

✻ The Sunday School ✻

BIBLE LESSON.

Abridged from Peloubet's Notes.

Third Quarter, 1903.

OCTOBER TO DECEMBER.

Lesson XIII.—October 4.

REVIEW.

David brings up the ark.—2 Samuel 6: 1-12.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Blessed are they that dwell in thy house.—Psa. 84: 4.

EXPLANATORY.

RELIGION REVIVED. A MOVEMENT TO BRING THE ARK TO THE CAPITAL.—VS. 1-5. DAVID'S FIRST WORK. When David became king of all Israel and the Philistines became aware of the fact, they immediately made an attack upon him and his kingdom in great force. His first work, therefore, was to organize his army and defend himself. He inquired of the Lord what to do, and then came down upon them as a flood, and swept them once and again out of the country. It is quite probable, as Prof. Willis J. Beecher suggests, that the facts in the books of Samuel are not arranged in the exact order of time, and that the restoration of the ark did not occur till after the close of the wars described in the following chapters. For in 1 Chron. 13: 5 it is said that those who participated in the great event described in our lesson came from the extremes of the country conquered by David, from the Egyptian border on the south to Hamath on the north beyond Damascus, the conquest of which is described in 11 Sam. 8 and 10.

THE ASSEMBLY. 1. AGAIN, after the great assembly for his coronation, DAVID GATHERED TOGETHER, after consultation with the leaders (1 Chron. 13: 1-47). THIRTY THOUSAND; representatives of the whole people. According to Chronicles, they came as far as from Shihor, fifty miles south of Gaza, and from Hamath in Lebanon, two hundred and fifty miles north of Jerusalem. The restoration must be a national act, or it would lose much of its unifying power.

2. AND DAVID AROSE, AND WENT FROM BAAL OF JUDAH. The assembling at Baale is omitted, and the account begins with the great procession as it started on its way with the ark. Baale is an ancient name for Kirjath-jearim (1 Chron. 13: 6). WHOSE NAME IS CALLED. Better, as in R. V., "which is called by the Name." THE LORD. Wherever in our version Lord is written in capitals it is the translation of Jehovah. LORD OF HOSTS. The Lord of all the forces in the universe, organized to do his will,—the hosts of heaven and the hosts of earth; all the forces and powers of nature. THAT DWELLED BETWEEN THE CHERUBIM. "Who thrones upon the cherubim."

THE PROCESSION. AND THEY SET THE ARK

FORCED TO RESIGN.

Lost a Good Position Through Bad Food.

"I felt immediately better after my first meal on Grape-Nuts, which I began to use after my health had broken down and I was a nervous wreck.

"My stomach was in such a condition that I could eat nothing and trying to eat was a burden to me.

"My pulse ran up to 115 and my weight fell 21 pounds I got so I couldn't work and was forced to resign a good position. I took milk punches between meals and quit meat altogether but nothing improved my appetite and the condition of my stomach. I finally went on one meal a day and had to force myself to eat that and was rapidly starving until one day a friend suggested Grape-Nuts.

"Although my palate and stomach had rebelled against all other foods Grape-Nuts agreed immediately and I really relished this food while the changes in my condition have been wonderful. My weight increased from the start and I have now regained 12 pounds while my pulse is normal and I am a new person all over. Life seems worth living and I enjoy all my meals.

"To make sure that this change was due to Grape-Nuts I made the experiment of leaving off the food for five days but I began to go backwards so rapidly that I concluded that I had satisfied my curiosity in this respect and I went back to Grape-Nuts again in a hurry and began to pick up again. Grape-Nuts certainly touched the spot and did the work." Name given by Postum Co. Battle Creek, Mich.

Look in each package for a copy of the famous little book, "The Road to Wellville."

OF GOD UPON A NEW CART. Probably from a desire to keep the ark sacred from anything that had been used for common purposes. So our Lord rode into Jerusalem on a colt "whereon no man ever yet sat." BROUGHT IT OUT OF THE HOUSE OF ABINADAB. In whose son's care the ark had been placed (1 Sam. 7: 1), seventy years before. THAT WAS IN GIBEAH. Rather on the hill (1 Sam. 7: 1), an eminence near Kirjath-jearim, the remains of which can yet be seen. SONS. Descendants, possibly grandchildren.

5. AND DAVID AND ALL THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL PLAYED. "The Hebrew verb means to dance to music, vocal and instrumental. See Judg. 16: 25; Jer. 30: 19; 1 Chron. 13: 8." ON ALL MANNER OF INSTRUMENTS MADE OF FIR WOOD. "The expression is a strange one. Probably we should adopt the reading of the parallel passage in 1 Chron., 'with all their might and with singing.' The Hebrew words are very similar, and the LXX text supports the change." HARPS. David's favorite instrument, probably closely resembling the modern harp. PSALTERIES. Lyres or lutes, formed of strings (six to ten) strained over a parchment, and probably resembled a guitar. TIMBRELS seem to have denoted primarily the tambourine, and generally all instruments of the drum kind which were in use among the Israelites. CORNETS. Loud-sounding instruments made of a horn of a ram or of a chamois, sometimes of an ox, or of silver in imitation of the horn. CYMBALS. Brass instruments of percussion, two being struck together.

