

## LESSON NOTES.

## FOURTH QUARTER.

## STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

B.C. 1063.] LESSON IX. [Dec. 2.

## DAVID'S ENEMY, SAUL.

1 Sam. 18. 1-16. Commit to mem. vs. 14-16.

## GOLDEN TEXT.

And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the Lord was with him.—1 Sam. 18. 14.

## CENTRAL TRUTH.

Envy and hatred lead to wretchedness and crime.

TIME.—B.C. 1063. Soon after last lesson. Jonathan 40, David 22 or 23 years old.

PLACE.—Gibeah of Saul, also called Gibeah of Benjamin. It was Saul's royal residence, and was about four miles north of Jerusalem.

INTRODUCTION.—As soon as the Philistines saw that Goliath was dead, they fled, pursued by the Israelites, who overcame them with great slaughter. Saul made David his armour-bearer, and he went to the royal palace to live. Saul's favour toward David was soon turned into bitter hatred and persecution, however, as we shall see in the lesson for to-day.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—1. *Made an end of speaking*—When David had finished answering Saul's questions. (ch. 17. 55-58). *Knit*—Bound, or chained to, denoting the firm union of souls in friendship. 2. *Took him*—Saul took David into his service at court. 3. *A covenant*—A solemn promise of friendship. 4. *Robe*—Upper coat or cloak. *Garments*—Military dress, which included the sword, bow, and girdle which were attached to it. Thus Jonathan solemnly confirms the covenant of friendship on his part. The gift of one's own garment, especially by a prince to a subject, in the East is the highest mark of honour. 5. *Wisely*—The word means both with *prudence* and *success*. *Over men of war*—Made him commander. 6. *Women came out*—To escort the victors home. *Dancing*—The usual expression of rejoicing upon occasions of national triumph. *Tabret*—Or timbrel, an instrument much like our tambourine. 9. *Eyed David*—Looked at him with bitterness and dislike. 10. *Evil spirit*—From God. Because God sent it as a punishment and to reform Saul. The results of sin are always from God, who makes sin bear such fruit. *Prophesied*—Raved as an insane man. *Javelin*—A short spear. It served as a sceptre, and was the symbol of royalty. 13. *Captain over a thousand*—On a distant expedition to get rid of his presence, and also, perhaps, hoping he might be killed in battle. 14. *The Lord was with him*—He who like David walks humbly and obediently in God's ways, sees himself everywhere led by the Lord's hands.

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—Jonathan.—The love of Jonathan and David.—David's character.—Cause of Saul's envy.—Envy and hatred.—David's behaviour under them.—Saul and David contrasted.

## QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—What great victory had David just gained? What did Saul inquire about David? Had he not seen him before? (ch. 16. 18-23). Why did he not recognize him now?

## SUBJECT: HATING OUR BROTHER.

1. A CONTRAST TO HATRED (vs. 1-4).—Who was Jonathan? How would David's coming to the throne affect his life and prospects? What is said of his love to David? What was there in David to call out love? How did Jonathan show his love? Why does love desire to express itself in gifts?

2. A CAUSE OF HATRED (vs. 5-9).—How did Saul reward David for his great service? How did David behave in the midst of his prosperity? Why is prosperity a great test of character? How was David received by the people? In what way did they place him above King Saul? How could David be said to have slain his "ten thousands"? What feelings did this awaken in Saul? What did Saul fear? (1 Sam. 15. 23). Did Saul have as good an opportunity as David to hold the kingdom forever? How would Saul's consciousness of guilt cause him to hate David? What are the common causes of hatred now?

3. THE RESULTS OF HATRED (vs. 10-16).—What was the effect of his envy upon

Saul? How could an evil spirit be said to be from God? Meaning of "prophesied" here. What is the fate of those who hate their brethren? How is this hate manifested? How did David try and help his enemy? (See ch. 16. 23). To what crime would Saul's hatred lead? Show by this how "he that hateth his brother is a murderer." To what sins does hate lead? (1 John 3. 15). Where did his envy lead Saul to place David? Why was Saul afraid of David? How did David behave in all these trials? How should we treat those who hate us? (Matt. 5. 14). What will enable us to do so?

## PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

1. Love desires to give expression to its feelings by gifts to the loved.
2. Envy and hate make their possessors very wretched.
3. Hatred is the fruit of a selfish heart.
4. The results of sin are from the Lord, no matter by whose hand they come.
5. Hatred is the parent of sins and crimes.
6. Blessed are those who act lovingly and wisely amid many provocations.

## REVIEW EXERCISE. (For the whole School in Concert.)

1. How did the people receive David's heroic act? *ANS.* They met him on his return with singing and music and expressions of joy. 2. What did they say? *ANS.* Saul hath slain his thousands, and David has ten thousands. 3. What feelings did this awaken in Saul? *ANS.* It filled him with envy and hate. 4. How did this affect him? *ANS.* It made him very unhappy. 5. To what crime did it lead? *ANS.* It led him to attempt to murder David.

