

Lesson VIII.

DAVID AND JONATHAN

August 23, 1903

1 Sam. 20 : 12-23. Study 1 Sam. 20 : 1-42—Memory Verses, 14-17.

Golden Text—There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.—Prov. 18 : 24.

12 And Jon'athan said unto Da'vid, O LORD God of Is'rael, when I have sounded my father about to-morrow any time, or the third day, and, behold, if there be good toward Da'vid, and I then send not unto thee, and shew it thee ;

13 The LORD do so and much more to Jon'athan : but if it please my father to do thee evil, then I will shew it thee, and send thee away, that thou mayest go in peace : and the LORD be with thee, as he hath been with my father.

14 And thou shalt not only while yet I live shew me the kindness of the LORD, that I die not :

15 But also thou shalt not cut off thy kindness from my house for ever : no, not when the LORD hath cut off the enemies of David every one from the face of the earth.

16 So Jon'athan made a covenant with the house of Da'vid, saying, Let the LORD even require it at the hand of Da'vid's enemies.

17 And Jon'athan caused Da'vid to swear again, because he loved him : for he loved him as he loved his own soul.

18 Then Jon'athan said to Da'vid, To morrow is the new moon : and thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty.

19 And when thou hast stayed three days, then thou shalt go down quickly, and come to the place where thou didst hide thyself when the business was in hand, and shalt remain by the stone E'zel.

20 And I will shoot three arrows on the side thereof, as though I shot at a mark.

21 And, behold, I will send a lad, saying, Go, find out the arrows. If I expressly say unto the lad, Behold, the arrows are on this side of thee, take them ; then come thou : for there is peace to thee, and no hurt ; as the LORD liveth.

22 But if I say thus unto the young man, Behold, the arrows are beyond thee ; go thy way : for the LORD hath sent thee away.

23 And as touching the matter which thou and I have spoken of, behold, the LORD be between thee and me forever.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Saul's hatred toward David grew stronger and stronger, until one day he commanded Jonathan his son to kill him.

Now Jonathan loved David more than if he had been his own brother, and determined to save his friend's life even at the risk of his own. To please Jonathan Saul allowed David to return for a time to the court. But soon the king's wrath broke out afresh and David was again forced to flee for his life.

Knowing that he should be missed from a royal banquet that was soon to be held, David sent for Jonathan, to meet him secretly in a field, and asked him to make an excuse for him to the king and to notice if

he took amiss his absence from the feast.

Now Jonathan was only too glad to answer for his friend, and promised to let David know at once if Saul's anger should have passed, and, if not, to find some plan by which he might escape.

Then Jonathan asked David if he would do something for him. It was that, if he ever became king, he would show kindness to him and to his family, for the sake of the great friendship that was between them.

So David and Jonathan that day made a solemn agreement before the Lord, repeating the words twice over, that they and their families should remain friends forever.

And Jonathan arranged with David, that