

**Golden Text**—Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.—  
Psalm 32 : 1.



1 Blessed is *he* whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

2 Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

3 When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long.

4 For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me : my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. *Se'lah.*

5 I acknowledge my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD ; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. *Se'lah.*

6 For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found : surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him.

7 Thou art my hiding place ; thou shalt preserve me from trouble ; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. *Se'lah.*

8 I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go : I will guide thee with mine eye.

9 Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding : whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee.

10 Many sorrows shall be to the wicked : but he that trusteth in the LORD mercy shall compass him about.

11 Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous : and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.

### THE LESSON RETOLD

After David had been king for some time, he did a very wicked thing, for which God punished him.

God was very much displeased with David for his wicked act, and sent the prophet Nathan to tell him so. Nathan spoke to him very plainly, and at last David became sorry and ashamed, and prayed earnestly to God for forgiveness. God did forgive him, although he still punished him for his sin. Afterwards David sang a song or psalm of thanksgiving to God for so freely forgiving his great sin. This psalm is the Lesson for the day. "Blessed is the man", he says, "whose sin is covered up, because God has forgiven him."

Then David tells how he himself had been unwilling, for a long time, to confess his sin; and therefore he had been filled with fear and distress, and his conscience troubled him so that he could rest neither day nor night.

"Then I acknowledged my sin", says David; "I confessed it to the Lord, and He forgave me all my wickedness. So shall God be merciful to any of His people who call on Him in time of need, for He is ever near to help those in trouble.

"But sometimes it may seem that troubles come so thick and fast, that they are like a flood of great waters, threatening to sweep one away, and yet if people only have faith in God, they need not fear, for He will be with them to save them."

And God's people are not only safe; they are also very joyful. "Thou shalt surround me about", says David, "with songs of deliverance." After he had been forgiven, he felt as if a company of beautiful angels were standing round him, singing their glad songs of rejoicing. He was like a son who had been living for a long time in a far country, and was now being welcomed back to his