

## The Sunday School

### BIBLE LESSON.

Abridged from Peloubet's Notes.

#### Third Quarter, 1903.

JULY TO SEPTEMBER.

Lesson VII., August 16. Saul tries to kill David.—1 Samuel 18: 5-16.

#### GOLDEN TEXT.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. —Psa. 46: 1.

#### EXPLANATORY.

DAVID'S REWARD.—V. 5. The opening of the eighteenth chapter of First Samuel speaks of the friendship which sprang up between David and Jonathan, and of the covenant they made together. That friendship is the theme of next week's lesson. This week, we trace the progress of Saul's jealousy, and see to what fearful results it came. The account begins immediately after the close of the war with the Philistines.

5. AND DAVID WENT OUT WITHersoever SAUL SENT HIM. He "went out" on military expeditions, for after his successful battle with Goliath the young warrior seems to have been given by Saul some important position in the army. Saul could do no less for one who had saved the country in such peril. AND BEHAVED HIMSELF WISELY. Many a young man is unable to stand promotion, but spoils his chances of further progress by becoming conceited. AND ALSO IN THE SIGHT OF SAUL'S SERVANTS. These courtiers might easily have become jealous of David, and envious, when they saw the young shepherd so suddenly promoted over the heads of many of them. That they did not, speaks volumes for the tact of the future king.

II. SAUL'S JEALOUSY.—V. 6-9. The first five verses of this chapter are anticipatory, briefly summing up what is more fully described later.

6. AS THEY CAME. The army may have spent some time in the pursuit of the fleeing Philistines, following up all the advantages of their victory. It was during this campaign that David had established his renown, as just related. THE WOMEN CAME OUT OF ALL CITIES OF ISRAEL. They went to meet the army, and express their joy at the national triumph. "This is a characteristic trait of Oriental manners. Compare the triumphal procession of Miriam and the other women after the passage of the Red Sea (Ex. 15: 20), the song of Deborah (Judg. 5: 1), and the story of Jephthah's daughter (Judg. 11: 34). SINGING AND DANCING. The singing and dancing were not separated; they sung as they danced. "Dancing was the usual expression of rejoicing upon occasions of national triumph like the present, and at religious festivals (Ps. 68: 25; 149: 3).

WITH TABRETS. The "tabrets" were timbrels or tambourines, such as those used by Miriam and by Jephthah's daughter.

7. AND THE WOMEN ANSWERED ONE ANOTHER. They sang antiphonally, as the women still do in Oriental festivals; one group of singers chanting the first line and another group replying with the second. Such an antiphonal chorus was Miriam's song with the other Hebrew women (Ex. 15: 21). AS THEY PLAYED. That is, as they danced, with joyful gestures. SAUL HATH SLAIN HIS THOUSANDS. AND DAVID HATH TEN THOUSANDS. "These words were, no doubt, the favorite refrain of an old national or folk-song." This song became widely known among the Hebrews, and even reached to the Philistines, who quote it twice in the course of subsequent history (1 Sam. 21: 11; 29: 5, 8). SAUL WAS VERY WROTH. "Seeing, perhaps for the first time, in the youthful Bethlehemite that 'neighbor better than himself' to whom his kingdom was to be given. WHAT CAN HE HAVE MORE BUT THE KINGDOM? Compare the similar words of Solomon in 1 Kings 2: 25. Probably ever since Samuel had foretold the loss of power, Saul had been looking for the appearance of his destined successor.

8. AND SAUL EYED DAVID. The suspicious, sidelong glances of a jealous man are implied in the word, eyed. We often speak of jealousy as "the green-eyed monster," and no emotions show themselves more unmistakably in the eye.

III. SAUL'S MURDEROUS ATTEMPT.—V. 10, 11. Jealousy, like all other evil passions, is not long, confined to the mind, but breaks out in evil deeds. It was so in the case of Saul.

