

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE ACTS AND EPISTLES.

A. D. 54-58.] LESSON XIII. [June 29.

REVIEW OR TEMPERANCE LESSON.

GOLDEN TEXT.

But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.—1 Cor. 1. 30.

DAILY READINGS.

M. Acts 19. 1-27. Th. 1 Cor. 15. 50-58.
T. 1 Cor. 1. 11-31. F. 2 Cor. 9. 1-15.
W. 1 Cor. 13. 1-13. Sa. Gal. 4. 1-16.
Su. Rom. 8. 28-39; 13. 1-10.

TIME.—Four years. From early in A. D. 54 to the spring of A. D. 58.

PLACE.—Asia Minor, Macedonia, and Greece.

RULERS.—Nero, aged 17-21, emperor of Rome. Felix, governor of Judea. Josephus, a young man at Jerusalem. The Roman Empire extended over the world. Rome just completing her conquest of Great Britain, begun 100 years before.

PAUL.—Aged 52-56.

THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY.—The whole of this Quarter belongs to Paul's Third Great Missionary Tour of four years.

BOOKS.—Besides the history contained in the Acts, four of Paul's Epistles were written during this time,—1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, and Romans.

PLACE IN BIBLE HISTORY.—Acts 19. 21; 20. 3.

REVIEW.

I. There may be a *General Review* of the Topics, Golden Texts, and Central Truths of the Quarter, with the *Time*, *Place*, etc., given above.

II. It will be especially helpful to divide among classes and individuals the following *Topics*, to be reported on before the whole school: (1) The history as given in the Acts. (2) The city of Ephesus. (3) The city of Corinth. (4) The city of Rome. (5) Galatia and the Galatians. (6) The church at Ephesus. (7) The churches in Galatia. (8) The church in Corinth. (9) The church at Rome. (10) The Epistles to the Corinthians. (11) The Epistle to the Galatians. (12) The Epistle to the Romans.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—If it has not been done by the school as a whole, then the above facts should be taught carefully and thoroughly in the class.

SUBJECT: FUNDAMENTAL DOCTRINES AND DUTIES OF THE CHURCH.

I. DOCTRINES.—Lessons 1, 3, 6, 9, 10, 11.

(1) *The Doctrine of the Holy Ghost*.—What peculiar company of men did Paul find at Ephesus? How many were there of them? What great gift did they receive? Why is this gift most important to individuals and churches?

(2) *Christ the power of God*.—What was the great theme of Paul's preaching? Why? How is Christ the power of God? What may Christ become to us, and how? (1 Cor. 1. 30. Lesson 3.)

(3) *The Resurrection*.—What is Paul's teaching concerning the resurrection? What change is made in us by it? Why is this a truth of great comfort? of great importance?

(4) *Christians are Children and Heirs of God*.—Why are Christians called the children of God? What blessings come to us from this relation? Who is our elder brother?

(5) *Justification by Faith*.—What is meant by "justification by faith"? Why can we be saved only by faith? Is this a very important doctrine?

(6) *The Atonement*.—What is the atonement? Why is it needed? (Lesson 10, vs. 25, 26.) How does it accomplish this end?

(7) *God's Sovereignty*.—What is this doctrine? (Lesson 11.) Why is it important? Does it conflict with free will?

II. DUTIES.—Lessons 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 11, 12.

(1) *The Missionary Work*.—Where was Paul a missionary? How many great journeys did he make? Why should we do missionary work? In what way may we do it?

(2) *Consecration*.—What evil practices had been retained by some of the Ephesian Christians? How did they show their repentance? At what cost? How did this show their sincerity?

(3) *Self-denial*.—What difficult question arose in the church at Corinth? What were the arguments on either side? What self-denial did Paul advise? When is self-denial our duty?

(4) *Love*.—How does Paul describe love? How does he show its necessity to the Christian? How does he show its superiority?

(5) *Liberal Giving*.—What need of giving arose in the early church? What reasons does Paul give why they should give liberally?

(6) *Religious Joy*.—What sources of joy does Paul show the Christian in Lesson 11? What great proof of God's love? What assurance that it should continue?

(7) *Obedience to Rulers*.—Who ordained government? What two reasons why we should obey our rulers? What other political duty is enforced? How should we treat all in authority?

(8) *Duties to One Another*.—What is the foundation of all our duties toward others? How will love make us always do right to our fellow-citizens?

THIRD QUARTER.

B. C. 1048.] LESSON I. [July 6.

DAVID, KING OVER ALL ISRAEL.

2 Sam. 5. 1-12. Commit to mem. vs. 10-12.

GOLDEN TEXT.

I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him.—Psa. 89. 20.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

The Word of God standeth forever.

DAILY READINGS.

M. 2 Sam. 1. 1-16. Th. 2 Sam. 4. 1-12.
T. 2 Sam. 2. 1-11. F. 2 Sam. 5. 1-12.
W. 2 Sam. 3. 17-30. Sa. 1 Chron. 11. 1-9.
Su. Psa. 30. 1-12.

TIME.—B. C. 1048. Seven and a half years after Saul's death. David reigned at Hebron seven and a half years, B. C. 1055-1048, when he was made king over all Israel.

PLACE.—(1) *Hebron*. Twenty miles south of Jerusalem, David's capital by Divine direction (ch. 2. 1.) for the seven and a half years he reigned over Judah. (2) *Jerusalem*. Now first brought fully into possession of the Israelites, and made the capital of the united nation. On one of its three hills was a fortress of the Jebusites, never yet fully subdued. (Judges 1. 8, 21.) This citadel David takes, and here fixes his royal residence. His choice was doubtless determined by its position on the border between Judah and Benjamin, by its central location in relation to all the tribes, and by its natural advantages as a military position.

