

Lesson I.

ABSALOM'S FAILURE

July 4, 1915

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—In Lesson X., June 6, chs. 11 : 22 to 12 : 7a, we had the story of Nathan's rebuking David for his great sin. To-day's Lesson describes the defeat and death of Absalom.

GOLDEN TEXT—Children, obey your parents in the Lord : for this is right.—Ephesians 6 : 1.

*Memorize v. 5. **THE LESSON PASSAGE**—2 Samuel 18 : 1-15.

1 And Da'vid numbered the people that were with him, and set captains of thousands and captains of hundreds over them.

2 And Da'vid sent forth ¹ a third part of the people under the hand of Jo'ab, and a third part under the hand of Ab'ishai the son of Zeru'ah, Jo'ab's brother, and a third part under the hand of Itta'i the Githite. And the king said unto the people, I will surely go forth with you myself also.

3 But the people ² answered, Thou shalt not go forth : for if we flee away, they will not care for us : neither if half of us die, will they care for us : but ³ now thou art worth ten thousand of us : therefore now it is better that thou ⁴ succour us out of the city.

4 And the king said unto them, What seemeth you best I will do. And the king stood by the gate side, and all the people ⁵ came out by hundreds and by thousands.

5 And the king commanded Jo'ab and Ab'ishai and Itta'i, saying, Deal gently for my sake with the young man, even with Ab'salom. And all the people heard when the king gave all the captains charge concerning Ab'salom.

6 So the people went out into the field against Is'rael : and the battle was in the ⁶ wood of E'phraim :

7 Where the people of Is'rael were ⁷ slain before the servants of Da'vid, and there was ⁸ there a great slaughter ⁹ that day of twenty thousand men.

8 For the battle was there ¹⁰ scattered over the face of all the country : and the ¹¹ wood devoured more

Revised Version—¹ the people, a third part under ; ² said ; ³ Omit now ; ⁴ be ready to succour ; ⁵ went out ; ⁶ forest ; ⁷ And the people ; ⁸ smitten there before ; ⁹ Omit there ; ¹⁰ there ; ¹¹ spread ; ¹² chanced to meet ; ¹³ his mule ; ¹⁴ hanging ; ¹⁵ it ; ¹⁶ pieces of silver ; ¹⁷ if I had dealt falsely against his life, (and there is no matter hid from the king,) then thou ; ¹⁸ stood aloof.

people that day than the sword devoured.
9 And Ab'salom ¹² met the servants of Da'vid. And Ab'salom rode upon ¹³ a mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great oak, and his head caught hold of the oak, and he was taken up between the heaven and the earth, and the mule that was under him went away.

10 And a certain man saw it, and told Jo'ab, and said, Behold, I saw Ab'salom ¹⁴ hanged in an oak.

11 And Jo'ab said unto the man that told him, And, behold, thou sawest ¹⁵ him, and why didst thou not ¹⁶ smite him there to the ground ? and I would have given thee ten ¹⁷ shekels of silver, and a girdle.

12 And the man said unto Jo'ab, Though I should receive a thousand ¹⁸ shekels of silver in mine hand, yet would I not put forth mine hand against the king's son for in our hearing the king charged thee and Ab'ishai and Itta'i, saying, Beware that none touch the young man Ab'salom.

13 Otherwise ¹⁹ I should have wrought falsehood against mine own life : for there is no matter hid from the king, and thou thyself wouldest have ²⁰ set thyself against me.

14 Then said Jo'ab, I may not tarry thus with thee. And he took three darts in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Ab'salom, while he was yet alive in the midst of the oak.

15 And ten young men that bare Jo'ab's armour compassed about and smote Ab'salom, and slew him

†HOME DAILEY BIBLE READINGS

M.—Absalom's ambition, 2 Sam. 15 : 1-10.

T.—Absalom's failure, 2 Sam. 18 : 1-8.

W.—Absalom's failure, 2 Sam. 18 : 9-15.

Th.—Honor due to parents, Matt. 15 : 1-9.

F.—Pride and destruction, Prov. 16 : 18-25.

S.—The confidence of the righteous, Ps. 3.

Sunday—Listen to wisdom, Prov. 4 : 1-13.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. ABSALOM'S FATHER.—1, 2. David numbered the people ; organized and reviewed his army.

Captains of thousands . . hundreds ; the usual divisions of an army. A third part. David, in dividing his army into three parts, followed the example of Gideon (see Judg. 7 : 16). Under the hand of ; under the leadership, command, of. Joab . . Abishai ; David's nephews (1 Chron. 2 : 16), and well known generals. Zeruiah ; David's sister. Ittai the Githite ; that is, a native of Gath. For the loyalty of this foreigner to David see ch. 15 : 19-22. I will . . go . . with you. The king, though not strong enough to take the chief command, wished to share



THE CITY GATE

the dangers of his soldiers.

3-5. Thou shalt not go forth. For a similar protest see ch. 21 : 17. Not care for us. The enemies' object would not be accomplished so long as David remained alive. Worth ten thousand of us ; "a common estimate of a valued leader." Better that thou succour us ; by sending reserves out of the city in case of necessity. The king said, etc. ; wisely yielding to his soldiers' wishes. Stood by the gate side ; of Manheim (see ch. 17 : 27). An Eastern city had two gates, an inner and outer one, with a gate house between. It was in this gate house that the king remained. Deal gently . . with Absalom. The king was still a father who loved his son though that son was a rebel against him.

II. ABSALOM'S FIGHT.—6-8. So the people ; that is, David's army. Went out ; to make the attack. Against Israel ; the army of Absalom. The wood of Ephraim ; literally, "the jungle of Ephraim," a place in Gilead otherwise unknown. People of Israel (Absalom's followers) . . slain . . twenty thousand men ; so that Absalom's army

*The Scripture Memory Passages of the Supplemental Leaflets are recommended as a substitute for those here given Sabbath by Sabbath. Their recitation leads to the obtaining of a beautiful Certificate or Diploma.

† Courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Hon. Secretary, 56 Old Bailey, London, England.