

FOR THE SABBATH SCHOOL

CONDUCTED BY S. JOHN DUNCAN-CLARK.

International S. S. Lesson.

LESSON XIII.—REVIEW OF THE QUARTER.—SEPT. 27.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous runneth into it, and is safe"—Prov. xviii. 10.

REVIEW :

I.—2 Sam. ii. 1-11. David, King of Judah. "The Lord reigneth; let the earth rejoice.—Psalm x. vii. 1.

II.—2 Sam. v. 1-12. David, King over all Israel.—"David went on, and grew great, and the Lord God of hosts was, etc."—2 Sam. v. 10.

III.—2 Sam. vi. 1-12. The Ark Brought to Jerusalem. "O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee."—Psalm lxxxiv. 12.

IV.—2 Sam. vii. 4-16. God's Promises to David. "In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust."—Psalm lxxi. 1.

V.—2 Sam. ix. 1-13. David's Kindness. "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love."—Rom. xii. 10.

VI.—2 Sam. x. 8-19. David's Victories.—"The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear?"—Psalm xxvii. 1.

VII.—Psalm xxxii. 1-11. David's Confession and Forgiveness. "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."—Psalm li. 10.

VIII.—2 Sam. xv. 1-12. Absalom's Rebellion. "Honor thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long, etc."—Exodus xx. 12.

IX.—2 Sam. xviii. 9-17; 32, 33. Absalom's Defeat and Death. "The Lord knoweth the way of the righteous; but the way of the, etc."—Psalm i. 6.

X.—1 Chron. xxii. 6-16. David's Love for God's House. "Blessed are they that dwell in thy house; they will bestill, etc."—Psalm lxxxiv. 4.

XI.—2 Sam. xxii. 40-51. David's Gratitude to God. "The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer."—2 Sam. xxii. 2.

XII.—Prov. xvi. 22-33. Destructive Vices. "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man; but the end, etc."—Prov. xvi. 25.

XIII.—Review.—"The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous runneth, etc."—Prov. xviii. 10.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS :

I. What is the title of the first lesson? Time? Place? Persons mentioned? Golden Text? Where was David anointed king over Judah?

II. What is the title of the second lesson? Time? Place? Persons mentioned? Golden Text? How long was it before David was made king over all Israel?

III. What is the title of the third lesson? Time? Place? Persons mentioned? Golden Text? Where did David seek to bring the ark? Why did he not do this?

IV. What is the title of the fourth lesson? Time? Place? Persons mentioned? Golden Text? What were some of the promises to David?

V. What is the title of the fifth lesson? Time? Place? Persons mentioned? Golden Text? To whom and how did David show kindness?

VI. What is the title of the sixth lesson? Time? Place? Persons mentioned? Golden Text? Over whom did David win victories?

VII. What is the title of the seventh lesson? Time? Place? Persons mentioned? Golden Text? For what did David seek forgiveness?

VIII. What is the title of the eighth lesson? Time? Place? Persons mentioned? Golden Text? Who rebelled against David? Who was Absalom?

IX. What is the title of the ninth lesson? Time? Place? Persons mentioned? Golden Text? How was Absalom defeated and slain?

X. What is the title of the tenth lesson? Time? Place? Persons mentioned? Golden Text? What great desire had David? Who carried out his purpose?

XI. What is the title of the eleventh lesson? Time? Place? Golden Text? How did David show his gratitude to God?

XII. What is the title of the twelfth lesson? Time? Place? Golden Text? Who wrote the Proverbs? What is a Proverb?

Recapitulation.

Returning, with this quarter, to our "Studies in Old Testament History," the course was resumed at the accession of David to the kingship of Judah, and it continues to his retirement from official duty. David stands as one specially chosen and endowed for his

royal position. His career, as presented in the quarter's work, was, therefore, thus set forth in the Pre-View:

GOD'S CARE OF HIS CHOSEN

1. Leading into the Kingship.
2. Establishing in the Kingship.
3. Renewing Religious Opportunity.
4. Assuring with Precious Promises.
5. Inspiring to Kindly Deeds.
6. Honoring with Signal Victories.
7. Blessing with Abundant Forgiveness.
8. Chastening by Sore Trials.
9. Delivering from Malicious Schemes.
10. Employing in Honorable Service.
11. Arousing to Sincere Thankfulness.
12. Instructing in Ways of Righteousness.

