

LESSON IV—July 26th, 1896.

God's Promises to David. 2 SAM. 7: 4-16.

(Commit to memory verses 12, 13).

GOLDEN TEXT: "In thee O Lord, do I put my trust." Ps. 71: 1.

PROVE THAT—The Lord's kingdom is everlasting. Ps. 145: 13.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 69. *What is forbidden in the sixth commandment?* A. The sixth commandment forbiddeth the taking away of our own life, or the life of our neighbor unjustly, or whatsoever tendeth thereunto.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 129, 179, 91, 167.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* God's promises to David. 2 Sam. 7: 1-16. *Tuesday.* David's response. 2 Sam. 7: 18-29. *Wednesday.* The promise remembered. 1 Chr. 23: 1-10. *Thursday.* The promise fulfilled. 1 Kings 8: 12-21. *Friday.* Precious promises. Ps. 132. *Saturday.* A firm covenant. Jer. 33: 14-22. *Sabbath.* The established throne. Heb. 1: 1-12: (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. After the ark had lodged three months in the house of Obed-Edom it was taken to Jerusalem. On this occasion it was carried, not on "a new cart," but on the shoulders of the levites. David was dressed in a priestly robe called the ephod. The ark was carried along with, song, music and dancing, in which David took a most enthusiastic part. When Michal, David's wife, who had been brought up in a court where heart-religion was little cared for, saw the procession, and what she considered David's undignified conduct, "she despised him in her heart." David was in no way discomfited, but with solemn and befitting ceremonies set the ark up in a tent prepared for it on Zion. It is generally believed that Ps. 24 was written for this festive procession. Parallel passages 1 Chron. 17: 1-27. Place, Jerusalem. Time, 1043 B. C.

LESSON PLAN. I. A Forbidden Purpose. vs. 4-11. II. A Kingdom Promised. vs. 12-16.

4. It came to pass—When David thought of the frail tent in which the ark was, and then of his own stately palace, he resolved to erect a temple worthy of the ark. He counselled with Nathan the prophet who encouraged him. In doing so Nathan acted unwisely. That night—After David had counselled with Nathan. Go and tell—Nathan had given David advice of his own, but now the Lord commands him to go and give David a message from the Lord. Shalt thou build—The answer implied is "no." David's purpose was good but it was unseasonable. The reason why David was denied the honor is given in 1 Chron. 28: 3. 6. Have walked in a tent—In their wilderness wanderings, and during their unsettled condition in the time of the Judges, the tabernacle had no fixed, or permanent place of abode. 7. Spake I a word—To none of the tribes, nor to any of the Judges had God given command to provide any fixed place for the ark or his worship, but was content during that long and disturbed period to manifest his presence to them in a tent. 8. I took thee from the sheep-cote—"The meadow." Nathan was to remind David of his humble walk in life as a shepherd-boy, and the great honor and favor God bestowed on him, in calling him to the exalted position of king, ruler, or prince over

his people Israel. 9. I was with thee—All David's past successes, good fortune, and signal victories were due to the Divine presence with him. The Lord was round about David as the mountains were round about Jerusalem (Ps. 125: 2). A great name—David is one of the grandest characters in Bible history. "The fame of David went into all lands" (1 Chron. 14: 17). They may dwell—The wilderness wanderings ended; the unsettled condition of things in the promised land ended, they were to become a settled nation, having Jerusalem as the centre of their national and religious life. 11. Make thee a house—David purposed making the Lord a house, now the Lord assured him that he would make him a house. 12. I will set up—Nathan had been speaking of past services, but now he proceeds to speak of a most important prophecy, declaring what the Lord would do. Thy seed—This refers in the first place to Solomon the son and successor of David, but it refers also to a greater than Solomon even Jesus who was of David "according to the flesh." 13. Shall build an house—Solomon's temple which was a symbol of Christ's kingdom. His kingdom forever—Christ's kingdom is not an earthly and temporal one, but a spiritual and everlasting one (Jno. 18: 36; Dan. 4: 3).

LESSONS. 1. It is a good thing to have a lofty and noble purpose in life. 2. True prosperity in life is of the Lord. 3. Christ's kingdom is an everlasting kingdom.