

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

THREE MONTHS WITH DAVID AND THE
PSALMS.

B.C. 1023.] LESSON VI. [Aug. 10.

ABSALOM'S REBELLION.

2 Sam. 15. 1-14. Commit to mem. vs. 30.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Honour thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.—Ex. 20. 12.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

A foolish son is the calamity of his father.

DAILY READINGS.

M. 2 Sam. 13. 19-39. Th. 2 Sam. 15. 1-23.
T. 2 Sam. 14. 1-24. F. 2 Sam. 15. 24-37.
W. 2 Sam. 14. 25-33. Sa. Ps. 41. 1-13.
Su. Ps. 55. 1-23.

TIME.—The rebellion was closed B.C. 10-23, twelve years after the last lesson. But the plotting of vs. 1-6 lasted 4 years, from B.C. 1027-1023 (2 Sam. 15. 7.)

PLACE.—(1) Jerusalem, as before. (2) Hebron: 20 miles south of Jerusalem, the birthplace of Absalom, and former capital of David's kingdom.

PERSONS.—(1) David, 62 or 63 years old. (2) Absalom, about 30 years old, beautiful, magnetic, revengeful, headstrong, passionate. His mother was an Ethiopian princess, Maachah, daughter of the king of Geshur. He was now the oldest surviving son of David, and naturally the heir of the throne. (3) Ahithophel, a native of Giloh, a city of Judah, south-west of Hebron, probably the grandfather of Bath-sheba. (Compare chs. 11. 3, and 23. 34.) He was a former friend of David (Ps. 41. 9.) and counsellor (v. 12.)

INTRODUCTION.—The 12 years intervening between the last lesson and this bring to the repentant king dishonour in his family,—the murder of his eldest-born by one of his best loved sons, and the exile of the murderer. The recall of Absalom through the agency of Joab, and the seeming reconciliation, prepares us for the last and greatest of David's afflictions consequent upon his great sin.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—1. *And it came to pass*—The working out of Nathan's prophecy (ch. 12. 10, 11.) 2. *Rise up early*—Public business in the East is always transacted early in the morning. 3. *Nathan departed of the king*—The kingdom had increased, and one man could no longer hear all cases; besides, the king was old, and had been busy with foreign wars. 4. *Stole the hearts*—The marvellous success of Absalom's plans was due (1) to the fickleness of the people; (2) David's conduct had lost him the confidence of the people, his sin had weakened the bonds of fidelity and obedience; (3) his withdrawal from the people had diminished his popularity; (4) there were great numbers of disaffected ones in Judah and Benjamin; (5) Joab's unpopularity; (6) Absalom's address; but (7) the chief reason appears in David's admission that it was the *chastisement of the Lord* (ch. 16. 11.) 7. *Forty years*—Rather *four years* from the reconciliation (ch. 14. 32.) 8. *Abode in Geshur* during his exile (ch. 13. 38.) 9. *Go in peace*—Unsuspecting confidence. 10. *Spies*—To test public feeling. 14. *Arise, let us flee*—To gain time (ch. 17. 1, 2) and spare the city a siege. He could not fight against God (ch. 12. 10-12.)

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—Absalom.—David's family troubles.—Ahithophel.—The consequences of David's sin.—Reasons for the success of the rebellion.—David's flight.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—What was the first misfortune that befell David after his repentance for sin? (ch. 12. 15-23.) What had Nathan prophesied? (ch. 12. 10-14.) What great crime did Absalom commit? What followed? How was Absalom brought back? How was he brought before his father? How many years are covered by these events? What connection had all this with David's sin?

SUBJECT: FILIAL INGRATITUDE.

I. AN UNGRATEFUL SON STEALS THE HEARTS OF HIS FATHER'S PEOPLE (vs. 1-6.)—What reasons had Absalom for gratitude? (chs. 13. 39; 14. 21, 33.) What was his first bid for popularity? What was the second? Why did he rise early? Why stand by the gate? What judgments did he promise? Why had no man been "deputed"? What was his manner toward the people? How successful was he? What class of people would he gain? What are the talents required for such business?

What is the spirit required? What personal endowments did Absalom have?

