-bron before the LORD: and they anointed Da'-vid king over Is'-ra-el.

4 Da'-vid was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years.

5 In He'-bron he reigned over Ju'-dah seven years and six months: and in Je-ru'-sa-lem he reigned thirty and three years over all

6 Is'-ra-el and Ju'-dah. And the king and his men went to Je-ru'-sa-lem against the Jeb'-u-sites, the inhabitants of the land: which spake unto Da'-vid, saying,

Except thou take away the blind and the lame, thou shalt not come in hither: thinking, Da'-vid cannot

7 come in hither. Nevertheless Da'-vid took the strong- hold of Zi'on: the same is the city of Da'-vid. And

8 Da'-vid said on that day, Whosoever smiteth the Jeb'-u-sites, let him get up to the water-course, and smite the lame and the blind, that are hated of Da'-vid's soul.

Wherefore they say, There are the blind and the

9 lame; he cannot come into the house. And Da'-vid dwelt in the stronghold, and called it the city of

Da'-vid. And Da'-vid built round about from Mil'o

10 and inward. And Da'-vid waxed greater and greater: for the LORD, the God of hosts, was with him.

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## EXPOSITORY NOTES.

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**Introductory.**—The last quarter's lessons carried us over the principal events in the history of Samuel and Saul: the present covers the history of David and Solomon. David has already been introduced to us in the foregoing lessons as chosen by the Lord, anointed by Samuel, skillful in music, mighty in battle, but the object of Saul's bitter jealousy and persecution. After the death of Saul and Jonathan David lamented their fall in the beautiful elegy which is recorded in 2 Sam. 1. 19-27. Soon after, he was directed of the Lord to go and establish himself at Hebron, the ancient city of the patriarchs. There the elders of the tribe of Judah came and had him anointed as king over them. But Abner, Saul's general, who survived the battle of Gilboa, sought to perpetuate the house of his master, and had Ishbosheth, one of Saul's sons, made king over the northern and eastern tribes. In consequence of these facts there was a long struggle between the two rival kings, but at last both Abner and Ishbosheth were assassinated. These events occasioned great alarm and trouble among the Israelites, and several years probably passed before all the tribes became sufficiently united to accept David as their king. Such revolutions in dynasties or in royal lines do not occur without peculiar difficulties, and it takes time to heal the severe wounds they occasion. But when Saul and Jonathan and Ishbosheth

and Abner were all dead, and the old enemies of Israel threatened to invade and oppress the land, there would be a strong popular feeling in favor of selecting another king. It was but a repetition of the former clamor for one to fight their battles and defend the land. Comp. 1 Sam. 8. 20; 11. 12. There was manifestly no person in the nation so well qualified to meet the emergency and lead the armies of the united nation as the son of Jesse. He had already become the chief of the powerful tribe of Judah, the fame of his warlike deeds was known in all the land, and the word of prophecy had pointed to him as the one destined to become the leader of all Israel.

**Verses 1. Came all the tribes.** As represented by their elders and chief military men. Comp. ver. 3. So we read in 1 Sam. 8. 4 that "all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together" unto Ramah to ask for a king. They represented the whole people, and, in the popular language, what they did was the act of the whole nation. **Hebron.** One of the oldest cities of Canaan, situated in the southern section of the country, some twenty miles to the south of Jerusalem. Here was the cave of Machpelah, which Abraham purchased for a tomb, and which is to-day covered with a mosque and most carefully guarded. David may have felt a pardonable pride in reigning seven years in a city so sacred in