DAVID.—In the thirty-eighth year of his age, having reigned over Judah alone for seven and a half years. He was the son of Jesse, born in Bethlehem, strong, brave, a soldier, a poet, a musician, a statesman.

PARALLEL ACCOUNT.—1 Chron. 11. 1-9.

INTRODUCTION.—The second book of Samuel, which is almost wholly taken up with David's reign, opens with a notice of Saul's death and David's lament. The tribe of Judah rally about David and anoint him king. But the remaining tribes remain loyal to the house of Saul, under the leadership of Abner. After a quiet of five years, while the northern kingdom is consolidating, the two parties come into conflict. David's success in arms during the two years' war, in connection with Abner's desertion, and Ish-bosheth's (Saul's son) death, prepare the way for a grand rally of all the tribes to the standard of David, and the events of this lesson.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—1. *All the tribes*.—Nearly 350,000 men (1 Chron. 12. 23-40), a national assembly with their chiefs. *Saying*.—They give their reasons: (1) *Thy bone, etc.*—Kinship. (2) *Thou leddest out, etc.*—Military capacity. (3) *The Lord said*.—Divine choice. The first and third reasons accord with Deut. 17. 15. These two were as good seven years before as now, but success is an eye-opener. 3. *Made a league before the Lord*.—King and people entered into a covenant with God, whose subjects both were. *Anointed David*.—The third time. (1 Sam. 16. 13; 2 Sam. 2. 4.) 4. *Began to reign*.—In Hebron over Judah. 6. *Jebusites*.—Judges 1. 21. *Except thou take away*.—Better "thou shalt not come hither, but the blind and the lame shall keep thee off," a taunt. 8. *Gutter*.—Water-course, the only accessible point. *They said*.—A proverb, showing David's popularity. 9. *Millo*.—A

castle or tower on Zion. 11. Probably some years intervened between David's capture of Zion and his palace building. 12. *David perceived*.—He acknowledged the hand of God in all his fortunes, and recognized that his prosperity came in fulfillment of the Divine Word.

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—Saul's death.—David's reign in Hebron.—Ish-bosheth's reign over the northern tribes.—Abner and Joab.—Jerusalem.—Hiram.—The discipline David received.—The discipline Israel received.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—How old was David at this time? How had his life been spent? How had his discipline fitted him for kingship? Who succeeded Saul in the northern kingdom? How long did he reign? Over what tribes? What officer abandoned him? What was his end?

SUBJECT: GOD'S PLAN FULFILLED.

I. THE FULFILMENT OF GOD'S PLAN CONCERNING DAVID (vs. 1, 2, 4, 5).—When did the tribes come? How long had David lived there? Over whom had he been king these years? What tribes came now? How many persons? What was the first reason they gave for coming? The second? The third? Which of these reasons are found in Deut. 17. 15? How long had they held good? When had David been promised the kingdom? (1 Sam. 16. 13.) How long had he waited? What has God promised David's greater son? What is the pledge of its fulfilment?

II. THE FULFILMENT OF GOD'S PLAN CONCERNING ISRAEL (v. 3).—What did David do with Israel in Hebron? Before whom did he make it? Did David keep his pledge? What kind of a king did he become? In what respects did he differ from Saul? When had he been anointed before? (1 Sam. 16. 13; ch. 2. 4.)

III. THE BEGINNING OF THE FULFILMENT OF GOD'S PLAN CONCERNING JERUSALEM (vs. 6-11).—Who had held a fort on one of the hills of Jerusalem up to this time? How did they greet David? What captain took the place? (1 Chron. 11. 6.) How? What did David do with the place? Who helped him in palace building? What did Jerusalem afterwards become? Of what is the type?

IV. THE RECOGNITION OF THE FULFILMENT OF GOD'S PLAN (v. 12).—What did David perceive? Mention any reasons for this. Who anointed David? (Golden Text.) For whose sake was David exalted? (2 Sam. 6. 21.) What evidence is there that our life is a plan of God?

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

1. David's way to the throne was the way of obedience to the will of God.
2. It was the way of patience and submission through severe discipline.
3. A revival awakens interest in truths long forgotten.
4. A faithful ruler is the shepherd of his people (vs. 1, 2).
5. Men rely in vain on human defences (vs. 6, 7), such as religious societies, eloquent preachers, active pastors, famous revivalists, and beautiful houses of worship.
6. Increase is by the grace of God (v. 10).
7. Our lives are a plan of God.
8. He exalts us for His Word's sake. (2 Sam. 7. 21).

REVIEW EXERCISE. (For the whole School in Concert.)

1. How long did David reign in Hebron? ANS. Seven years and a half.
2. Over what tribe did he reign? ANS. Judah.
3. At the end of this time who came to anoint the king? ANS. All the tribes of Israel.
4. Who placed David upon the throne? ANS. And David perceived that the Lord had established him king over Israel.

"The world its fancied pearl may crave,
'Tis not the pearl for me.
'Twill dim its lustre in the grave,
'Twill perish in the sea.
But there's a Pearl of price untold,
That never can be bought with gold;
The sinking soul 'twill save,
Oh, that's the Pearl for me!"

"Let pleasure chant her siren song,
'Tis not the song for me.
To weeping it will turn ere long,
For this is Heaven's decree.
But there's a song the ransomed sing—
To Jesus, their exalted King,
With cheerful heart and tongue,
Oh, that's the song for me!"

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