10. ON THE MORROW. The day after the celebration of David's victory by the women, singing and dancing. THE EVIL SPIRIT FROM GOD CAME UPON SAUL. The anger and jealousy excited by David's triumph brought on a return of Saul's mental disorders. AND HE PROPHESED. "Played the prophet," viz., by gestures and demeanor. "Rather, he raved." "The word 'prophecy' describes an ecstatic condition due to supernatural influence, good or evil; the result in the one case being prophetic inspiration or religious enthusiasm, in the other raving madness." IN THE MIDST OF THE HOUSE. "The two were alone in the chamber, the elder unattended by his thoughts, the younger calmly alive to the

danger." AS AT OTHER TIMES. AS WAS CUSTOMARY. A JAVELIN (rather "spear") IS SAUL'S HAND. This short spear was the symbol of royalty, a kind of scepter, and seems to have been near the king at all times. See 1 Sam. 19: 9; 20: 33; 22: 6; 29: 7.

11. SAUL CAST THE JAVELIN. Better translated, he "lifted" or "brandished" the spear. Saul merely made a threatening gesture. Later, however (1 Sam. 19: 10), he actually hurled the weapon.

FOR HE SAID ("Saying to himself.") I WILL SMITE DAVID—EVEN TO THE WALL. "Had he succeeded, the act would have been ascribed to his madness, and he would have been more pitied than blamed." AND DAVID AVOIDED OUT OF HIS PRESENCE TWICE. That is, Saul thus threatened David on two occasions, and each time the young man wisely withdrew.

IV. DAVID'S GROWTH IN HONOR.—V. 12-16. Saul's sin had four immediate results. First, result 12. AND SAUL WAS AFRAID OF DAVID. "Saul began to be terrified, thinking that his arm had become powerless, or that (as was true), the son of Jesse bore a divinely protected life." BECAUSE THE LORD WAS WITH HIM. "A higher power was watching over his rival's life."

The second result of Saul's sin was that the Lord was DEPARTED FROM SAUL. When Germany and France were at war, it was impossible to entertain both a Frenchman and a German at one house. God and Satan are forever at war, and if Satan is admitted as your guest, God will surely depart. To lose his presence is the sum of all losses.

13. THEREFORE SAUL REMOVED HIM FROM HIM. He was afraid to have his rival any longer in attendance on himself as his armor-bearer. This was the third result of Saul's sin: it drove away not only God, but also his friend, whose music had so often soothed him in his fits of madness. AND MADE HIM HIS CAPTAIN OVER A THOUSAND. Probably chief of one of the principal towns of Judah, each containing, roughly, a thousand men. (See article, "Army," in Hastings' Bible Dictionary).

14. AND DAVID BEHAVED HIMSELF WISELY IN ALL HIS WAYS. "The wisest course in time of danger is to do faithfully our daily duty, and leave our case with God." AND THE LORD WAS WITH HIM, bringing him success and prosperity.

15. SAUL WAS AFRAID OF HIM. He "stood in awe of him," for this is a stronger expression than the words in verse 12 translated in the same way.

16. BUT ALL ISRAEL AND JUDAH LOVED DAVID. This mention of Israel and Judah would indicate that the books of Samuel were written after the separation of the nation into the southern and northern kingdoms. However, there was a marked distinction between the two portions of the country long before the disruption, and David, though from Judah, was popular also in Israel. BECAUSE HE WENT OUT AND CAME IN BEFORE THEM. He led them in war, he was active in the conduct of affairs, and so they came to know him and to love him.

#### GREAT BRITAIN'S SEA-GOING MEN.

One in every thirty-six of the males over fifteen years of age in the United Kingdom is a seaman in the mercantile marine or a fisherman, according to the report of the Board of Trade committee to which we referred on Sunday, but that by no means represents the proportion of Britons who go to sea in ships. For the current year the total number of officers and men. Active service ratings provided by the estimates for the royal navy is 127,000, being an increase of 4,000 over the previous year. Taking the two totals this means that one in about every twenty is a sailor, which is an enormously larger percentage than that which any other nation can boast, even with the conscription which supplies the seamen of several Continental countries.—London "Daily Chronicle."

