

Lesson I.

ABSALOM'S FAILURE

July 4, 1915

2 Samuel 18 : 1-15—*Memory Verse, 5.

Golden Text—Children, obey your parents in the Lord : for this is right.—Ephesians 6 : 1.



1 And Da'vid numbered the people that *were* with him, and set captains of thousands and captains of hundreds over them.

2 And Da'vid sent forth a third part of the people under the hand of Jo'ab, and a third part under the hand of Ab'ishai the son of Zerui'ah, Jo'ab's brother, and a third part under the hand of Itta'i the Git'tite. And the king said unto the people, I will surely go forth with you myself also.

3 But the people answered, Thou shalt not go forth : for if we flee away, they will not care for us ; neither if half of us die, will they care for us : but now *thou art* worth ten thousand of us : therefore now *it is* better that thou succour us out of the city.

4 And the king said unto them, What seemeth you best I will do. And the king stood by the gate side, and all the people came out by hundreds and by thousands.

5 And the king commanded Jo'ab and Ab'ishai and Itta'i, saying, *Deal* gently for my sake with the young man, *even* with Ab'salom. And all the people heard when the king gave all the captains charge concerning Ab'salom.

6 So the people went out into the field against Is'rael : and the battle was in the wood of E'phraim ;

7 Where the people of Is'rael were slain before the servants of Da'vid, and there was there a great slaughter that day of twenty thousand *men*.

8 For the battle was there scattered over the face of all the country : and the wood devoured more people that day than the sword devoured.

9 And Ab'salom met the servants of Da'vid. And Ab'salom rode upon a mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great oak, and his head caught hold of the oak, and he was taken up between the

heaven and the earth ; and the mule that *was* under him went away.

10 And a certain man saw *it*, and told Jo'ab, and said, Behold, I saw Ab'salom hanged in an oak.

11 And Jo'ab said unto the man that told him, And, behold, thou sawest *him*, and why didst thou not smite him there to the ground ? and I would have given thee ten *shekels* of silver, and a girdle.

12 And the man said unto Jo'ab, Though I should receive a thousand *shekels* of silver in mine hand, *yet* would I not put forth mine hand against the king's son : for in our hearing the king charged thee and Ab'ishai and Itta'i, saying, Beware that none *touch* the young man Ab'salom.

13 Otherwise I should have wrought falsehood against mine own life : for there is no matter hid from the king, and thou thyself wouldest have set thyself against *me*.

14 Then said Jo'ab, I may not tarry thus with thee. And he took three darts in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Ab'salom, while he *was* yet alive in the midst of the oak.

15 And ten young men that bare Jo'ab's armour compassed about and smote Ab'salom, and slew him.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Up, up the hill ! King David and his followers were weeping as they climbed. They were leaving their beautiful city of Jerusalem !

Absalom, King David's son, had made all the trouble. He had gathered together an army, and now he was trying to steal his father's throne. He was driving his own father into the wilderness ! Do you wonder that King David was weeping ? He loved Absalom so dearly, and was grieved to the heart that his beloved son should rebel against him.

By and by the sad little band came to a friendly town. Here the people gave them food and help.

Then King David began to make ready for

the battle. He arranged his soldiers in companies of hundreds and thousands, and divided them into three parts, with one of his famous generals as the leader of each part.

He wished to lead his army himself. But he was no longer a young man, and the people cried : "No, no ! If thou shouldst be killed, there is no one to take thy place. Thou shalt stay in the city. If we need it, thou canst send us help."

So David stood in the gateway and watched his soldiers march out to battle.

Absalom's army came on. The horses dashed ahead ! The chariots shook and thundered over the rough ground !

Absalom himself rode upon the mule that

* The Scripture Memory Passages of the Supplemental Leaflets are recommended as a substitute for those here given Sabbath by Sabbath. Their recitation leads to the obtaining of a beautiful Certificate or Diploma.