

Lesson X.

DEATH OF SAUL AND JONATHAN September 6, 1903

1 Sam. 31 : 1-13—Memory Verses, 6, 7.

Golden Text—There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.—Prov. 14 : 12.



1 Now the Phil'istines fought against Is'rael : and the men of Is'rael fled from before the Phil'istines, and fell down slain in mount Gilbo'a.

2 And the Phil'istines followed hard upon Saul and upon his sons ; and the Phil'istines slew Jon'athan, and Abi'nadab, and Melch'i-shu'a, Saul's sons.

3 And the battle went sore against Saul, and the archers hit him ; and he was sore wounded of the archers.

4 Then said Saul unto his armourbearer, Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith ; lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and abuse me. But his armourbearer would not ; for he was sore afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword, and fell upon it.

5 And when his armourbearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise upon his sword, and died with him.

6 So Saul died, and his three sons, and his armourbearer, and all his men, that same day together.

7 And when the men of Is'rael that were on the other side of the valley, and they that were on the other side Jor'dan, saw that the men of Is'rael fled, and that Saul and his sons were dead, they forsook the cities, and fled ; and the Phil'istines came and dwelt in them.

8 And it came to pass on the morrow, when the Phil'istines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his three sons fallen in mount Gilbo'a.

9 And they cut off his head, and stripped off his armour, and sent into the land of the Phil'istines round about, to publish it in the house of their idols, and among the people.

10 And they put his armour in the house of Ash'taroh : and they fastened his body to the wall of Beth'shan.

11 And when the inhabitants of Ja'besh-gilead heard of that which the Phil'istines had done to Saul ;

12 All the valiant men arose, and went all night, and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Beth'shan, and came to Ja'besh, and burnt them there.

13 And they took their bones, and buried them under a tree at Ja'besh, and fasted seven days.

THE LESSON RETOLD

When Saul returned from his search for David, he was told that his old enemies, the Philistines, with a great army, were on their way to meet him.

Then Saul, with his three sons and the army of Israel, went forth and met the heathen in battle upon Mount Gilboa.

And the Philistines fought against Israel and got the better of them, and hundreds of Saul's soldiers were killed, and many of them fled from before the enemy.

Now Jonathan and two other of Saul's sons were killed while fighting beside him, and Saul himself was so badly wounded that

he could not go on any farther.

Seeing that the battle was lost and that his sons were dead, Saul bade his armorbearer draw his sword and kill him where he lay, for fear the enemy might take him prisoner and torture him.

But his armorbearer was afraid ; so Saul fell forward upon his own sword and died.

When the armorbearer saw that the king was dead, he also fell on his sword and died with him. So Saul, his three sons, his armorbearer, and many of his men died the same day together.

When the Israelites in the neighboring