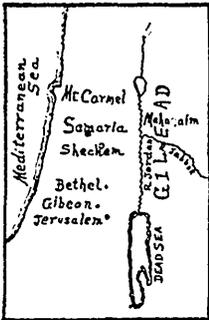


was likely much larger than David's, even though the original 600 men of ch. 15: 18 had been largely reinforced. Scattered over . . . all the country. The defeat became a rout. Wood ("jungle") devoured more . . . than the sword. More were slain in the pursuit than in the battle.

III. ABSALOM'S FATE.—9-11. Servants of David; the king's bodyguard. Upon a mule; probably David's royal mule, 1 Kgs. 1: 33. Caught hold of the oak. Absalom's head got wedged in the fork of a branch and was there held fast. Thou sawest him; and wast not brave enough to slay him, —a scathing taunt. Ten shekels; "half-crowns," each worth a little more than sixty cents. A girdle; an important piece of dress, usually embroidered and costly.

12-15. The king charged thee. This man could not be bought to disobey the king and was not afraid to face Joab with the king's command. (See v. 5) Dealt falsely against his life (Rev. Ver.); acted in a cowardly and treacherous manner towards one who was helpless. No matter hid from the king. The king was sure to learn whatever was done. Thou thyself. Joab would have blamed the man for the very thing he wanted done. Three darts; pointed wooden staves. Thrust them; hurled them so as to strike Absalom in the midst of the body. Yet alive; a heartlessly cruel deed. Slew him. The soldiers were as heartless as their leader.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



THE LAND OF GILEAD was a district east of the Jordan. The entire length of it and a large portion of its territory can be seen from the mountains of Western Palestine. From there it looks like a vast mountain range, varying from 3,000 to 4,000 feet in height. "When one comes to travel through in different directions, he finds himself in the midst of charming natural scenery, where streams, springs and forests, rich fields, gentle slopes and quiet valleys attract the eye." Forest trees, like those found in Gilead to-day, grow, in the time of the Lesson, in such masses as to make it very dangerous for soldiers unacquainted with the ground.

LESSON QUESTIONS

- 1, 2 Who were the three leaders of David's army?

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. How did David arrange his army for battle ?
2. What was the result of the fight ?

SIGN NAME HERE

What did David himself wish to do? Where is Jesus called the "captain of .salvation?" (Heb. 2: 10.)

3-5 Who objected to David's going into battle? For what reasons? Where did the king remain? What command did he give concerning Absalom? In what psalm is God's pity compared to a father's? (Ps. 103: 13.)

6-8 Where was the battle fought? How many of Absalom's army were slain? Explain the second clause of v. 8.

9-11 How was Absalom caught? Who saw him? To whom did the man report? What did Joab say? What were "ten shekels of silver" worth in our money? Describe an Eastern girdle. What was Jeremiah once commanded to do with a girdle, and for what purpose? (Jer. 13: 1-11.)

12-15 How did the man who discovered Absalom show his courage? Of what act of cruelty was Joab guilty? How was Absalom at last put to death?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Is rebellion ever right?
2. Should a soldier ever disobey his officer?

A PRAYER

Father, show us our hearts. May there be no evil hidden there that we are not eager to have Thee find for us. Cleanse us from all defilement. Give us noble purposes. May it be our joy to live truly, to serve humbly, to love devotedly. Teach us how to live so as not to grieve Thee. Forgive us for our ignorance of Thy purposes, our carelessness of Thy wishes for us, our heedlessness in rushing into sin. And make us like Thy Son, our Lord. For His sake we ask it. Amen.

Prove from Scripture—That Jesus honored His parents.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 21. Who is the Redeemer of God's elect? A. The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continueth to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, for ever.

The Question on Missions—(Third Quarter, THE WORK OF A SOCIAL SETTLEMENT.)—1. What is a Social Settlement? A Social Settlement is a centre placed in a crowded part of a city, where a group of people make their home in order to share the lives and help the needs of those about them, thus showing the Christlike spirit of neighborliness.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise: 19 (Supplemental Lesson), 272, 293, 34 (Pa. Sel.), 519 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY), 11.