

Lesson VIII. DAVID KING OVER JUDAH AND ISRAEL May 23, 1915

2 Samuel 2 : 1-7 ; 5 : 1-5—Memory Verses, ch. 5 : 2, 3.

Golden Text—The Lord is my strength and my shield ; my heart hath trusted in him, and I am helped.—Psalm 28 : 7 (Rev. Ver.).

He'bron before the LORD: and they anointed Da'vid king over Is'rael.

4 Da'vid was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years.

5 In He'bron he reigned over Ju'dah seven years and six months: and in Jeru'salem he reigned thirty and three years over all Is'rael and Ju'dah.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Chariot wheels were rumbling. War horses were prancing. Soldiers of the Philistines, with swords and spears and slings were coming to fight God's people, the Israelites.

King Saul was not a good, strong captain for his people. He had disobeyed God. Disobedience makes even a king unhappy, and keeps him from being brave.

Soon the two great armies were fighting. The swords were flashing. King Saul's men began to fall. One after another they fell. By and by they turned and ran.

The enemy hurried after them. They killed the princes. They killed Jonathan, David's dear friend. At last an arrow hit King Saul.

He said to his armorbearer: "Run thy sword through me! Save me from the enemy!" But the armorbearer would not kill his king.

Then Saul fell upon his own sword. Soon Israel was without a king. Saul was dead!

1 And it came to pass after this, that Da'vid enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up into any of the cities of Ju'dah? And the LORD said unto him, Go up. And Da'vid said, Whither shall I go up? And he said, Unto He'bron.

2 So Da'vid went up thither, and his two wives also, Ahin'orn the Jezreelit'ess, and Ab'igail Na'bal's wife the Car'melite.

3 And his men that were with him did Da'vid bring up, every man with his household: and they dwelt in the cities of He'bron.

4 And the men of Ju'dah came, and there they anointed Da'vid king over the house of Ju'dah. And they told Da'vid, saying, That the men of Ja'besh-gilead were they that buried Saul.

5 And Da'vid sent messengers unto the men of Ja'besh-gilead, and said unto them, Blessed be ye of the LORD, that ye have shewed this kindness unto your lord, even unto Saul, and have buried him.

6 And now the LORD shew kindness and truth unto you: and I also will requite you this kindness, because ye have done this thing.

7 Therefore now let your hands be strengthened, and be ye valiant: for your master Saul is dead, and also the house of Ju'dah have anointed me king over them.

Ch. 5 : 1 Then came all the tribes of Is'rael to Da'vid unto He'bron, and spake, saying, Behold, we are thy bone and thy flesh.

2 Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he that ledest out and broughtest in Is'rael: and the LORD said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Is'rael, and thou shalt be a captain over Is'rael.

3 So all the elders of Is'rael came to the king to He'bron: and king Da'vid made a league with them in

A messenger ran to David with the news. David asked, "From whence comest thou?"

The man answered, "From the camp of Israel."

David exclaimed: "How went the battle? Tell me!"

"The king is dead! Jonathan is dead!" said the man.

David was filled with grief. He cried, "I mourn for thee, my brother Jonathan."

Then came the days when a new king must be chosen. The people thought of David. Because he had been faithful in little things, they knew that he could be trusted with great things.

David was God's choice. Long before this time, as we know, God had sent Samuel to find a king amongst the sons of Jesse in the town of Bethlehem, and David had been chosen and anointed. Now he became the people's choice also. They knew that he was brave and wise, and would make a good ruler.