

FOR THE SABBATH SCHOOL.

International S. S. Lesson.

LESSON IX.—DAVID ANOINTED KING.—DEC. 1.

(1 Sam. xvi. 1-13.)

GOLDEN TEXT.—"Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart"—1 Sam. xvi. 7.

CENTRAL TRUTH.—God's Choice.

ANALYSIS.—THE LORD'S COMMAND, v. 1-5.
CHOICE, v. 6-13.

TIME AND PLACE.—About B.C. 1065-1068 at Ramah Samuel's home, four miles north of Jerusalem, and then at Bethlehem, six miles south of Jerusalem.

INTRODUCTORY.—In our last lesson we learned that Saul was rejected from founding a line of kings, because he proved himself unfit for the place and the work. Samuel, after giving his last faithful warning to Saul, returned to his home at Ramah, and henceforth saw him no more.

THE LORD'S COMMAND, v. 1-5.—Samuel mourned over the waywardness of Saul because of his personal affection for the king and his patriotic love for the country which seemed to be on the verge of decline. But prolonged grief would seem to indicate dissatisfaction with the plans and purposes of God, so the Lord came to him and reminded him that Saul's rejection was the outcome of the Divine will and wisdom and must consequently be best for Israel. This is the true remedy for all grief, a confidence that whatever comes is one of the "all things" that "work together for good to them that love God." The Lord had other plans for His people, and Samuel was the chosen means for their adoption. The command came to him to fill his horn with anointing oil, either pure olive oil, or a mixture of olive, cassia, cinnamon, calamus and myrrh, and proceed to Bethlehem to the home of Jesse of whose sons God had already chosen one to be king. Samuel was somewhat reluctant to obey this command at first, he feared that Saul might look upon such an act as high treason, and in one of his uncontrollable passions destroy even the prophet of the Lord. But God paid little heed to the objection; He simply said, "Take a heifer with you and say you have come to do sacrifice to the Lord. Summon Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will tell you what to do and who to anoint." So Samuel hesitated no longer, but did as the Lord commanded; and when he came to Bethlehem the elders of the town were afraid; perhaps they feared that Saul would be displeased with them if they welcomed Samuel, or perhaps a troubled conscience made them tremble lest the prophet had come to pronounce some judgment upon them. But Samuel quieted their fears and ordered them to sanctify themselves and attend the sacrificial ceremonies. And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and called them to the sacrifice.

THE LORD'S CHOICE, v. 6-13.—What a grand lesson is taught in this latter half of our story. God does not judge as men do; to Him the circumstances and external appearances that weigh so heavily in the estimates men form of one another, count for nothing as compared with the condition of the heart. Social position that means so much and wields such influence in the world to-day is not considered when God makes choice. Bethlehem was an insignificant little town, certainly not "aristocratic" among the thousands of Israel. Descent, lineage, family history are not factors in God's selection of men. The only parentage that is worth boasting about is a Godly parentage, and that David possessed. Christian parents remember your children may be kings in God's sight, though despised by the world, if you will but train them for His service. Nor does wealth influence God's estimate of mankind. He Himself has said that riches are a hindrance to entering the Kingdom of Heaven. And lastly neither personal appearance nor age are of any importance when God is anointing His kings. Thus it was that the lowly family of Jesse was chosen to be thus honored of God, and of that family the youngest, the shepherd boy anointed to be king. In the heart of David God saw those essentials that fitted him for the great work he had to do, and so as the oil touched his head and flowed down his long hair the spirit of the Lord came upon him and remained with him from that day forward. Parents you have a right to expect that your sons shall be kings in heart and character and be anointed with that same spirit which came upon David but may dwell in them.

Application and Illustration.

WHAT CAN I DO?

SEE HOW DAVID BECAME FITTED TO BE KING.—David, even if he knew at this time that he was to be king, could not possibly foresee the great work he was to do. 1. "knew not where he was going," but he knew that, wherever it was, faithfulness in present duty

was the only way to reach it. The only way to large things is through faithfulness in little things.

