

LESSON VIII—August 23rd, 1896.

Absalom's Rebellion. 2 SAM. 15: 1-12.

(Commit to memory verses 4-6).

GOLDEN TEXT: "Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." Ex. 20: 12.

PROVE THAT—Deceit will be punished. Ps. 55: 23.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 75. *What is forbidden in the eighth commandment?* A. The eighth commandment forbiddeth whatsoever doth or may unjustly hinder our own, or our neighbor's wealth or outward estate.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 65, 173, 69, 116.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Absalom's rebellion. 2 Sam. 15: 1-12. *Tuesday.* David's flight. 2 Sam. 15: 13-23. *Wednesday.* David's submission. 2 Sam. 15: 24-31. *Thursday.* Shimei's curse. 2 Sam. 16: 5-14. *Friday.* Absalom's wicked intent. 2 Sam. 17: 1-14. *Saturday.* Causing sorrow to parents. Prov. 19: 20-29. *Sabbath.* Rebellious children. Isa. 1: 1-9. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. The remainder of David's history is mostly a tale of decline. While his empire did not become less in extent, it grew disunited and restless. "David's crime in the matter of Uriah had broken the spell that seemed to be over his life, and since then the unity of the nation, its peace and its hearty boldness in all enterprises were gone, and its good fortune with them." How soon the fruit of David's misconduct was seen reflected in the misconduct of Ammon, his eldest son. Then follows the story of Absalom's hatred and revenge, his flight, and after five years banishment, reconciled and restored to his father's favor. Read chapters 13 to 16. Time, probably 1022 B. C. David 62 or 63 years old.

LESSON PLAN. I. The Plot. vs. 1-6. II. The Rebellion. vs. 7-12.

1. **After this**—After the banished sor had been reinstated and regained his freedom in his father's home. **Absalom**—The son of Maacah, the daughter of Talmai, king of Geshur. He was renowned for his personal beauty, but was of a crafty, selfish, covetous, spiteful and unscrupulous character. **A chariot and horses (R. V.)**—As a king's son, and an indulged youth, appearing on state occasions, in the leading fashions, accompanied by fifty foot-runners. A young man of "dash" and "show." **2. Rose up early**—He had the good habit of rising early, but unfortunately for unworthy ends. **The way of the gate**—The way leading to the palace where the king sat and administered justice to the people. **Called unto him**—Absalom very cunningly intercepted the suitors on their way, shewed a kindly interest in them, asked about their city and their tribe. **3. Thy matters are good and right**—After a few general questions, he would flatteringly assure every one that his cause was a just one and ought to be made good. **No man deputed**—It was impossible for the king to attend to every case, and there was no one appointed to assist him. **4. Would do him justice**—Absalom was like a great many modern politicians when engaged in a political campaign, who have no regard for truth, the rights of others, nor the honor of the country, but purely self and selfish ends. **5. Took hold of him**—Manifested a warm and kindly interest in everyone's case. **6. Stole the hearts**—By flattery, deception and false promises. The heart of the flatterer is full of deceit. **7. Forty years**—Rather read "four years." A mistake of the transcribers. **I pray thee**—Absalom presents his petition in the form of a prayer or pious entreaty. His deception and hypocrisy he covers with the cloak of religious devotion. **Hebron**—Not to offer sacrifices as alleged, although he did that, but that he might have the better opportunity of carrying into operation his treacherous and deceptive scheme of rebellion. **9. Go in peace**—Free from all suspicious thought and having implicit confidence in his son's integrity and nobleness of purpose, David joyfully consented. **10. Sent spies**—The veil is removed and Absalom's real purpose lies fully disclosed to view. **11. That were invited (R. V.)**—The two hundred that were cordially invited were deceived. Their presence would naturally impress the people at Hebron that Absalom had a great following at Jerusalem. **12. Counsellor**—Even David's chief adviser, becoming estranged, joined himself to the rebellious and unprincipled Absalom (Ps. 41: 9).

LESSON. 1. Beware of the spirit of covetousness and unbridled ambition. 2. Evil communications corrupt good manners. 3. The deceitfulness of the human heart leads to untold evils. 4. Beware of forsaking old and tried friends.