

LESSON IX—August 30th, 1896.

Absalom's Defeat and Death. 2 SAM. 18: 9-17, 32, 33.

(Commit to memory verses 32 and 33).

GOLDEN TEXT: "The Lord knoweth the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish." Ps. 1: 6.

PROVE THAT—Disobedience to parents is surely punished. Prov. 20: 20.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 76. *Which is the ninth commandment?* A. The ninth commandment is, Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor. 77. *What is required in the ninth commandment?* A. The ninth commandment requireth the maintaining and promoting of truth between man and man, and of our own and our neighbor's good name, especially in witness bearing.

LESSON HYMNS.—*Children's Hymnal.* Nos. 90, 10, 69, 113.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* David's anxiety for Absalom. 2 Sam. 18: 1-8. *Tuesday.* Absalom's defeat and death. 2 Sam. 18: 9-17. *Wednesday.* David's grief. 2 Sam. 18: 19-33. *Thursday.* David's return. 2 Sam. 19: 9-15. *Friday.* Destruction of the ungodly. Ps. 52. *Saturday.* Honor to parents. Matt. 15: 1-9. *Sabbath.* Counsel to the young. Prov. 4: 14-27. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. No sooner did David learn of Absalom's rebellion than he resolved to leave Jerusalem. Absalom and his army take possession of the city. A council of war was held. It was decided to pursue and attack David. The two armies were drawn up in battle array "in the forest of Ephraim in Mount Gilead, not far from Mahanaim, where David was." Like Gideon, David divided his army into three parts. He gave special instruction to his three generals, saying, "Deal gently for my sake with the young man, even with Absalom." Psalms 3 and 4 are supposed to refer to the first evening and following morning of David's flight. Read chapters 16 to 19. Time, shortly after the last lesson.

LESSON PLAN. I. Absalom's Misfortune vs. 9-17. II. David's Lament. vs. 32, 33.

9. The servants of David—In an unlooked for place in the woods and in an unexpected moment, Absalom, riding in advance of his army, suddenly spied one of the wings of David's army. **Rode upon a mule**—Probably his father's royal mule (1 Kings 1: 33). **Caught hold of the oak**—A forked branch of the tree, on which he was suddenly caught and lifted from his mule, either by his neck or by his long flowing hair. **10. I saw Absalom**—Absalom escaped the notice of the army, but one man saw him and reported it to his superior officer, Joab. **11. Thou sawest him**—Joab taunted the man for not being brave enough to put an end to Absalom. **Ten shekels**—"half-crowns." **A girdle**—A reward for military bravery. An important piece of dress, usually costly, embroidered. **12. Yet would I not put forth my hand**—A man that could not be bought. With him the king's word was the word of authority. "To obey is better than sacrifice." **Charged thee**—He was a man that had the courage of his convictions and was not afraid to remind Joab of the king's special injunction. **13. If I had dealt falsely against his life (R. V.)**—To slay Absalom would be to disobey the king's word, and to act cowardly and treacherously towards one whom misfortune had rendered powerless. **Hid from the king**—The king was certain to gain full particulars. **Thou thyself**—The man was well aware of Joab's unscrupulous character. **14. Three darts**—"Three pointed wooden staves." **Thrust them**—He hurled them so as to take effect by passing through the middle of Absalom's body. **Yet alive**—It does seem to have been an act of thoughtless cruelty on the part of Joab. **Slew him**—A stern, cruel general is apt to make heartless soldiers. **16. Blew the trumpet**—Called a retreat; stayed the soldiers from pushing the slaughter any further. **17. Cast him into a great pit**—Unceremoniously—no funeral obsequies. **Very great heap of stones**—It was usual among all early nations to mark an event of importance by raising a cairn over the place. **32. Is it well with the young man Absalom?**—David's heart yearned over his wayward prodigal boy. It is a question that presses upon the heart of every true parent, Is it well with my child? How little do children know what a cause of anxious care they are to their parents. **33. Would God I had died for thee**—The sad sorrow of a loving parent's heart over the death of an impenitent child. "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near" (Isa. 55: 6). As Jesus beheld the rebellious city Jerusalem he "wept over it." (Luke 19: 41).

LESSONS. 1. The way of the transgressor is hard. 2. They that sow the wind shall reap the whirlwind. 3. Their is no ray of hope to the wicked in their death. 4. There is no safety to the soul out of Christ.