

The Sunday School

BIBLE LESSON.

Abridged from Peloubet's Notes.

Third Quarter, 1903.

JULY TO SEPTEMBER.

Lesson XI. September 13. David Becomes King.—2 Samuel 2: 1-10.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.—Psa. 133: 1.

EXPLANATORY.

DAVID KING OVER JUDAH.—VS. 1-10. Capital at Hebron. Reigned seven years and six months.

The Opportunity. David was now 30 years old (2 Sam. 5: 4). The death of Saul and Jonathan and two other sons of Saul in the battle of Gilboa opened the way for David to come to the throne. At this time David's home was at Ziklag, a town in the southern part of the Philistine country, southwest of Hebron. He and his band had gone north with the invading Philistine army in their march against Saul. But the Philistine leaders distrusted him, and feared that he might attack their rear, instead of fighting against Saul, and sent him back to Ziklag. He found this town ravaged by Amalekite marauders who had found the south country defenseless. David immediately pursued them, overcame them, and gained possession of the immense spoil they were carrying away. It was at this juncture that news came to David of the death of Saul and Jonathan.

David Goes to Hebron. AFTER THIS. The death of Saul and his sons, and the events connected with it. ENQUIRED OF THE LORD. Probably "through the high priest Abiathar. David desired divine direction how to act in this crisis." Herein David was both wise and religious. He would not take one step that was not right. The kingdom was from God, and God would guide him into the best way of reaching it. WHITHER SHALL I GO UP? The northern part of the kingdom was held by the Philistine invaders, and David was in no position to drive them out; it would have been madness for him to attempt it. The portions open to David were the regions beyond Jordan, and the hill country of Judea of which Hebron was the centre. AND HE SAID, UNTO HEBRON. Hebron was centrally situated, about an equal distance from Jerusalem on the north and Beersheba on the south—and between the Dead Sea on the East and the Philistine country on the west.

2. AND HIS TWO WIVES. Because he was intending to settle down. NADAB'S WIFE. His widow. (See 1 Sam. 25).

3. AND HIS MEN. THE SIX HUNDRED OF HIS CHOSEN BAND. EVERY MAN WITH HIS HOUSEHOLD. Henceforth there was to be no roaming in exile, but each one was to settle down to the duties of peace. David was planning for peace, not war, awaiting patiently the time when the larger kingdom should come to him. Most of the six hundred doubtless belonged to this region, and were returning to their own homes.

The Coronation. 4. AND THE MEN OF JUDAH. . . ANOINTED DAVID KING. David had already been anointed privately by Samuel. But this was his public, formal inauguration by the people. The kingdom came to him, not only by divine appointment, but by choice of the people themselves (v. 7; 1 Chron. 11: 1-13). The two coincided.

Wise Measures. First. He had already before coming to Hebron, sent presents, from the spoils he recovered from the Amalekites near Ziklag, to the local chiefs of the various districts of Judea (1 Sam. 30: 26-31).

Second. He sent messengers to the MEN OF JABESH-GILEAD. . . THAT BURIED SAUL. The Philistines, in glorying over the death of Saul, had put his armor in an idol temple and hung his body and those of his three sons upon the wall of the city of Beth-shan, four miles from the Jordan, that all who passed by might exult in his defeat. But the men of Jabesh-gilead, a town east of the Jordan, whom Saul had once helped when in great straits (1 Sam. 11: 1-11), most valiantly entered the lines of the victorious enemy, took down the bodies, and burned them, so that they could suffer no further indignity.

6. I ALSO WILL REQUITE (manifest to you THIS KINDNESS. Saul was an enemy to David, but David was not an enemy to Saul. David assures these men that they need have no fear of harm from him on account of what they have done, but, rather, he esteems them for it.

7. THE HOUSE OF JUDAH HAVE ANOINTED ME KING OVER THEM. This gave them an opportunity to join David, if they wished.

An Attempt to Restore the Kingdom to Saul's House. 8. ABNER THE SON OF NER, a cousin of Saul, not friendly to David, who had tried to capture the exiled David in vain, and had been jeered at by David, when

he had so poorly protected his king as to permit his spear and cruse of water to be carried away. CAPTAIN OF SAUL'S HOST and a great general, who would naturally seek to retain the kingdom to the house of Saul. His power would be almost supreme if Ishbosheth, called also Eshbaal (1 Chron. 8: 33), THE ELDEST SURVIVING SON OF SAUL, became king, for he was a weak man, with no kingly spirit. BROUGHT HIM OVER TO MAHANAIM, a walled city of Gilead, east of the Jordan, on the Jabbok, near where Jacob wrestled with the angel.