B.C. 1062.] LESSON X. [Dec. 9.

## DAVID'S FRIEND, JONATHAN.

1 Sam. 20. 33-42. Commit to mem. vs. 41, 42.

## GOLDEN TEXT.

A man that hath friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.—Prov. 18. 24.

## CENTRAL TRUTH.

Blessed is true friendship with God and man.

TIME.—B.C. 1062. About a year after David killed Goliath.

PLACE.—Royal palace at Gibeah, 4 miles north of Jerusalem and the stone Ezel (departure), in a field near Gibeah.

INTERVENING HISTORY.—1 Sam. 18. 27; 20. 31.

INTRODUCTION.—David, now about 24 years of age, married Michal, Saul's daughter, but still Saul envied him and tried to kill him. At last Jonathan makes one more attempt to reconcile Saul to David. David lies concealed near the city, while a feast is in progress, and he and Jonathan agree on certain signals, which, unbeknown to any but themselves, will reveal to David the success or failure of Jonathan's efforts. The results are given in to-day's lesson.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—32. *Wherefore be slain... what done*—Jonathan was in a very difficult place to decide between his father and his friend, but he was true to David and not unfaithful to Saul. 34. *Done him shame*—Insulted and wronged him. *Into the field*—Or country, where was the rock Ezel, where David was hid and Jonathan was to meet him. 36. *Run, and out the arrows*—This direction given aloud was the signal agreed on. (1 Sam. 20. 21). *Beyond him*—i.e., farther than the boy had run. This told David there was danger, and he must flee. (1 Sam. 20. 22). 38. *Makes speed, haste*—This was said to hurry the boy so he should not see David. 40. *Artillery*—Bow and arrow. 41. *David weeded*—Wept violently, aloud.

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—Saul's hatred of David.—Jonathan's friendship for David.—The signals.—True friendship, its advantages.—False friendship, its dangers.

## QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—How much time intervenes between this lesson and the last? State some of the things which occurred in the interval. What were Saul's feelings toward David?

SUBJECT: THE FRIENDSHIP OF JONATHAN AND DAVID.

1. THE FOUNDATION OF THEIR FRIEND-

SHIP.—On what occasion was this friendship begun? (1 Sam. 18. 1). What was there in David to call out such strong love? (1 Sam. 16. 18; 18. 8, 10, 14). What was there in Jonathan for David to love? (1 Sam. 20. 4, 14-17. 2 Sam. 1. 23, 26, 27). Can there be the truest friendship without worth on both sides? In what does this love differ from the love we are required to feel toward all men?

2. THE QUALITIES OF THEIR FRIENDSHIP (vs. 32-42).—How did Jonathan try to reconcile Saul to David? What sign had been agreed upon? Where did David hide? What was the result of Jonathan's efforts? Describe the parting of Jonathan and David. What did Jonathan sacrifice for David? (1 Sam. 20. 31; 23, 17). Was this noble? What covenant did Jonathan and David make? (1 Sam. 20. 13-17). Did David keep this covenant? (2 Sam. 9. 1-13). How did Jonathan save David's life? Was this friendship lasting? What noble qualities are shown in it?

3. THE VALUE OF FRIENDSHIP.—Were David and Jonathan better for their friendship? How does true friendship make us better? Why do we grow like our friends? Is friendship full of happiness? How are many ruined by false friendship? What should we do with bad companions? Can one go familiarly with bad company and not be injured?

4. THE FRIENDSHIP OF JESUS.—Who will be our best friend? What must we do in order to have him for our friend? Is there any difference between Christ's love for his personal friends and his love for the world? How has he shown his friendship? How should we show our friendship to him? How will this friendship make us like him? Why is he the best of all friends?

## PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

1. The best friendship requires worth in both parties.
2. Friendship is tested by adversity.
3. We grow like those we love.
4. True friendship exalts, ennobles, and blesses.
5. False friends, bad companions, are the ruin of many.
6. Jesus Christ is our best friend, the noblest, the most self-sacrificing, the closest, the most enduring.
7. We should express our love to him by words, by sacrifices, by gifts, by doing all we can for him.

## REVIEW EXERCISE. (For the whole School in Concert.)

6. With whom did David form a great friendship? *ANS.* With Jonathan, the son of Saul. 7. What made this specially noble on Jonathan's part? *ANS.* He knew that David was to be king in his place, and only asked to be next to him. 8. What did he do for David? *ANS.* He saved his life several times? 9. What qualities are shown in this friendship? *ANS.* Goodness, self-sacrifice, constancy, devotion. 10. Who is our best friend? *ANS.* Jesus Christ our Saviour.

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