

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE LESSONS.

THIRD QUARTER: STUDIES IN OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY.

B. C. 1056.]

LESSON I. DAVID, KING OF JUDAH.

[July 5.]

GOLDEN TEXT. The Lord reigneth; let the earth rejoice. Psalm 97. 1.

Authorized Version.

2 Sam. 2. 1-11. [*Commit to memory verses 5-7.*]

[Read chapters 1 and 2.]

1 And it came to pass after this, that Da'vid inquired of the Lord, saying, Shall I go up into any of the cities of Ju'dah? And the Lord said unto him, Go up. And Da'vid said, Whither shall I go up? And he said, Unto He'bron.

2 So Da'vid went up thither, and his two wives also, A-hin'o-am the Jez're-el-ite, and Ab'i-gail Na'bal's wife the Car'mel-ite.

3 And his men that were with him did Da'vid bring up, every man with his household: and they dwelt in the cities of He'bron.

4 And the men of Ju'dah came, and there they anointed Da'vid king over the house of Ju'dah. And they told Da'vid, saying, That the men of Ja-besh-gil'e-ad were they that buried Saul.

5 And Da'vid sent messengers unto the men of Ja-besh-gil'e-ad, and said unto them, Blessed be ye of the Lord, that ye have showed this kindness unto your lord, even unto Saul, and have buried him.

6 And now the Lord show kindness and truth unto you: and I also will requite you this kindness, because ye have done this thing.

7 Therefore now let your hands be strengthened, and be ye valiant: for your master Saul is dead, and also the house of Ju'dah have anointed me king over them.

8 But Ab'ner the son of Ner, captain of Saul's host, took Ish-bo'sheth the son of Saul, and brought him over to Ma-ha-na'im;

9 And made him king over Gil'e-ad, and over the Ash'ur-ites, and over Jez're-el, and over E'phra-im, and over Ben'ja-min, and over all Is'ra-el.

10 Ish-bo'sheth Saul's son was forty years old when he began to reign over Is'ra-el, and reigned two years. But the house of Ju'dah followed Da'vid.

11 And the time that Da'vid was king in He'bron over the house of Ju'dah was seven years and six months.

Revised Version.

1 And it came to pass after this, that Da'vid inquired of the Lord, saying, Shall I go up into any of the cities of Ju'dah? And the Lord said unto him, Go up. And Da'vid said, Whither shall I go up? And he said, Unto He'bron. So Da'vid went up thither, and his two wives also, A-hin'o-am the Jez're-el-ite, and Ab'i-gail the wife of Na'bal the Car'mel-ite. And his men that were with him did Da'vid bring up, every man with his household: and they dwelt in the cities of He'bron. And the men of Ju'dah came, and there they anointed Da'vid king over the house of Ju'dah.

And they told Da'vid, saying, The men of Ja-besh-gil'e-ad were they that buried Saul. 5 And David sent messengers unto the men of Ja-besh-gil'e-ad, and said unto them, Blessed be ye of the Lord, that ye have showed this kindness unto your lord, even unto Saul, and have buried him. And now the Lord show kindness and truth unto you: and I also will requite you this kindness, because ye have done this thing. Now therefore let your hands be strong, and be ye valiant: for Saul your lord is dead, and also the house of Ju'dah have anointed me king over them.

8 Now Ab'ner the son of Ner, captain of Saul's host, had taken Ish-bo'sheth the son of Saul, and brought him over to Ma-ha-na'im; and he made him king over Gil'e-ad, and over the Ash'ur-ites, and over Jez're-el, and over E'phra-im, and over Ben'ja-min, and over all Is'ra-el. 10 (Ish-bo'sheth Saul's son was forty years old when he began to reign over Is'ra-el, and he reigned two years.) But the house of Ju'dah followed Da'vid. And the time that Da'vid was king in He'bron over the house of Ju'dah was seven years and six months.

TIME.—About B. C. 1056. **PLACE.**—He'bron, about twenty miles south-southwest from Jerusalem, and about as far from the southern edge of Judea. It was a place of great importance, because both of historic association and strategic strength, and was well suited to become the capital of the new kingdom. **CONNECTING LINKS.**—Our last lesson from the Old Testament, December 15, 1895, told the story of Jonathan's loving

leave-taking of David (1 Sam. 20. 32-42), about B. C. 1062. This was the turning point in David's career. For six years thereafter he was an outlaw. Four hundred adventurers, tired of Saul's rule, joined him, and a series of romantic events crowded the days until King Saul died in conflict with the Philistines, among whom David and his followers had taken refuge. Our lesson follows that last conflict.

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