9. AND MADE HIM KING, gradually extending his nominal sway over THE ASHURITES, members of the tribe of Asher in the north-western part of Galilee, JEZREEL, in the southern part, EPHRAIM, in the mountains south of Galilee, and BENJAMIN, still further south on the borders of Judah. ALL ISRAEL. "Ishbosheth's dominions were gradually extended until they included all the country which afterwards formed the kingdom of Israel, as distinguished from that of Judah."

10. ISHBOSETH. . . REIGNED TWO YEARS. "The duration of Ishbosheth's reign is probably reckoned from the time when Abner succeeded in establishing his authority over all Israel. Five years and a half were occupied with the re-conquest of the land from the Philistines, and these two years synchronize with the last two of David's reign at Hebron.

DAVID KING OVER ALL ISRAEL. While David's power was increasing "the house of Saul waxed weaker and weaker" (2 Sam. 3: 1). "A once united people was broken up into a number of little fragments, which floated hither and thither, precisely as the masts and boards of a wrecked ship are dashed against each other by the waves." Ishbosheth had little kingly power. Then Abner, his general, quarreled with him, and immediately made overtures toward turning the whole kingdom over to David. Then both Abner and Ishbosheth were foully murdered, but David in no degree connived at the crime. "To have done that," says Cornill, "would have been, to use the familiar and shocking mot of Talleyrand, 'more than a crime, it would have been a blunder.'" Then all the northern tribes sought David. Their leaders came to him (2 Sam. 5: 5) representing, according to 1 Chron. 12: 23-40, 330,600 warriors. They gave good reasons.

CULTIVATING A KIND VOICE.

If one would have a kind voice, says the Boston Journal, one must start in youth to cultivate it, and be on the watch at all times, while at work and while at play. The kind voice must speak the thought of a kind heart.

It is in play that a sharp voice is most easily acquired. Boys and girls say words in a quick, harsh tone, almost like the snap of a whip. If one of them is vexed, the voice sounds as if it were made up of a snarl, a whine, and a bark. It speaks worse than the heart feels. The ill-will is louder in the tone than in the words.

In mirth one may carelessly allow one's voice to grow shrill and unpleasant. Some people have a sharp home voice, and keep a company voice for use elsewhere. It is a safe rule to use one's best voice at home.—Sabbath-school Visitor.

INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY

On and after SUNDAY, June 14, 1903, trains will run daily (Sunday excepted) as follows:

TRAINS LEAVE ST. JOHN.

6—Mixed for Moncton 6.25
2—Exp. for Halifax and Campbellton 7.50
136, 138, 156—Suburban for Hampton 11.15, 18.15, 22.40
26—Express for Point du Chene, Halifax and Pictou 11.45
8 Express for Sussex 17.10
134—Express for Quebec and Montreal 19.00
10—Express for Halifax and Sydney. 23.25

TRAINS ARRIVE AT ST. JOHN.

9—Express from Halifax and Sydney 6.25
7—Express from Sussex 9.00
133—Express from Montreal and Quebec 12.55
No. 5—Mixed for Moncton 15.10
135, 137, 155—Suburbans from Hampton 7.15, 15.30, 2.00
25—Express from Halifax and Sydney 7.45
1—Express from Halifax 9.15
81—Express from Moncton (Sunday only) 1.35
All trains run by Atlantic Standard Time. 4.00 o'clock is midnight.

CITY TICKET OFFICE.
7 KING STREET, ST. JOHN, N. B.

A VICTIM OF DROPSY

CURED AFTER DOCTORS PRONOUNCED HIS CASE HOPELESS.

Limbs Swollen Until He Had Become a Bloating Helpless Mass—Dr. Williams' Pink Pills Wrought the Cure.

