

man? and who is like to thee in Is'rael? wherefore then hast thou not kept ¹⁴thy lord the king? for there came one of the people in to destroy the king thy lord.

16 This thing is not good that thou hast done. As

Revised Version—within the place of the wagons; ²with his spear; ³head; and Abner; ⁴up; ⁵Omit even; ⁶one stroke; ⁷put forth; ⁸And David said, As; ⁹go down; ¹⁰but now take, I pray thee, the spear; ¹¹head; ¹²did any awake; ¹³the mountain; ¹⁴watch over; ¹⁵watch over your lord; ¹⁶now, see, where.

LESSON PLAN

- I. David's Opportunity, 5-8.
- II. David's Forbearance, 9-12.
- III. David's Reproach, 13-16.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Hon. Secretary, 56 Old Bailey, London, England.)

M.—David spares Saul, 1 Sam. 26: 1-12. T.—David Spares Saul, 1 Sam. 26: 13-25. W.—A prayer in distress, Ps. 5. Th.—"Avenge not yourselves," Rom. 12: 9-21. F.—David's love to enemies, Ps. 7: 1-10. S.—Christ's prayer for His enemies, Luke 23: 32-43. S.—Christ's teaching, Matt. 5: 38-48.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 17. *Into what estate did the fall bring mankind?* A. The fall brought mankind into an estate of sin and misery.

the Lord liveth, ye are worthy to die, because ye have not kept ¹⁵your master, the Lord's anointed. And ¹⁶now see where the king's spear is, and the cruse of water that was at his ¹¹bolster.

The Question on Missions—7. What is industrial mission work, and why is it needed? Industrial mission work is the teaching of boys and girls and men and women some useful trade. It is needed because in many cases those who become converts to Christianity are, on that account, unable to find employment among their heathen fellow countrymen.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise: 254 (Supplemental Lesson), 216, 200, 28 (Ps. Sel.), 42 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY), 196.

Special Scripture Reading—Matt. 5: 38-48. (To be read responsively or in concert by the whole School.)

Lantern Slides—For Lesson, B. 15, *David Refuses to Slay Saul*. For Question on Missions, I. 368, *Famine Sufferers Rescued by Our Mission Workers*. (Slides are obtained from the Presbyterian Lantern Slide Department, Room 626, Confederation Life Building, Toronto, at \$2.00 a dozen.)

Stereograph—For Lesson, A Bedouin Camp in the Wilderness Where Saul Pursued David (Order from Underwood & Underwood, 417 Fifth Ave., New York City; further particulars, see page 214).

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Time and Place—About B. C. 1065; near the hill Hachilah, on the western shore of the Dead Sea.

Connecting Links—Chs. 21 to 25 narrate David's wandering life, chiefly in the Wilderness of Judah. Some outstanding events in this period of some two years are: David's flight to Nob and his succor by the priests there (ch. 21: 1-10), and Saul's terrible vengeance on the priests for this kindness (ch. 22: 9-19); the last meeting of Jonathan and David (ch. 23: 16-18); the sparing of Saul's life at Engedi; Samuel's death and burial; and the churlish behavior of Nabal and its results.

Saul learns that David is hiding in the Wilderness of Judah and sets out, with 3,000 men, to capture him. David finds out, by means of spies, where Saul has fixed his camp. Vs. 1-4.

I. David's Opportunity, 5-8.

V. 5. *David arose*; in the dead of night. *Came . . . where Saul had pitched* ("camped"); near the hill named Hachilah, on the western shore of the Dead Sea. *Where Saul lay*; in the centre of the camp, the place being marked by the king's spear stuck upright in the earth, just as an Arab sheikh's tent is distinguished to-day. *Abner*; Saul's cousin, chs. 9: 1; 14: 51. *Captain of his host*; commander-in-chief of Saul's army. *In the*

trench; Rev. Ver., "within the place of the wagons" (Margin, "barricade"), probably a military term for "camp," which, amongst the Hebrews, seems to have been arranged in a circle.

V. 6. *Ahimelech the Hittite*; "a soldier of fortune belonging to the powerful race which had their principal seats on the Carchemish on the Euphrates and Kadesh on the Orontes," far to the north of Palestine. *Abishai the son of Zeruiah*; David's sister, 1 Chron. 2: 15, 16. *Brother to Joab*; David's most famous general. Since David was the youngest of a large family, these nephews might easily have been of his own age. *Who will go . . . with me . . . ?* Ahimelech refused the venture, but Abishai eagerly accepted David's challenge.

Vs. 7, 8. *Came to the people*; to Saul's army. *Saul lay sleeping*; in his royal tent. *Spear stuck in the ground*. See on v. 5. Saul used his spear also as a sceptre (see ch. 22: 6). *Bolster*; Rev. Ver., "head." *God hath delivered thine enemy*, etc. Abishai sought to persuade David that the opportunity to have his bitter enemy slain was of God and that it would be foolish and sinful not to take advantage of it. *Let me smite him*; as Saul had thrice tried to slay David.

II. David's Forbearance, 9-12.

Vs. 9, 10. *David said*; probably at the time only shaking his head decidedly, keeping