

LESSON I—July 5th, 1896.

David King of Judah. 2 SAM. 2: 1-11.

(Commit to memory verses 5-7).

GOLDEN TEXT: "The Lord reigneth; let the earth rejoice." Ps. 97: 1.

PROVE THAT—The Lord knows our hearts. Jer. 17: 10

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 65. *What is forbidden in the fifth commandment?* A. The fifth commandment forbiddeth the neglecting of, or doing anything against, the honor and duty which belongeth to every one in their several places and relations.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—NOS. 126, 161, 139, 167.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* David King of Judah. 2 Sam. 2: 1-11. *Tuesday.* The first anointing. 1 Sam. 16: 1-13. *Wednesday.* The death of Saul. 2 Sam. 1: 1-12. *Thursday.* Lamentation for Saul and Jonathan. 2 Sam. 1: 17-27. *Friday.* Burial of Saul. 1 Sam. 31: 7-13. *Saturday.* A king's homage. Ps. 21: 1-7. *Sabbath.* The Son of David. Mark 11: 1-11. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

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INTRODUCTORY. In our last lesson in the study of the life and times of David, "David and Jonathan," we find an illustration of the spirit of unselfishness in the matter of true friendship unparalleled in O. T. history. David then became a fugitive and an outlaw. He first visited Nob, at that time the chief sanctuary of Israel, although the ark was at Kirjathjearim. Ahimelech the priest believing him to be on a royal mission gave him some of the sacred "shew-bread" and Goliath's sword (1 Sam. 21: 6; 22: 10). This act of kindness cost Ahimelech and 84 other priests their lives, led also to the destruction of Nob and all its citizens save Abiathar who escaped the fury of Saul. David for a season found shelter in Gath, where he feigned madness in the presence of Achish the king. Driven out he found refuge in the stronghold of Adullam. There he was joined by 400 discontents. His next act was to rescue Keilah from the Philistines. Fearing Saul he fled to Ziph. His whereabouts was made known to Saul by the Ziphites. Pursued by Saul and 3000 chosen men, he generously spared the life of Saul on this as well as on a later occasion. David and his men nobly defended those districts from the Amalekite raiders. Nabal a wealthy citizen of Maon "requited" David "evil for good" (1 Sam. 25: 21). David determined "to wreak a terrible vengeance," but his anger was appeased by the noble Abigail, Nabal's wife. Deserting Saul, David formed a feudal alliance with Achish, king of Gath, and was given the town of Ziklag, agreeing to pay tribute, and to render military service when required. The lords of the Philistines were bitterly opposed to David. Forced to quit the army, he found Ziklag in ashes, and the families of himself and followers taken captives by the Amalekites. With 400 men David pursued, overtook, routed and destroyed all the Amalekites save 400 slaves that escaped. Tidings of Saul and Jonathan's death grieved David exceedingly. The beautiful elegy he composed he bade the men of Judah learn by heart (2 Sam. 1: 19-27).

LESSON PLAN. I. Divine Guidance. vs. 1-3. II. David Anointed King of Judah. vs. 4. III. David's Reign at Hebron. -vs. 5-11.

1. After this—Tidings of Saul and Jonathan's death, and David's grief assuaged. Enquired of the Lord—Through Abiathar the priest. Waiting upon the Lord in every undertaking a mark of highest wisdom. Shall I go?—Personal guidance sought. Go up—God honors and encourages those that wait on him. Whither shall I go up?—"He would not take his own choice but leave God to direct his steps." Unto Hebron—A priest's city; one of the cities of refuge; a very ancient city, having peculiarly sacred associations. 3. Every man with his household—Companions in affliction were to be companions in his kingdom. Cities of Hebron—The districts surrounding Hebron. 4. Anointed David king—David had been anointed secretly by Samuel (1 Sam. 16: 13), but now publicly. "His first anointing indicated God's secret purpose, his second the accomplishment of it." (Bib. Com.) He was afterwards anointed king over Israel (ch. 5: 3). 5. Told David—His first message received as king was a report of the kindness of the valiant men of Jabesh-Gilead. Sent messengers—His first act as king was a message of thanks to the men of Jabesh-Gilead, with an assurance that he would requite them well. 7. The house of Judah—Affording an opportunity for all who wished to join him. 8. Captain of Saul's host—Abner was resolved to perpetuate the house of Saul. Ma-ha-na'im—"A walled city of Gilead, east of the Jordan." 9. Made him king—A man-appointed king. All Israel—As distinguished from Judah. 10. Reigned two years—Five years spent in recovering the country from the Philistines. 11. Seven years and six months—The time of David's reign at Hebron.

LESSONS. 1. Seek Divine guidance in every undertaking. 2. Always follow the guidance of Providence. 3. "Rejoice in the kingship of Jesus."