

LESSON III—July 19th, 1896.

The Ark brought to Jerusalem. 2 SAM. 6: 1-12.

(Commit to memory verses 11, 12).

GOLDEN TEXT: "O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee." Ps. 84: 12.

PROVE THAT—We must worship God with reverence. Ps. 89: 7.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 67. Which is the sixth commandment? A. The sixth commandment is, Thou shalt not kill. 68. What is required in the sixth commandment?

A. The sixth commandment requireth all lawful endeavors to preserve our own life, and the life of others.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 1, 28, 116, 104.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday*. The Ark brought to Jerusalem. 2 Sam. 6:1-12. *Tuesday*. The Ark described. Exodus 25:10-22. *Wednesday*. Captured by the enemy. 1 Sam. 4:1-11. *Thursday*. Obedience needful. 1 Chr. 15: 1-3, 11-16. *Friday*. David's psalm of praise. 1 Chr. 16: 7-22. *Saturday*. The psalm continued. 1 Chr. 16: 23-36. *Sabbath*. Acceptable worship. Heb. 12: 18-29. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. At the time David was advanced to the larger kingdom, the Philistines ruled the greater part of the country west of the Jordan. They viewed with alarm "the consolidation of the tribes under one able ruler." They resolved to crush David and prevent his independence. In this they were disappointed, as David proved too powerful a foe. The Philistines were routed and put to flight. It was probably at that time that the brave deed of three of David's heroes was performed, in breaking through the Philistines' garrison at Bethlehem and bringing him water thence (ch. 23: 13, 14; 1 Chron. 11: 17-19). David's next step was the restoration of the worship of Jehovah. To-day's lesson begins the study of the revival of religion. Parallel passages 1 Chron. 13: 15, 16. Time 1042 B. C.

LESSON PLAN. I. The Ark Sought After Long Neglect. II. The Ark on the Way. III. The Ark Brought to Zion.

1. **David gathered together**—The Israelites having been victorious in the war with the Philistines, the next matter to arrest the attention of David was the low condition of the religious life of his people. He called an assembly of the leading men of Israel to the number of 30,000. The question of bringing the ark to Jerusalem was duly considered. It had as its object a wise movement, the revival of religion. 2. **To bring up**—In going to "Ba'al-e of Judah," the old Canaanite name for Kir-jath-Je'a-rim (Josh. 15: 60), David and his counsellors were specially desirous of securing "the ark of God" that had been allowed to remain largely in obscurity in "the house of Abin'a-dab" for 70 years. The ark of God—"The ark of the testimony." The ark was the central point of the Jewish worship, the sacred symbol of the Divine presence (Ex. 25: 22). 3. **Upon a new cart**—A direct violation of God's commandment, touching the manner in which the ark should be carried (Ex. 25: 14, 15; Josh. 3: 13; Num. 4: 15). Uzzah and A-hi'o—Probably the grandsons of El-e-a'zar the son of Abin'a-dab. 5. **Played before the Lord**—The bringing up of the ark was made the occasion of great joy and rejoicing. 6. **Put forth his hand**—Uzzah evidently thought the ark was going to be shaken off the cart, so he put forth his hand to steady it. A very natural thing to do. But Uzzah ought to have known better. It can

never be right to do a thing when God has given an express command not to do it. A warning to all who are in any way prone to treat sacred things lightly or irreverently. **Shook it**—"Stumbled or broke loose." 7. **Anger of the Lord**—Does not mean passion, but just indignation. **Died by the ark**—On account of his "error," or rashness, Uzzah was punished with the penalty of death. Sin brings its own punishment. "The wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6: 23). 8. **Was displeased**—How slow Christians are to submit to the Divine reproofs and disciplinings in life. Man proposeth but God disposeth (Prov. 16: 33). 9. **Would not remove the ark**—David was afraid to take it any farther, lest they might in some way incur the displeasure of the Lord. 11. **Continued in the house of O'bed-E'dom**—Obed-Edom was delighted to have the ark brought into his house. Its presence was the source of great joy and encouragement to him. It serves as a beautiful illustration of true religion or family worship in the home; which rightly observed secures the favor and blessing of God. "The Lord blessed the house of Obed-Edom, and all that pertaineth unto him." Hearing of the blessing that came to Obed-Edom, David was cheered and encouraged, and at once had the ark brought to Jerusalem. It was a great day in David's life. It was the beginning of a revival of religion among his people.

LESSONS. 1. Righteousness and truth exalteth a nation. 2. The evil and danger there is in disobeying God's commands. 3. Sin brings its own punishment. 4. True religion in the heart and in the home secures the favor and blessing of heaven.