

Lesson VII.

SAUL TRIES TO KILL DAVID

August 16, 1908

1 Samuel 18 : 6-16. Commit to memory vs 14-16. Read 1 Samuel, chs. 18, 19.

GOLDEN TEXT—The Lord God is a sun and shield.—Psalms 84 : 11.

6 And it came to pass as they came, when David¹ was returned from the slaughter of the Philistines, that the women came out of all² cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with³ tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick.

7 And the women⁴ answered *one another* as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and Da'vid his ten thousands.

8 And Saul was very wroth, and⁵ the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto Da'vid ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and *what* can he have more but the kingdom?

9 And Saul eyed Da'vid from that day and forward. 10 And it came to pass on the morrow, that⁶ the evil spirit from God came⁷ upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and Da'vid played

Revised Version—¹Omit was; ²the; ³timbrels; ⁴sang one to another in their play; ⁵this; ⁶an; ⁷mightily; ⁸he did day by day: and Saul had his spear in his hand; ⁹spear; ¹⁰Omit with it; ¹¹And when; ¹²stood in awe; ¹³for he.

LESSON PLAN

I. David Praised, 6-9.

II. David Envied, 10, 11.

III. David Dreaded, 12-16.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association)

M.—Saul tries to kill David, 1 Sam. 18 : 6-16. T.—Saul's cruel spirit, 1 Sam. 19 : 1-12. W.—A sure defence, Ps. 7 : 1-10. Th.—Bitter enemies, Ps. 56. F.—Prayer in danger, Ps. 57. S.—A refuge, Ps. 142. S.—Comfort in persecution, Matt. 10 : 16-28.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 99. *What rule hath God given for our direction in prayer?* A. The whole

word of God is of use to direct us in prayer; but the special rule of direction is that form of prayer which Christ taught his disciples, commonly called *The Lord's Prayer*.

11 And Saul cast the⁹ javelin; for he said, I will smite Da'vid even to the wall¹⁰ *with it*. And Da'vid avoided out of his presence twice.

12 And Saul was afraid of Da'vid, because the Lord was with him, and was departed from Saul.

13 Therefore Saul removed him from him, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people.

14 And Da'vid behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the Lord was with him.

15¹¹ Wherefore when Saul saw that he behaved himself very wisely, he¹² was afraid of him.

16 But all Israel and Judah loved Da'vid,¹³ because he went out and came in before them.

17 And when he went out and came in before them, he¹⁴ sang one to another in their play; ¹⁵this; ¹⁶an; ¹⁷mightily; ¹⁸he did day by day: and Saul had his spear in his hand; ¹⁹spear; ²⁰Omit with it; ²¹And when; ²²stood in awe; ²³for he.

word of God is of use to direct us in prayer; but the special rule of direction is that form of prayer which Christ taught his disciples, commonly called *The Lord's Prayer*.

The Question on Missions—7. How do they get Sunday Schools? In some cases a Sunday School is organized in a private house by some Christian man or woman within a few weeks after the settlement begins. The children being few, there is often only one teacher and they are badly off for Sunday School papers and libraries.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, Ps. Sel. 46 (Supplemental Lesson); 293; 297; 65 (Ps. Sel.); 16 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 304.

Special Scripture Reading—Luke 2 : 40-52. (To be read responsively or in concert by the whole School.)

EXPOSITION

Time and Place—Not long before B.C. 1000 (Ussher B.C. 1063); Saul's capital, in all probability, Gibeah.

Connecting Links—David, after the slaying of Goliath, was taken permanently into Saul's service and given a command in the army, ch. 18 : 5. The Israelites must have spent some time in pursuit of the Philistines, who fled when their champion had fallen, and in following up their advantages. In this border warfare, David proved himself an adept, winning the favor of the king and his courtiers and the applause of the multitude. The young man acquitted himself wisely, and soon rose in favor with prince and soldiers and people.

I. David Praised, 6-9.

V. 6. *As they came.* The victorious army of Israel returned to Saul's capital at Gibeah, some three miles north of Jerusalem. This place was known as Gibeah of Saul (ch. 11 : 4), for there he had his estates and residence, with his warriors about him; chs. 14 : 52; 22 : 6. At the end of each campaign Saul

would return to Gibeah. *When David returned, etc.*; from the rout of the Philistines after the slaying of Goliath. *The women came out*; a custom still in vogue amongst the Arabs when warriors return home from their forays. *Singing and dancing.* These dances probably resembled the modern Oriental dance, in which the movements do not follow any fixed rule, but are varied at the will of the leading dancer, who is imitated by the rest of the company. *Tabrets* (Rev. Ver. "timbrels"); like our tambourine, the instrument carried by women of the East as they dance and sing, Exod. 15 : 20; Judg. 11 : 34. A similar instrument is still used by the Arabs. (See also Light from the East.) *With joy*; that is with jubilant shouts and songs. We do not know the meaning of the word translated *instruments of music*. Some suppose that they were triangles; others, three-stringed instruments.

Vs. 7-9. The women went into two companies, the one singing, *Saul hath slain his thousands*, the other answering with a stronger