As a golden text for the quarter, words from Asaph, David's great musical assistant, were used, from Psalm lxxviii. 70: "He choose David also his servant, and took him from the sheepfolds."

Severally considered, the lessons illustrate the general topic thus:

Lesson 1.—Answering David's inquiries, Jehovah manifests His care of His chosen one by "Leading into the Kingship." The sovereignty now conferred is but partial, it is true, but none the less is David (1) Led of the Lord, and (2) Placed in the Kingship.

Lesson 2.—The step toward royalty already taken is but a beginning, upon which follows "Establishing in the Kingship." Now David appears (1) Ruling all Israel, (2) Capturing Jerusalem, which he made his capital city, and (3) Increasing in Power, under the favoring care of Jehovah.

Lesson 3.—Thus established and strengthened, the spiritual needs of the king and the kingdom are looked after. In a proper return of the Ark of the Covenant, Jehovah appears "Renewing Religious Opportunity." The narrative presents three features,—(1) The Ark honored, (2) The Trespasser Slain, and (3) The Blessing Secured.

Lesson 4.—Still God's care continues, and appears "Assuring with Precious Promises." There is here a rehearsal of (1) God's Gracious Acts and a statement of (2) God's Gracious Promises, and two begetting the sweetest and fullest confidence in God.

Lesson 5.—Next God's care appears "Inspiring to Kindly Deeds." He not only works for His chosen one, but He works in him, so moving him that in his zeal for good deeds there is (1) Opportunity Sought. But the seeker always finds, hence (2) Opportunity Found appears, followed, in David's absolute sincerity, by (3) Opportunity Improved.

Lesson 6.—Now favors are now bestowed. God shows His rich grace in "Honoring with Signal Victories" the king of His choice. (1) Victory under Joab and (2) Victory under David complete the conquest over all foes of the now united kingdom, securing honor to their arms and peace to the realm.

Lesson 7.—Even sin does not permanently separate David from God. He did sin grievously, but he did repent sincerely, God there-upon "Blessing with Abundant Forgiveness." The psalm which records this experience presents (1) The Blessings of Forgiveness, and, what is more important, (2) The Way to Forgiveness.

Lesson 8.—Nor was the care of David without the painful chastenings which the loving Father sends for the good of His chosen ones; for, in that most cruel of all recorded conspiracies, God appears "Chastening by Sore Trials." The lesson presents (1) Absalom's Cunning Scheming and (2) Absalom's Open Rebellion, before which David withers as grass under the noonday sun.

Lesson 9.—But restoration follows the withering, for in this lesson God is seen Delivering, from Malicious Schemes." David himself seems to drift aimlessly, but God guides him and His loyal adherents, bringing to pass (1) The Conspirator's Disaster and (2) The Conspirator's Death, thus bringing Absalom's rebellion to total extinction.

Lesson 10.—As David's end draws near, he is not cast off, but God is found "Employing in Honorable Service" the man of His choice. This service consists in (1) Learning from God, (2) Teaching for God, and (3) Working for God, each a most noble employment.

Lesson 11.—David's spirit, too, is touched, in the Lord's graciousness; for in this lesson Jehovah appears "Arousing to Sincere Thankfulness." As David is aroused under God's leading, we see (1) Mercies Remembered, (2) Confidence Expressed, and (3) Thankgivings Uttered; the whole a fitting tribute to the love of Him whose favors had never failed.

Lesson 12.—In this final summary of good things, God is "Instructing in Ways of Righteousness." He presents (1) Right Objects, and, by contrast, (2) Wrong Ways, and, for concluding emphasis, (3) Divine Supervision, which was over David, and is over all God's works.