

it are the same in all ages. Which, then, has changed? Modern Christians are not, through the fullness of the Holy Spirit abiding in them, brought into such sympathy with Jesus that we realize these great truths as He did when He warned men to flee from the wrath to come. The modern treatment of sin is alarmingly superficial. It is treated as if consisting wholly in the act; the state of heart behind the act is ignored. The doctrine of original sin, a poison stung into humanity by the sin of Adam, and curable only by the radical purgation of the believer's soul, body and Spirit through the Holy

Ghost, in entire sanctification after the new birth, has quite generally dropped out of our pulpits. How few preach about sin in believers, repentance in believers, and bring our church members under convictions for clean hearts, attainable now by faith and faith only, in the blood of sprinkling which sanctifieth the unclean! Doctrinal errors must follow. The advanced guard of the coming host of heresies is already visible: the denial of the resurrection of the body, of original sin, of the personality of Satan, of entire sanctification after justification, and of this life as the whole of probation.

THE INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY-SCHOOL SERVICE.

Solomon Succeeding David.

(Lesson for Oct. 5, 1884.)

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*And thou Solomon, my son, know thou the
God of thy father, and serve him with a
perfect heart and with a willing mind.—
1 Chron. xxviii: 9.*

THIS lesson introduces us to a critical time in the history of the kingdom of Israel. The old King David was upon his death-bed, and the succession was in dispute. It was well known that David had chosen his son Solomon to succeed him; but Adonijah, Absalom's younger brother, taking advantage of his sickness, had aspired to the throne, and, preparing chariots and horsemen and couriers to run before him, he attempted, by a great furor and clamor, to force himself upon the people as their sovereign. At first the attempt seemed to promise success. Adonijah was evidently a favorite with the people: tall and prepossessing in appearance, he took after his brother Absalom, both in his good looks and in his crafty, unscrupulous methods of obtaining power. Moreover, the old warrior Joab, and the famous priest Abiathar, espoused his cause. But on the other side was Nathan, the stern but true-hearted prophet; and he at once, seeing disaster in the succession of the crafty Adonijah, goes to David and discloses the plot, as our

lesson tells us. No truer friend had David, as we here learn, than this same prophet who, many years before, had so uncompromisingly denounced the king for his sin.

David, when he knew of the plot to defeat his wishes and to keep Solomon out of the kingly office, was not long in deciding what to do. In spite of his extreme weakness and sickness, he shows his old decision and strength of character. He summons Bath-sheba, Solomon's mother, and assures her, "As the Lord liveth which hath redeemed my soul out of all distress," that Solomon should reign in his stead. Moreover, David carries out his plans with his old-time promptness and vigor. He caused Solomon to ride upon his own mule, and Zadok the priest to anoint him with oil at once, and immediately Solomon took his seat upon his father's throne, while all the people, carried away by this new excitement, cried out, "God save King Solomon!" The conspiracy of Adonijah was at once crushed out, and the would-be king ignominiously fled to the horns of the altar and sued for mercy. Solomon's authority was acknowledged by all, and thus began the most glorious reign in the annals of the Israelites.

Never before or after did they reach such a pitch of splendor as during the reign of the wise man.