

LESSON II—July 12th, 1896.

David King over all Israel. 2 SAM. 5: 1-12.

(Commit to memory verses 10-12).

GOLDEN TEXT: "David went on, and grew great, and the Lord God of hosts was with him."
2 Sam. 5: 10.

PROVE THAT—The Lord rewards the faithful. Ps. 101: 6.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 66. *What is the reason annexed to the fifth commandment? A.*
The reason annexed to the fifth commandment, is a promise of long life and prosperity (as far as it shall serve for God's glory, and their own good) to all such as keep this commandment.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 127, 140, 107, 119.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* David King over all Israel. 2 Sam. 5: 1-12. *Tuesday.* The people's hero. 1 Sam. 18: 5-16. *Wednesday.* Seeking divine guidance. 2 Sam. 5: 17-25. *Thursday.* David's helpers. 1 Chr. 12: 16-22. *Friday.* Israel's king. 1 Chr. 12: 23-38. *Saturday.* Promises for David. Ps. 89: 19-29. *Sabbath.* The Lord our righteousness. Jer. 23: 1-8. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. In the civil war that followed, the two armies met for the first time at Gib'e-on, midway between Ma'na'im and He'bron, Ab'ner commanding the forces of Israel, and Joab those of Judah. Abner was defeated—loss 360 men, while Joab lost but 20, his brother As'a'hel being among the slain. Ish-bo'seth foolishly accused Abner of being guilty of treason. Abner deserted Ishbosheth and set to work to make arrangements with David "to bring about all Israel to him." Joab, in avenging the blood of Asahel, foully murdered Abner. In Abner's death Israel lost a great warrior, prince and patriot. Ishbosheth was cruelly murdered by two captains in the army. David ordered them to be executed. This leads us to the study of a new era in the gradual unfolding of the kingdom of God in the history of Israel. Study the 11th and 12th chapters of 1 Chr. Time, 1048 B. C. David 38 years old.

LESSON PLAN. I. David Anointed King of Israel. II. Seat of Government Changed. III. Development of the Kingdom.

1. All the tribes—Their representatives numbering some 339,600 men (1 Chron. 12: 23-37). The three tribes in the neighborhood of Hebron sent in all only 16,900 men. He'bron—The seat of government during David's 7½ years' reign over Judah. Saying—The spirit of unanimity prevailed. They "came with a perfect heart to Hebron" (1 Chron. 12: 38). Three good reasons given 1. They were of one race. 2. Valuable services of the past. 3. Divinely appointed to become king. Thy bone and thy flesh—Nearness of kin. 2. In times past—From the day that David slew Goliath he became the hero of the nation (1 Sam. 18: 7). Thou wast he—Saul was king but David was the warrior prince. Saul was jealous of David and hunted him like a partridge. Strong characters are produced in the "refining fires" of the Divine disciplinings. The Lord said—Reverently hear and obey the words of the Lord. Thou shalt feed—"Shepherd." David was the shepherd king (Ps. 23). Captain—Prince—Captain on the field of battle and a prince in character and conduct. 3. Made a league—"Covenant" (R. V.) An agreement was entered in, David binding himself to govern according to certain laws, and the representatives pledging their allegiance to him. Anointed—This

was the third time that David was anointed (1 Sam. 16: 13; 2 Sam. 2: 4). It was made the occasion of a grand national festival. Study in this connection 1 Chron. 12: 23-40. 4. Thirty years old—Jesus was thirty years old when he began his public ministry on earth. 6. Jeru'sa-lem—Became the capital of the new and larger kingdom. The history of Jerusalem is the most remarkable of any city in the world. Take away the blind and the lame—This was a boastful defiance made by the Jebusites, as if their weakest men would be a sufficient defence to them against David and his army. 7. The stronghold of Zion—The hill on the south-western part of the city, known in after years as the city of David. 8. There are the blind and the lame—A proverbial saying for these poor cripples. 9. Dwelt in the stronghold—David dwelt in the citadel and speedily set to work to fortify the summit. 10. Went on and grew—"Waxed stronger and stronger" (R. V.) The beginning of national prosperity and religious progress was with him. The secret of all true prosperity and real progress in life is the abiding presence of God. 11. Sent messengers—To open up trade and commerce with them. 12. David perceived—He now fully realized that he had been called and appointed of God to reign over Israel.

LESSONS. 1. The importance of brethren dwelling together in unity. 2. Being able to give a reason for our actions. 3. Mindful of past favors and kindness. 4. Believing God's word to be of supreme authority. 5. Ever seeking the abiding presence of Jesus with us.