

## INTERNATIONAL BIBLE LESSONS.

FOURTH QUARTER—STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

DECEMBER, 1883.

NOTE.—The Scripture verses to be committed to memory are indicated by an index [§§] at the side,

B.C. 1063.

## LESSON IX.—DAVID'S ENEMY, SAUL.

Dec. 2.

1 Sam. 18. 1-16.

1 And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the *a* soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, *b* and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

*a* Gen. 44. 30.—*b* Deut. 13. 6.

2 And Saul took him that day, and *c* and would let him go no more home to his father's house.

*c* Chap. 8. 11; 14. 52; 17. 15.

3 Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.

4 And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle.

5 And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war; and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

6 And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that *d* the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of music.

*d* Exod. 15. 20; Judg. 11. 34; Psa. 68. 25.

7 And the women *e* answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.

8 And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom.

9 And Saul *f* eyed David from that day and forward.

*e* Exod. 15. 21.—*f* Gen. 4. 5.

10 And it came to pass on the morrow, that the *g* evil spirit from God came upon Saul, *h* and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and there was a javelin in Saul's hand.

*g* Chap. 16. 14.—*h* Chap. 19. 24; 1 Kings 18. 29.

11 And Saul *i* cast the javelin: for he said, I will smite David even to the wall with it. And David avoided out of his presence twice.

*i* Chap. 19. 10; 20. 33; Prov. 27. 24.

12 And Saul was afraid of David, because *j* the LORD was with him, and was departed *k* from Saul.

*j* Chap. 16. 13.—*k* Chap. 28. 15.

13 Therefore Saul removed him from him, and made him his captain over a thousand; and *l* he went out and came in before the people.

*l* Num. 17. 17; 2 Sam. 6. 2.

§§14 And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and *m* the LORD was with him.

*m* Gen. 39. 2; Josh. 6. 27; Acts 7. 9.

§§15 Wherefore, when Saul saw that he behaved himself very wisely, he was afraid of him.

§§16 But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them.

## GENERAL STATEMENT.

The young champion bore the honors of his victory with equal modesty and ease. Saul, the king, at once received him into his service, and bade him exchange the flocks on the hill-side for the companionships of the court. Jonathan, the princely young hero, saw in him a true brother in soul, loved him with generous affection, and loaded him with the tokens of honor. He took off his own royal mantle, his jewelled girdle, his sword which had in other days cloven its way through Philistine hosts, and his bow, which had turned not back from the enemy, and pressed them as gifts upon David. The women of Israel came forth to meet the returning host after the campaign of victory, and as one choral company sang, "Saul hath slain his thousands," another company echo back the response, "David his ten thousands." The words rouse the envy of the king, and in a moment the thought that this youth may be the man of destiny foretold to take his crown from his brow enters his mind. From that moment Saul's hate begins, and his dark purpose is formed to thwart the plan of God. The next day the fit of frenzy falls upon him, aggravated by his jealous broodings. David sits before him, harp in hand, as before, to sooth the tempest of his passion. But the king seizes the spear which stands by his side, and points it menacingly toward David's breast. Twice the youth avoids the threatened blow, and by his escape shows the protecting power of God. Saul is the more alarmed as he beholds David's growing greatness, and sends him from the palace to a subordinate command in the army, hoping that the sword of the Philistines may cut short his career. But the result is only to bring David more prominently before the people, to reveal his rare abilities in public affairs, and to show more distinctly than ever God's hand upon him for good. Thus Saul looks upon David with growing fear as his certainty of the young warrior's royal future grows stronger, while at the same time all Israel loves the young hero, and Judah is proud of her tribesman, thus honored by God and men.