#### STILL HUNGRY.

The district around a village in Staffordshire is inhabited by a sturdy race of colliers and iron workers. Some years ago a wager was made concerning one of these worthies, whose eating feats were the admiration of his acquaintances, that he would at a sitting eat a roast goose, together with a reasonable quantity of vegetables, and at the same time drink a gallon of beer.

The event was decided one Saturday evening at a well known hostelry, they bird, vegetables and ale being duly consumed. When being escorted homeward in triumph by one of his backers the hero of the evening plaintively remarked to his friend:

"Bill, doan' thee tell my owd woman as I et that ere guse, or else her woan' gie me no supper."—"Tit Bits."

## WEAK AND FAINTING

### THE SAD PLIGHT OF ANAEMIC PEOPLE.

They Have Headaches and Backaches—Are Languid and Unable to Stand Exertion.—From the Sun, Orangeville, Ont.

You can always tell anaemic men and women. They are pale, weak and languid. They have headaches and backaches. They can't eat—or they can't digest what little they do eat. And it all comes from poor blood and unstrung nerves. Banish anaemia at once by enriching your blood and toning up your nerves with Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Thousands of grateful women have said that these pills have restored them after all other means tried had failed. Mrs. Joshua McIlroy, of Orangeville, Ont., was a great sufferer for several years and spent much money looking for a cure. To a reporter of the Sun Mrs. McIlroy said: "Several years ago my health gave out completely. I was so weak that I could not do my housework. If I went upstairs my heart would palpitate violently, and sometimes I would faint away through weakness. My nerves were unstrung, and I suffered much from dizziness. I tried many remedies, but they did not help me. Then I was advised to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills and decided to do so. I am glad I did for the pills soon built me up and made me a well woman. My health remained good until last spring, when I was again taken with weakness. I now knew by experience the value of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills and at once got a supply. The result was as beneficial as before and I can conscientiously say the pills have done me untold good. I am grateful for this and hope my experience will benefit some other sufferer."

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills have cured more sickly, pale-faced girls and women than any other medicine ever discovered, for they supply new, rich, red blood and so strengthen every part of the body. They are equally suitable for men, women and children, and cure not only anaemia, but decline, consumption, indigestion, rheumatism, St. Vitus' dance, and the special ailments which all women dread. These pills can be had through any druggist, or will be sent post-paid at 50c. a box or six boxes for \$2.50 by writing direct to the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont. Look for the full name on every box, so that no worthless substitute may be palmed off on you.

#### ANECDOTAGE.

A Harrowgate correspondent vouches for the truth of the following anecdote: Professor Banks, the president of the Wesleyan Conference, was once preaching to a large congregation in the North of England, when he noticed a young man in the midst of a commotion. Thinking to give the young man time to compose himself, he asked the congregation to join in singing the hymn, "Sometimes a light surprised the Christian while he sings." Seeing the broad grin that ran round the chapel, he inquired of someone in the vestry the cause of it. When he heard that the young man in the centre of the disturbance had set his coat-tails on fire by sitting on his lighted pipe he understood the cause of the mirth and the appropriateness of the hymn.—"T. P.'s Weekly."

Junior Partner.—"Young Jones has overstayed his vacation five days. Shall we fire him?"

Senior Partner.—"No," promote him. That shows he ain't afraid of hard work."—Judge.

I was Cured of a severe cold by MINARD'S LINIMENT. R. F. HEWSON, Oxford, N. S.

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I was Cured of Black Erysipelas by MINARD'S LINIMENT. Y. A. A. C.

I was Cured of Black Erysipelas by MINARD'S LINIMENT. J. W. RUGGLES, Inglesville.



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