II. AN UNGRATEFUL SON EXCITES REBELLION (vs. 7-12).—How long had Absalom been at work? What did he ask of his father? Why would Hebron be a favourable place for his plans? Where was Absalom's vow taken? What was Absalom's relation to the king of the land? What took him there? (ch. 13. 37.) What spirit did David show in granting the request? What did Absalom do at Hebron? Who were with him there? What man was sent for? Who was he? What does David call him? (Ps. 41. 9.) Why should he become David's enemy? What was his end?

III. A FATHER'S CALAMITY (vs. 13, 14).—How did David first hear of the uprising? What showed its popular character? What did David advise? Why? Tell some of the incidents of his flight. Had David ever had an experience like this before? What made this specially sorrowful? What was there in David's training of his son that would lead to this? What was there in David's past life?

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

1. Repentance and forgiveness cannot avert all the consequences of sin.
2. Sins against the family will be followed by sorrow in the family.
3. How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child.
4. Love harbours no suspicions.
5. When one winks at gross evil-doers too much they become all the worse.—*Satanke*.
6. The reprobate child will trade even upon the affections and piety of a parent.
7. Those are good indeed that are good in their own place, not they that pretend how good they will be in other people's places.—*Henry*.
8. No music can be so sweet to the ears of the unstable multitude as to hear well of themselves, ill of their governors.—*Scott*.
9. To the end that he may rule, a man will make himself the slave of the lowest people.
10. Absalom's rebellion was the Lord's chastening.
11. Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap.

REVIEW EXERCISE. (For the whole School in concert.)

6. What chastisement fell upon David after his repentance? *Ans.* The death of his child, the murder of his first-born, the exile of his son, and the rebellion of Absalom. 7. How did Absalom prepare the way for rebellion? *Ans.* By stealing the hearts of the people. 8. Where did he raise the standard of revolt? *Ans.* At Hebron. 9. What was the result? *Ans.* The hearts of the men of Israel turned after Absalom, and David fled from Jerusalem.

B.C. 1023.] LESSON VII. [Aug. 17.

ABSALOM'S DEATH.

2 Sam. 18. 24-33. Commit to mem. vs. 32, 33.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death.—Mark 7. 10.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

The way of the wicked is as darkness.

DAILY READINGS.

M. 2 Sam. 16. 1-4. Th. 2 Sam. 17. 15-29.
T. 2 Sam. 16. 15-23. F. 2 Sam. 18. 1-18.
W. 2 Sam. 17. 1-14. Sa. 2 Sa. 18. 19-33.
Su. Ps. 3. 1-8.

TIME.—B.C. 1023, about three months after the last lesson. The events of chaps. 15. 16-17; 23, took place in one day, the day of David's flight. Then we come to the close of the rebellion three months later.

PERSONS.—(1) David, as in last lesson. (2) Ahimaz, son of Zadok the priest, one of the spies left at Jerusalem at the time of David's flight (chap. 15. 27.) distinguished as a runner. (3) Cushie, i.e., the Cushite, an Ethiopian slave in Joab's service.

INTRODUCTION.—After the flight and the experience by the way on that first day (chaps. 15. 16-17; 23.) David went to Mahanaim. There he rallied his forces and prepared to meet the gathering hosts of Absalom. At the request of his people the king stayed within the walls of the city, while his men went forth in three bands. The king's last injunctions were for the safety of Absalom (ver. 5.) The army of David was victorious, but Absalom met his death at the hands of Joab. And now the anxious father and king is waiting near the gates of the city for tidings of his son and the report of the battle.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—24. *Sat between the two gates*—The outer and inner gate of the city wall, between which there was a small court, a place of public resort, especially for the administration of justice. 25. *If he be alone*—Had there been a defeat the road would have been crowded with fugitives. 27. *A good man*—He would not be first to run from a defeat; he would not wish to afflict David with evil tidings. 29. *I knew not*—He reported the good news, but exceptions mean good tidings. *The Lord hath avenged thee*—The result was of the Lord. David does not hear this, or soon forgets it. 32. *Is the young man safe*—Hebrew and Ethiopian alike must meet the question. 33. *Was much moved*—At the thought of his loss, of Absalom's sad and hopeless end, and more at his own responsibility for it. He could not help feeling that if he had trained him better and set a better example, the result might have been different. *Would God I had died for thee*—As Moses (Ex. 32. 32) and Paul (Rom. 9. 3.) The grief over a bad child is hopeless.

