

## Notes on Sabbath School Lessons.

## LESSON FOR JUNE 16TH—2 SAM. V.

*Text Prov. 29: 2. Show from Scripture—The national advantage of Christian Rulers.*

Our former lesson, from the Old Testament was 1. Sam. 31. Four chapters intervene, containing David's famous dirge for Saul and Jonathan—his accession to the throne of Judah—and the melancholy assassination of Abner and Ishbosheth by wicked men.

V. 1, &c.—"Israel"—the eleven tribes; for Judah has already anointed David (Chap. 2: 4.) They urge three claims on David, viz.: (1) Their kinship,—(2) former association, and (3) Divine prophecy—"Hebron," the sacred city of Judah, the sepulchre of the Patriarchs (Gen. 23: 19), and the heritage of Caleb.

V. 4.—"Thirty years old"—a memorable age. About that age, the Saviour began his public ministry (Luke 3: 23). "Thirty-three years," and "seven years," are also memorable: and so is "twelve years," the age at which Jesus went up to the temple at Jerusalem and set avowedly "about his Father's business," in the midst of the Rabbis and people of God.

V. 6, &c.—"Jerusalem"—This most sacred city—the Salem of Melchizedek, the Jehovah-Jireh of Abraham (Gen. 14: 18, with Gen. 22: 14)—whence its name, Jeru-Salem—was partly subdued by Israel under the Judges, but still the Jebusites held possession in it, (see Judges 1: 8, 20). And so strongly was it fortified by nature and art, that they thought it could be defended even by the blind and the lame. In this fatal security, they made indeed a blind and lame defence against David and Joab, who entered it by "the gutter," the one neglected point, which was thought secure.

David's conquest of Jerusalem is a notable type of the Saviour's winning of our inmost will and affections. From that time Jerusalem became the capital city of Israel, and it has given name to the Church of Christ, and to the new heaven and earth with which he will yet crown the present Christian dispensation (Rev. 21: 1, 2.)

11.—"Tyre"—a most mighty city of Phœnicia, near Sidon, flourishing by its vast commerce and skill in manufacture.

V. 13.—Polygamy was tolerated by Moses among the hard-hearted and stubborn Jews. But God set his Providential brand upon it. It became the besetting snare of David, and the ruin of his son Solomon, as it had proved to "the sons of God" before the flood (Gen. 6: 2.)

V. 17.—"The Philistines."—They had conquered Israel and killed King Saul, and now they come up to crush the young King David, and to hold Israel tributary.

V. 19.—"Shall I go"? &c.—(Observe David's complete and implicit obedience to God's will, to the uttermost. Comp. chap. 15: 25-26. How different from Saul, who ventured to sacrifice and make war and peace without God's permission, and even to seek David's ruin and to cling to the throne after God had told him that David should have it! Bad men act like Saul to this day, in grasping place and power, right or wrong. Good men ask and obey God's counsel like David. Here we see the secret of David's evergrowing success (v. 10.)

V. 21.—"Their images"—Thus Israel was avenged for the capture of the Ark of God, and for the dreary defeat on Mount Gilboa.—"Baal-Perazim"—means "The Plain of breaches."

V. 22.—Again the Philistines rally. They are a type of the pugnacious "old Adam" in every man's heart, which breaks out again and again in spiritual rebellion against Messiah.

V. 23.—How precious is Divine guidance! We must use differing means to defeat differing attacks and temptations. Let us study to know and obey God's Word implicitly, and to act promptly at the first signs or sounds of his glorious "going." Let us follow where his Word directs; then our victory is sure.

*Lesson*—When rulers act wisely, justly and piously, they become an unspeakable blessing to their country. Indeed, they become in some measure an embodiment of the Saviour, who is Prince of Peace and Order and Blessedness.

## LESSON FOR JUNE 23RD—ACTS XIX.: 1-20.

*Text, 2 Cor. 10: 4, 5. Show from Scripture—The power of the Holy Spirit.*

V. 1.—"The upper coasts"—Galatia and Phrygia, (chap. 18: 23,) including Troas, the country of ancient Troy.

V. 5.—"Baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus." His name includes the whole blessed Trinity—"for in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily," Col. 2: 9.

Vv. 8, 9.—"Synagogue."—We should not leave our brethren or our church so long as we can do them good, or until they put us out by resolute opposition and censure.

V. 10.—"Asia"—the western countries of Asia Minor, containing the seven churches, (see Rev. 1: 11.)

V. 13.—"Exorcists"—Wanderers, like Gypsies, pretending to have supernatural powers.