

"Nobody Knows but Jesus."

Nobody knows but Jesus! 'Tis only the old refrain Of a quaint, pathetic slave song, But it comes again and again.

I only heard it quoted, And I do not know the rest; But the music of the message Was wonderfully blessed.

For it fell upon my spirit Like sweetest twilight psalm, When the breezy sunset waters Die into starry calm.

Nobody knows but Jesus! Is it not better so, That no one else but Jesus, My own dear Lord, should know!

When the sorrow is a secret Between my Lord and me, I learn the fuller measure Of this quick sympathy.

Whether it be so heavy That dear ones could not bear To know the bitter burden They could not come and share.

Whether it seems so tiny That others could not see Why it should be a trouble And seem so real to me.

Either or both I lay them Down at my Master's feet, And find them, alone with Jesus, Mysteriously sweet.

Sweet, for they bring me closer To the dearest, truest friend; Sweet, for He comes the nearer, As 'neath the cross I bend.

Sweet, for they are the channels Through which His teachings flow; Sweet, for by these dark secrets His heart of love I know.

Nobody knows but Jesus! My Lord, I bless Thee now For the sacred gifts of sorrow That no one knows but Thou.

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

B.C. 1064.] LESSON VII. [Nov. 18.]

DAVID ANOINTED.

1 Sam. 16. 1-13. Commit to memory vs. 6, 7.

GOLDEN TEXT.

I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him.—Psalms 89: 20.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

God chooses and endows men after his own heart.

TIME.—About B.C. 1064, 5.

PLACE.—Ramah, Samuel's home. Bethlehem, the home of Jesse, five miles south of Jerusalem.

SAMUEL.—Now very old, called to perform the last official act of which we have record.

DAVID.—The "Darling" or "Beloved," youngest of eight sons and three daughters, now about 20 years old. He was short of stature, compared with Eliab and Saul, yet strong, swift, and beautiful, with red hair, and bright, "quick" eyes. The menial occupation of shepherd boy fell to his lot.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—1. How long.—A considerable time must have elapsed, but no data are given to determine how much.

2. Mourn.—Samuel had not yet been able to reconcile himself to the hidden ways of the Lord. I have provided.—The choice is God's. 3. If Saul hear it.—Saul's "evil spirit" may have already appeared. Samuel was not rebuked for his fear. Take a helper.—Secrecy and concealment are not the same as duplicity and falsehood. 4. Trembled.—Samuel's visits may often have been made with a view of rebuking sin and correcting abuses. 5. Somewhat.—By washing the body and clothes, the outward symbols of inward purification. 6. Where.—A. c., to the feast after the sacrifice. 7. To himself, thought, "Eliab—"My father's God." 10. Sworn.—Including the three before mentioned. 12. Rudely.—Red hair, and a fair skin. 13. Attire of his brethren.—In their presence. Yet the significance of the act was not understood.

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—The tribe of Judah.—The family of Jesse.—Bethlehem.—David's shepherd life.—The anointing with oil.—Samuel's spirit, as shown in this lesson.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—How did Samuel's interview with Saul, as recorded in the last lesson, close? How did Samuel feel? Did the two meet again?

SUBJECT: THE CHOSEN OF GOD.

1. THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DIVINE CHOICE (vs. 1-5).—What agent did God use? Mention some of his qualifications for this work. Mention any disqualifications as they appear in verses 1, 2. How were these disqualifications removed? What excuse appears for them? From what place was the choice to be made? What associations are connected with this place before and after this day? From what tribe was the choice to be made? From what family was the choice to be made? What is known of the previous history of this family? What foreign blood was in it? In what way was the choice to be made? (vs. 2, 3.) Show that this method of procedure was justifiable. Why would Samuel's visit occasion alarm? What was the custom of offering sacrifices in those days? What is the meaning of "sanctify"?

2. THE OBJECT OF THE DIVINE CHOICE (vs. 6-12).—What is the meaning of "were come?" (v. 6.) Who passed in review before Samuel? What did Samuel think? What did the Lord tell him? Was this ignorance or forgetfulness of this great truth on Samuel's part? What do we here learn are the characteristics not essential in one chosen of God? How was the eighth son summoned? What was his appearance? On what ground was he chosen? What are the characteristics essential to one chosen of God?

3. THE ENDOWMENT OF THE ONE CHOSEN OF GOD (v. 13).—What formal act of consecration did Samuel perform? What ceremony at the present day marks our consecration as the chosen of God? When did this act take place? How fully was its significance understood? What endowment accompanied this act? How was this different from the experience of Saul? What made the results different in each case?

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

- 1. Let not sorrow for those who reject God prevent us from seeking the salvation of others. 2. If one person refuses to do God's work, God will raise up another in his place. 3. Men judge by outward appearances; they can see character only so far as it is manifested. 4. God judges by the heart, out of which are the issues of life, and He sees in the heart all that will issue from it. 5. The humblest occupations will prove, to those who are faithful in them, a school of training for larger fields of usefulness in the service of God.