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—Mahanaim.—The battle in "the forest of Ephraim."—Joab.—Absalom's death.—David's responsibility for Absalom's death.—David, the father.—David, the king.—Ahimaz.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—Where did David go in his flight? Why did not Absalom follow immediately? How long were they in preparing for the battle? Where was the battle fought? What was the result? Where was David? What was his chief anxiety? What characteristics did David show in all this experience?

SUBJECT: THE DEATH OF A WICKED SON AND THE SORROW OF A LOVING FATHER.

I. ABSALOM'S DEATH.—What crimes had Absalom committed? What had his father done to make reconciliation? Against whose authority had Absalom rebelled? How successful was the rebellion? What did Absalom attempt to do with his great army? How did he meet his death? What had his pride to do with the manner of his death? What was done with his body? What preparations had he made for a memorial? How was the news of Absalom's death carried to David? Why would not Joab let Ahimaz go at first? By what means did Ahimaz get ahead of Cushie? What word did Ahimaz carry? What word did Cushie?

II. DAVID'S SORROW.—What charge had David given his army? Where did he wait for the news? What did he first hear? Why did he think the report would be good? What question did David ask both messengers? What did the question show? How did David receive the news of victory? How was the news of Absalom's death broken to him? How did he receive it? What were the chief reasons for David's grief? How far was David right in the expression of sorrow? In what respect was he wrong? What lessons are taught by Absalom's death? What lessons are taught by David's sorrow? By David's great love.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

1. Absalom afflicted his father more by his death than by his life.
2. Great gifts are of no avail except they are rightly used.
3. David was a father before he was a king.
4. The bearer of good news ought always to be a good man.
5. David recognized the Lord's hand in his exile (ch. 16. 11.) but he failed to see it in Absalom's death?
6. Human love teaches us the vicarious principle of the atonement, "Would God I had died for thee."
7. David wished that he might die for Absalom. He ought to have lived more for him.—*Taylor*.
8. Parents may be justly anxious for the unrepentant.
9. Every instance of tender love should stand for us as the type of Christ's love.

REVIEW EXERCISE. (For the whole School in concert.)

10. Where was the battle of Absalom's rebellion fought? *Ans.* In the wood of Ephraim. 11. What was the result? *Ans.* Absalom's defeat and death. 12. How was the news brought to David as he sat beside the gate of the city? *Ans.* By two swift runners, from the field of battle. 13. How did David receive the tidings? *Ans.* And he went up to the chamber over the gate and wept; and as he wept he said: O my son Absalom! O my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee! O Absalom, my son, my son.

GOOD BOOKS

FOR OUR

BOYS & GIRLS!

Simon Jasper.

By Mark Guy Pearse. Author of "Daniel Quorn," etc., etc. Price, 12mo, cloth, gilt edges, illustrated, 90 cents.

A Voice From the Sea; or, The Wreck of the Eglantine.

By the Author of "Margery's Christmas Box," etc. Price, 12mo, cloth, illustrated, 60 cents.

The Canal Boy Who Became President.

By Frederic T. Gammon. Illustrated, cloth. Price, 50 cents.

The Dying Saviour and the Gipsy Girl.

And other Stories. By Marie Hall. 12mo, cloth, pp. 276. Price, 90 cents.

Seppel; or, The Burning of the Synagogue at Munich.

By Gustav Nieritz. Translated from the German. Illustrated, cloth, pp. 180. Price, 60 cents.

The Holy War.

By John Bunyan. With coloured illustrations. 12mo, cloth, pp. 343. Price, \$1.00.

Rob Rat: A Story of Barge Life.

Illustrated. Price, board covers, 15 cents; cloth, 35 cents.

Ned Wright: The Story of his Life.

With a Portrait. Price, cloth, 45 cents.

Addresses to Young Men.

By Rev. Daniel Baker. With Preface by D. L. Moody. Price, paper, 35 cents.

From Log Cabin to White House.

Story of President Garfield's Life. By William M. Thayer. 12mo, cloth, illustrated, pp. 348. Price, \$1.50.

Walks and Homes of Jesus.

By Rev. Daniel March, D.D. 12mo, cloth. Price, 90 cents.

Night Unto Night: A Selection of Bible Stories.

By Rev. Daniel March, D.D. Illustrated. 12mo, cloth. Price, \$1.25.

Any Book on this list mailed post-free on receipt of Retail Price.

WILLIAM BRIGGS,

78 & 80 King Street East,
TORONTO.C. W. COATES, S. P. HUESTIS,
Montreal, Que. Halifax, N.S.