

Lesson II.

GOD'S COVENANT WITH DAVID

October 11, 1903

2 Sam. 7: 4-16. Study 2 Sam. 7: 1-29—Memory Verses, 8, 9.

Golden Text—Thy throne shall be established for ever.—2 Sam. 7: 16.

4 And it came to pass that night, that the word of the Lord came unto Na'than, saying,
5 Go and tell my servant Da'vid, Thus saith the Lord, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in?

6 Whereas I have not dwelt in *any* house since the time that I brought up the children of Is'rael out of Egypt, even to this day, but have walked in a tent and in a tabernacle.

7 In all the *places* wherein I have walked with all the children of Is'rael spake I a word with any of the tribes of Is'rael, whom I commanded to feed my people Is'rael, saying, Why build ye not me an house of cedar?

8 Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant Da'vid, Thus saith the Lord of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Is'rael:

9 And I was with thee whithersoever thou westest, and have cut off all thine enemies out of thy sight, and have made thee a great name, like unto the name of the great men that are in the earth.

10 Moreover I will appoint a place for my

people Is'rael, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime.

11 And as since the time that I commanded judges to be over my people Is'rael, and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies. Also the Lord telleth thee that he will make thee an house.

12 And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom.

13 He shall build up an house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever.

14 I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men:

15 But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee.

16 And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.

THE LESSON RETOLD

No sooner was the ark of God set up on Mount Zion than David longed to build a magnificent temple in which to keep it safe forever. He could not bear to think that, while he was living in a grand and beautiful palace, the place of worship for the people was nothing but a poor tent. So he talked the matter over with the prophet Nathan, who was much pleased that the king should wish to honor the Lord in this way.

But that same night Nathan had a message from God in a dream, saying, "Go, tell my servant David that there is no reason why he should be in such haste to build Me a house. Did I not meet with My people in

a tent (the tabernacle) all the years they were in the wilderness? Neither then nor now do I require a costlier dwelling place."

But the Lord did not intend that David should be disappointed in his great wish to honor Him before the people. And though He refused to allow him to build the temple, He promised him a far greater blessing. It was, that he should be the first of a great family of kings who should prepare the way for the coming of Jesus the Messiah.

And the Lord reminded David how He had stood by him ever since He first called him, a poor shepherd boy, to be prince of Israel. He also made a new covenant or