

Lesson XI.

DAVID BECOMES KING

September 13, 1903

2 Sam. 2 : 1-10. Study 2 Sam. 2 : 1-11 and 2 Sam. 5 : 1-10—Memory Verses, 1-3.

Golden Text—Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.—Ps. 133 : 1.



this kindness, because ye have done this thing. 7 Therefore now let your hands be strengthened, and be ye valiant : for your master Saul is dead, and also the house of Ju'dah have anointed me king over them.

8 But Ab'ner the son of Ner, captain of Saul's host, took Ish'-bo'sheth the son of Saul, and brought him over to Ma'hana'im ;

9 And made him king over Gil'ead, and over the Ashur'ites, and over Jez'reel, and over Eph'raim, and over Ben'jamin, and over all Is'rael.

10 Ish'-bo'sheth Saul's son was forty years old when he began to reign over Is'rael, and reigned two years. But the house of Ju'dah followed Da'vid.

THE LESSON RETOLD

When David heard how King Saul and his beloved friend Jonathan had perished in the battle at Gilboa, he was in great trouble. Israel was now without a leader. The Philistines were over-running the country and he and his little band of chosen men were not strong enough to stand against them.

When David did not know which way to turn, he inquired of the Lord what he must do ; and God said, " You shall not go on with the war, but shall return at once to Hebron near your old home."

So David took Ahinoam and Abigail his two wives and all his fighting men, with their families, and settled in the cities round about Hebron.

And the men of Judah, when they saw that David had settled peaceably among

1 And it came to pass after this, that Da'vid enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah ? And the LORD said unto him, Go up. And Da'vid said, Whither shall I go up ? And he said, Unto He'bron.

2 So Da'vid went up thither, and his two wives also, Ahino'am the Jez'reelitess, and Abiga'il Na'bal's wife the Carm'elite.

3 And his men that were with him did Da'vid bring up, every man with his household : and they dwelt in the cities of He'bron.

4 And the men of Ju'dah came, and there they anointed Da'vid king over the house of Ju'dah. And they told Da'vid, saying, That the men of Ja'besh-gil'ead were they that buried Saul.

5 And Da'vid sent messengers unto the men of Ja'besh-gil'ead, and said unto them, Blessed be ye of the LORD, that ye have shewed this kindness unto your lord, even unto Saul, and have buried him.

6 And now the LORD shew kindness and truth unto you : and I also will requite you

them, came and asked him to be their king. And because of David the people flocked to Hebron in thousands, where they made a great holiday, and the armies of Judah anointed David king amidst great rejoicing.

Now one of the first things David did after he was made king, was to send a friendly message to the men of Jabesh, who had buried Saul's body after so bravely rescuing it from their enemies. And David said, " May the Lord reward you for what you have done ! You are brave men, and instead of punishing you for showing kindness to Saul, I invite you to be my allies."

So David by wisdom and kindness won many followers to his side, and the kingdom of Judah grew stronger and stronger.

But Abner, who had been chief captain in