

Lesson VII.

• SAUL TRIES TO KILL DAVID

August 16, 1903

1 Sam. 18 : 5-16—Memory Verses, 12-14.

Golden Text—God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.—
Ps. 46 : 1.



5 And Da'vid went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely : and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

6 And it came to pass as they came, when Da'vid was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Is'rael, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick.

7 And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and Da'vid his ten thousands.

8 And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him ; and he said, They have ascribed unto Da'vid ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands : and what can he have more but the kingdom ?

9 And Saul eyed Da'vid from that day and forward.

10 And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house : and Da'vid played with his hand,

as at other times : and *there was* a javelin in Saul's hand.

11 And Saul cast the javelin ; for he said, I will smite Da'vid even to the wall *with it*. And Da'vid avoided out of his presence *twice.

12 And Saul was afraid of Da'vid, because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul.

13 Therefore Saul removed him from him, and made him his captain over a thousand ; and he went out and came in before the people.

14 And Da'vid behaved himself wisely in all his ways ; and the LORD *was* with him.

15 Wherefore when Saul saw that he behaved himself very wisely, he was afraid of him.

16 But all Is'rael and Ju'dah loved Da'vid, because he went out and came in before them.

THE LESSON RETOLD

After he had killed the Philistine giant, David was the hero of the nation.

As he and King Saul and the armies returned home in triumph, they were met in every city by companies of dancing and singing maidens who, as they played on cymbals and tambourines, danced around the war chariots chanting the praises of those who had shown special bravery in battle.

But as they sang, these words fell upon Saul's ears, "The king hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands." By this they meant that David, in slaying Goliath, had done more to save his people from their fierce enemies than if he had killed thousands of other Philistines.

Now because the people gave more praise

to David than to himself, Saul was filled with anger and jealousy. And he said, "If this is how they speak of David, the next thing will be that they will make him king." And from that minute Saul enviously watched David and hated him. However, he was obliged to give him a fine position in his army to please the people, who all loved David.

And everything went well with David, who behaved himself modestly and wisely in all things ; but not so with Saul. On account of his sins the Lord gave him a troubled and restless mind, and when such attacks came on, the courtiers would send for David to play on his harp and sing his shepherd songs to drive away the evil spirit from the king.