

Lesson II.

GOD'S PROMISE TO DAVID

October 11, 1908

1 Chronicles 17: 1-14. Study 1 Chronicles, ch. 17—Memory Verses, 13, 14.

Golden Text—There hath not failed one word of all his good promise.—1 Kings 8: 56.

1 Now it came to pass, as Da'vid sat in his house, that Da'vid said to Na'than the prophet, Lo, I dwell in an house of cedars, but the ark of the covenant of the Lord *remaineth* under curtains.

2 Then Na'than said unto Da'vid, Do all that is in thine heart; for God is with thee.

3 And it came to pass the same night, that the word of God came to Na'than, saying,

4 Go and tell Da'vid my servant, Thus saith the Lord, Thou shalt not build me an house to dwell in:

5 For I have not dwelt in an house since the day that I brought up Is'rael unto this day; but have gone from tent to tent, and from *one* tabernacle to another.

6 Whersoever I have walked with all Is'rael, spake I a word to any of the judges of Is'rael, whom I commanded to feed my people, saying, Why have ye not built me an house of cedars?

7 Now therefore thus shalt thou say unto my servant Da'vid, Thus saith the Lord of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, *even* from following the sheep, that thou shouldst be ruler over my people Is'rael.

8 And I have been with thee whithersoever thou hast walked, and have cut off all thine enemies from before thee, and have made thee a name like the name of the great men that *are* in the earth.

9 Also I will ordain a place for my people Is'rael, and will plant them, and they shall dwell in their place, and shall be moved no more; neither shall the children of wickedness waste them any more, as at the beginning.

10 And since the time that I commanded judges to be over my people Is'rael. Moreover I will subdue all thine enemies. Furthermore I tell thee that the Lord will build thee an house.

11 And it shall come to pass, when thy days be expired that thou must go to be with thy fathers, that I will raise up thy seed after thee, which shall be of thy sons; and I will establish his kingdom.

12 He shall build me an house, and I will establish his throne for ever.

13 I will be his father, and he shall be my son: and I will not take my mercy away from him, as I took it from him that was before thee:

14 But I will settle him in mine house and in my kingdom for ever: and his throne shall be established for evermore.

THE LESSON RETOLD

After King David and the priests and the people of Israel had brought the ark of the Lord to Jerusalem, it was kept for some time in the new tabernacle or tent which David had made on Mount Zion.

This new tabernacle was like the old one which had been made while the Israelites were wandering in the wilderness: it was covered on the top and sides with curtains of goats'-hair cloth, instead of having a solid roof and walls. But, as David sat in his own beautiful house of cedar, which he had built for himself, and remembered how God's holy ark was kept in a tent, he felt in his heart that he would like to build a house even more beautiful than his own, in which to keep the ark.

Now there was at that time a prophet named Nathan, who was one of the king's friends and counselors, and David told him what he wished to do. Nathan was pleased when he heard it, and said, "Do all that is

in thine heart; for God is with thee to help thee".

But that night the word of the Lord came to Nathan in a vision, bidding him tell David that God did not wish him to build Him a house. God had dwelt in a tabernacle since the time that He brought the Israelites up out of the land of Egypt, and the time was not yet come for a house to be built for Him.

Still, God was not displeased with David for wishing to build Him a house, and gave Nathan some wonderful promises for him. The prophet was to remind David that God had taken him from being a lowly shepherd boy to be a ruler over His people Israel, and had helped him to conquer his enemies, until now his name was honored over the whole earth. "And tell David", said the Lord, "that I will still be with him and with my people Israel, to bless and prosper them, and to save them from their enemies. And after his life on earth is ended his son shall