

Lesson V.

SAUL TRIES TO KILL DAVID

May 2, 1915

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—After David had slain Goliath (see last Lesson, ch. 17: 38-51), he was received permanently into Saul's service (ch. 17: 55-58), and a close friendship sprang up between David and Saul's son Jonathan, ch. 18: 1-4. The rest of ch. 18 is occupied with the story of Saul's envious attempt to kill David (vs. 5-16), of the king's treacherous offer to David of his elder daughter, Merab, in marriage (vs. 17-19), of David's marriage to Michal, Saul's younger daughter, vs. 20-28. Meanwhile Saul's hatred of David increased, while David grew in favor with the people.

GOLDEN TEXT—Whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.—Proverbs 29: 25.

Memorize vs. 4, 5.

THE LESSON PASSAGE—1 Samuel 19: 1-12. Study 1 Samuel, ch. 19.

1 And Saul spake to Jon'athan his son, and to all his servants, that they should ¹kill Da'vid.

2 But Jon'athan Saul's son delighted much in Da'vid: and Jon'athan told Da'vid, saying, Saul my father seeketh to kill thee: now therefore, I pray thee, take heed to thyself: ²until the morning, and abide in a secret place, and hide thyself:

3 And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where thou art, and I will commune with my father of thee; and ³what I see, that I will tell thee.

4 And Jon'athan spake good of Da'vid unto Saul his father, and said unto him, Let not the king sin against his servant, against Da'vid; because he hath not sinned against thee, and because his works have been: to theeward very good:

5 For he ⁴did put his life in his hand, and ⁵slew the Philistine, and the Lord wrought a great ⁶salvation for all Is'rael: thou sawest it, and didst rejoice: wherefore then wilt thou sin against innocent blood, to slay Da'vid without a cause?

6 And Saul hearkened unto the voice of Jon'athan:

Revised Version—I slay: ²in the; ³if I see aught, I will; ⁴Omit did; ⁵smote; ⁶victory; ⁷put to death; ⁸beforetime; ⁹before him; ¹⁰an; ¹¹spear; ¹²And Saul sent; ¹³the.

*HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

M.—Saul tries to kill David, 1 Sam. 19: 1-12.

T.—Saul tries to kill David, 1 Sam. 19: 13-24.

W.—The power of envy, Prov. 27: 1-12.

Th.—The Lord searcheth the heart, Jer. 17: 5-10.

F.—Saul's envy, 1 Sam. 18: 10-16.

S.—Envy worketh evil, James 3: 13-18.

Sunday—God's timely presence in fear, Acts 27: 20-29.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. SAUL'S COMMAND.

—1-3. Saul spake; in a sudden outburst of passion. To Jonathan; Saul's eldest son; his name means "Jehovah hath given." In chs. 13, 14 he appears as a brave and successful warrior. To all his servants; courtiers and attendants. Jonathan . . . delighted much in David. Ch. 18: 1-4 has already told of the friendship of the two. Jonathan told David; braving the king's anger because of love for his friend. In the morning (Rev. Ver).

The conversation took place in the evening. A secret place; one well known to them both. In the field; in the open country. Where thou art. Jonathan would lead his father near David's hiding place, so that no time might be lost in warning him. I will tell thee. Jonathan would let David know at once whether he had been able to influence his father.

II. JONATHAN'S APPEAL.—4, 5. Jonathan spake good of David; a bold thing to do, seeing that



Saul was so madly jealous. Let not the king sin; by shedding innocent blood. He hath not sinned against thee. There had been in David no disloyalty to the king. His works have been . . . very good. David had been a faithful servant. Put his life in his hand; risked his life on the skill of his hand when he went against Goliath. The Lord wrought a great victory. By ascribing the victory over Goliath to the Lord rather

than to David, Jonathan showed his piety and allayed Saul's jealousy. Thou . . . didst rejoice. See ch. 17: 52, 53.

6, 7. Saul hearkened; moved by the unselfish appeal of Jonathan, who would suffer most if David should obtain the throne. Swore. The oath which follows means that as surely as God lived, David's life would be safe. Called David; from his nearby hiding place. In his presence; and no longer obliged to hide.