1. It was by the strength and activity gained in doing his best as a shepherd that he was enabled to meet Goliath and do many of the deeds of daring which gave him power as king.

2. He spent his leisure hours in practising music. This early faithfulness was one step by which he came to the court of Saul, and he enabled him to organize orchestras and choirs for the service of God, and become the author of a wonderful development of music as an aid to worship.

3. His culture of his poetic talent led to the first great hymn-book; a new and original unfolding of the power of song in worship. Much of his usefulness in all ages would have been lost had he neglected this talent.

4. All his faithfulness to his daily duties developed courage, skill, carefulness, business ability, power to govern, knowledge of daily life.

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR.

Orillia Presbyterian church was crowded recently to witness the designation of Miss Rachel W. Chase, B.A., for Foreign Mission work in India. Miss Chase was a prominent worker in C. E. circles, and will be greatly missed by her own society and the Orillia C. E. Union. May God prepare the way for her work abroad.

Upright Hearts.

First Day—They are saved—Ps. vii. 10-17.

Second Day—They are loved—Ps. xi. 1-7.

Third Day—They are prospered—Ps. xxxvi. 1-12.

Fourth Day—They are happy—Ps. cxvii. 1-12.

Fifth Day—They are honored—Isa. xxxiii. 16-24.

Sixth Day—They are wise—Prov. xv. 21-33.

PRAYER MEETING TOPIC, Dec. 1.—"IS MY HEART RIGHT WITH GOD?" Prov. iv. 20-27.

Here is a question of tremendous importance; let us give it the serious attention it deserves. There can be no true peace, no lasting joy, no real usefulness unless my heart is in tune with God's, or as Scripture itself phrases it, "perfect with the Lord," (1 Kings xi. 4, xv. 3, 14.) Listen to what Andrew Murray has to say on this all important subject.

"The lesson which these Scripture testimonies suggest to us is a very simple, but a very searching one. In God's record of the lives of His servants there are some of whom it is written: His heart was perfect with the Lord his God. Is this, let each reader ask, what God sees and says of me? Does my life, in the sight of God, bear the mark of intense, whole-hearted consecration to God's will and service? of a burning desire to be as perfect as it is possible for grace to make me? Let us yield ourselves to the searching light of this question. Let us believe that with this word PERFECT God means something very real and true. All His power is working for those who trust Him. And all He asks of His servant is that he shall be perfect with Him: give Him his whole heart, his perfect confidence. God Almighty with all His power is wholly for thee; be thou wholly for God. The knowledge and faith of what God is lies at the root of what we are to be: 'I am almighty God: be thou perfect. As I know Him whose power fills heaven and earth, I see that this is the one thing needed: to be perfect with Him, wholly and entirely given up to Him. Wholly for God is the keynote of perfection.'—Andrew Murray.

Solomon brings out the need of settling this question when he tells us that out of the heart are the issues of life; and therefore our present peace as well as our future felicity depend upon its condition. There can be no healthy, growing spiritual life unless our hearts are beating to the cadence of God's will.

Endeavor Echoes.

On October 2nd, the young people of Dunroon met and organized a society of Christian Endeavor. It is called St. Paul's Presbyterian Y.P.S.C.E., and starts with nine active and eleven associate members. Mr. R. Smith is President; and Miss Mary Campbell, Corresponding Secretary.—L. McL.

Rev. R. P. McKay, addressed the Dufferin County Convention recently held at Shelburne, on "The World for Christ; what is your society doing about it?" Greatly increased missionary effort is looked for as an outcome.

At the Quebec Provincial Convention held lately at Huntingdon, the Rev. W. D. Reid, of Victoria Presbyterian church, Montreal, was elected president of the Union. The Rev. Wm. Patterson of Toronto conducted an open parliament on Missions, and delivered an address on, "The Need of the Age."