REVIEW EXERCISE. (For the whole School in Concert.)

- 9. Who was sent to anoint Saul's successor? Ans. Samuel. 10. Where was he sent? Ans. To Jesse, the Bethlehemite. 11. Who was chosen of God? Ans. David, the shepherd lad. 12. On what principle was David chosen? Ans. Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.

B.C. 1063.] LESSON VIII. [Nov. 25.]

DAVID AND GOLIATH

1 Sam. 17. 38-51. Commit to mem. vs. 45, 46.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The battle is the Lord's.—1 Sam. 17: 47.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

God will give the victory to his people.

TIME.—About B.C. 1063. Two or three years after the last lesson.

PLACE.—Ephes-Dammim, "Bounds of blood." This place was on the mountain forming the south side of the valley of Elah. It was 14 miles south-west of Jerusalem, on the way to Gaza.

GOLIATH (Splendor).—One of the sons of the giant Anakim race. He was 9 to 10½ feet high. Covered with a coat of mail, and defended by a great shield carried by an attendant. His coat of mail weighed 5000 shekels or 160 pounds, and the head of his spear 17 pounds.

DAVID.—Now about 22 or 23 years of age. Soon after his anointing he was sent for by Saul to drive away an evil spirit in him by his music. He returned to his sheep, and fed them for two years or more, thus preparing for his future deeds. He gained great skill

with the sling. He gained courage and faith by slaying a lion and a bear that attacked his sheep.

CIRCUMSTANCES.—Israel's old enemy, the Philistines, made an incursion into Judah, and marched almost to the capital at Gibeah, and encamped on one side of the valley of Elah. On the other slope Saul marshalled his army. Their Goliath came out and defied Israel to send forth a champion, and to let them decide the battle by single combat. This was done several days. The Israelites were in mortal fear. At this juncture David arrived from Bethlehem, with a little home remembrance for his three brothers in Saul's army, and he offered to meet Goliath.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—41. The Philistine—Goliath. Came on.—From the Philistine army toward the ravine which separated the two armies. 42. Disdained him—Goliath was so tall and heavily armed, and David an unarmed youth. 45. The Lord of hosts—All hosts of men, angels, forces of nature. David was strong because on God's side. 47. The battle is the Lord's—David took no glory to himself. 51. They fled—The rout of the Philistines was complete.

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—Intervening history.—Goliath.—David.—His preparation for his work.—Saul's armor.—The giants we have to fight.—The weapons of our warfare.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—What trouble came upon Saul soon after David's anointing? (Ch 16: 14, 15.) Where was Saul's capital? Where did David live? What brought David to Saul? What did David do after this? (1 Sam. 17: 15.) How long did he remain?

SUBJECT: THE CHRISTIAN WARFARE.

1. THE CONTESTANTS (vs. 28-47).—(1) The Philistines—Goliath. Who were the Philistines? Where were they now encamped? How far from Saul's capital? Who was their great champion? How tall was Goliath? Describe his armor? What did he do to the Israelites? In what respects is he a type of the world as against Christ? What giants have you to fight? Show why they might rightly be called giants? (Eph 6: 10-12.) What will they do to you if you do not overcome them? (2) The Israelites—David. Where was the army of Israel encamped? How did they feel in the presence of Goliath? (17: 11.) How did David come to be with the army? What offer did he make? What kind of a young man was David? (16: 18; 17: 42.) How was David while tending sheep prepared for this combat? Is faithfulness in present and humble duties the only way to become fitted for greater deeds? Who objected to David? How did he prove that he was able to meet Goliath? (17: 34-37.) How would Saul have armed him? Would this have been a success? What lesson do we learn from this? What was David's weapon? Why was it the best for him? What are the weapons of our warfare? (Eph. 6: 14-18.) In what respects are they like David's? What did Goliath say as he met David? What did David reply? What was the difference in their spirit?

2. THE BATTLE AND THE VICTORY (vs. 48-51).—Describe the battle. Was it gained by David's skill, or the Lord's guidance? What became of the Philistines? Will the Lord always give us the victory over our spiritual enemies? Can you name some victories he has already given the church with seemingly feeble instrumentalities?

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

- 1. Those things which are helps to some are hindrances to others. 2. We must not condemn others for working in a different way from ours. 3. There are many giants for us to fight—worldliness, intemperance, bad temper, selfishness, etc. 4. The weapons of our warfare are as simple as David's sling; faith, the unseen spirit of God, courage, love. 5. In doing our daily duties well, we are prepared for greater deeds.

REVIEW EXERCISE. (For the whole School in Concert.)

- 13. What did David do soon after he was anointed by Samuel? Ans. He was called to aid Saul with his music. 14. Where did he then go? Ans. He returned to Bethlehem to tend his father's sheep for two years. 15. What was he gaining during this time? Ans. Skill, and courage, and faith in God. 16. What great danger now threatened Israel? Ans. They were attacked by the Philistines, with a giant, Goliath of Gath, for their champion. 17. How did David save them? Ans. He slew the giant by means of his shepherd's sling.

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