In the little village of Rodney, not far from the mining town of Springhill, N. S. lives Mr. James Stevens, a quiet, middle-aged man, who though living an unobtrusive life, has lately been much talked of as having been the subject of a cure pronounced by all familiar with the circumstances as scarcely less than miraculous. The disease, which some two years ago prostrated Mr. Stevens, came upon him gradually. There was an increasing feeling of general lassitude; the kidneys did not rightly perform their function, and the body began to bloat. This feeling continued extending to the extremities, until Mr. Stevens became a helpless, bloated mass of flesh. A finger pressed upon the bloated flesh would leave a mark all day. The urinary weakness became painful and distressing, the passages becoming very frequent. Doctors diagnosed the trouble as dropsy, but as their remedies failed to effect a cure, they pronounced the trouble incurable. At this stage, the case of a neighbor who had been cured after a long and painful illness through the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills was recalled, and it was decided to give the pills a trial. By the time the second box was used, the swelling began to decrease, the passage of the urine was less frequent, and the patient was inspired with fresh hope. The use of the pills for some time longer set Mr. Stevens upon his feet again a cured man. The limbs were restored to a healthy condition, his weight became normal, the kidneys resumed their functions healthfully; and today Mr. Stevens goes about his daily work a good specimen of hardy, healthy Canadian manhood. His restoration is entirely due to Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and he does not hesitate to strongly recommend them to other sufferers.

To the casual reader cases like this may seem remarkable, but Dr. Williams' Pink Pills have, in reality, cured thousands of cases pronounced by doctors to be incurable. These pills make new, rich blood with every dose, and in this way tone and strengthen every organ in the body, driving out disease and restoring the patient to health after all other means have failed. Those who are weak and ailing, or who suffer from chronic diseases, should not waste money and valuable time experimenting with other medicines, but should take Dr. Williams' Pink pills at once, if they wish to be restored to full health. Sold by all medicine dealers or sent post paid, at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50, by addressing the Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

Jack and Jill
Slid down the hill
Upon their new toboggan;
Off went Jack
Upon his back,
But Jill kept on a joggin'.
—James Courtney Challis.

"What was the trouble?"
"He couldn't swim."
"What has that got to do with his failure?"
"He got into a company where the stock was all water."—Chicago Post.

We Expect



September to be a record-breaking month. Many have notified us of their intention to enter then for the Fall Term, and we are ready for a big rush.

We are better prepared than ever before; more experience, complete equipment, improved courses of study; everything to date. Catalogues to any address.

S. KERR & SON.

You are the Man

If you are a total abstainer, and in good health, who can obtain specially good terms and rates from the MANUFACTURERS LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY. This Company is the only one in Canada which offers abstainers better terms than non-abstainers. It does this on all plans; but make special enquiries about the Abstainers' Guaranteed Investment Plan. It combines all the best points of insurance. Write for further information, rates, etc.

THE E. R. MACHUM CO., Ltd.
ST. JOHN, N. B.

Agents Wanted.

30,000 McSHANE BELLS
Ringing 'Round the World
Memorial Bells a Specialty
McSHANE BELL FOUNDRY, Baltimore, Md., U.S.A.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO OWN STOCK in a solid and prosperous Life Insurance Company and enjoy the profits of such a satisfactory investment? You can do it on the instalment plan by becoming a policy-holder in

The Mutual Life OF CANADA
E. E. BOREHAM,
Manager for Nova Scotia.
Halifax, N. S.

Piano Bargain.

Best Evans Piano mandolin attachment, used only a short time; cost \$350 cash. Husband died; widow must sell. Price only \$225. Piano guaranteed. Apply to W. I. GATES General Agent, 95 North Street, Halifax, N. S.

BEWARE

Of the Fact that

White Wave

disinfects your clothes and prevents disease

Gates' Certain Check

is well known everywhere as the best thing obtainable for

Summer Complaint,

Diarrhoea, Dysentery, Cholera Morbus and similar diseases.

For Children or Adults.

Price 25 Cents

—Manufactured by—

C. Gates, Son & Co.

MILD. ETON, N. S.

THERE IS NOTHING LIKE K.D.C. FOR NERVOUS DYSPEPSIA. HEADACHE, DEPRESSION OF SPIRITS, ETC. FREE SAMPLES & D.O. AND PILLS. Write for them. K.D.C. CO., Ltd. Scores, U.S. and New Brunswick, Can.