RELIGION MISUSED. UZZAH'S WRONG ACT AND DEATH.—VS. 6-9. 6. CAME TO NACHON'S THRESHINGFLOOR. Nachon means smiting, and the threshing floor was thus named after this event, because here was the smiting of Uzzah. In 1 Chron. 13: 9 it is called "the threshing floor of Chidon," the dart, the stroke with which Uzzah was smitten. The place is unknown, but probably it was not far from Jerusalem. UZZAH PUT FORTH HIS HAND TO THE ARK OF GOD. To steady the ark and keep it from falling. FOR THE OXEN SHOOK IT. By stumbling in the rough road (1 Chron. 13: 9). The roads are very rough in Palestine, being mostly only paths for walking, or riding on the back of an animal. The word "shook" probably means were throwing down. The ark was on the point of being thrown off the cart, and was liable to serious injury.

7. AND THE ANGER OF THE LORD WAS KINDLED. Not passion, but rather indignation,—that feeling which makes him hate sin and compels him to punish it. All that was loving and good in God was aroused against the act. AND GOD SMOTE HIM THERE. On the spot, as with a flash of lightning. See the 29th psalm, which is connected in the Septuagint, by its title, with the removal of the ark. This psalm describes a thunderstorm. FOR HIS ERROR. The Hebrew is uncertain, but from other versions it is supported to read "because he put his hand to the ark."

8. AND DAVID WAS DISPLEASED. 9. AND DAVID WAS AFRAID OF THE LORD. He had rejoiced greatly in his zeal, but had not been reverent enough. It was well for him to be afraid for a time. We have reason to fear when we have done wrong, and men usually do fear when God makes any sudden and special manifestation of his punishment of sin.

We need to be taught the value and necessity of reverence. Irreverence tends to the destruction of religion itself. It is death-dealing to the soul. "There is such a thing as godly fear. This godly fear, this reverence, is violated not only by the profane and the infidel, but often by the religious and the worshipful. There is justice in the criticism of Matthew Arnold, who complains of theologians that they talk about God as though he were their next-door neighbor, and they knew all about his affairs."

RELIGION A BLESSING. THE ARK IN THE HOUSE OF OBED-EDOM.—VS. 10, 11. 10. SO DAVID WOULD NOT REMOVE THE ARK. He feared lest he might make some other mistake, and thought it best first to learn all about his duty. CARRIED IT ASIDE INTO THE HOUSE OF OBED-EDOM. A Levite belonging to the family of Kohath (1 Chron. 26: 1, 4-8, with Num. 16: 1), who was appointed to have charge of the tabernacle and ark (Num. 4: 15). It was not more than three or four miles from Jerusalem. THE GITTITE. That is, Gathite, so called because he was a native of the Levitical city Gath-rim-mon, in Manasseh, which belonged to the Kohathites (Josh. 21: 25). Note the courage and faith of Obad-edom in receiving the ark.

11. CONTINUED. . . . THREE MONTHS. Long enough for the Israelites to learn their lesson. AND THE LORD BLESSED OBED-EDOM, AND ALL HIS HOUSEHOLD. This would show to all Israel that the ark itself brought blessing, not death. The death came from disobedience, not from the ark. Another lesson was also taught. The ark of the Lord had been in the house of Abinadab seventy years, and we do not read of any particular benediction falling upon that house. The reason must have been in the difference between the two homes and the spirit with which they received the ark. God is in everything, and close by every person. One feels his pres-

ence, and holds hourly communion with him as Father and Friend; another does not know that he is near. God's Word may be in the house and never be read; or it may be a guide and light and blessing beyond measure. Different persons do not receive the same results from music, or nature, or society.

RELIGION THE LIFE OF THE NATION. THE ARK ESTABLISHED ON MT. ZION.—V. 12. AND IT WAS TOLD KING DAVID, etc. The fact that God blessed the place where the ark was, impressed David with the truth that, while it was dangerous to disobey God, yet it was the greatest blessing possible to have near him the ark of God and his manifest presence. SO DAVID WENT AND BROUGHT UP THE ARK OF GOD, assembling the tribes once more, the most eminent priests, the flower of the army, the princes and the dignitaries. INTO THE CITY OF DAVID WITH GLADNESS. A fuller description of this festival procession is given in 1 Chron. 15 and 16. "It was the greatest day of David's life. Its significance in his career is marked by his own preeminent position,—conqueror, poet, musician, priest in one. It was felt to be a turning-point in the history of the nation. David was on that day the founder, not of freedom only, but of empire; not of religion only, but of a church and commonwealth." The ark was borne on the shoulders of the Levites (1 Chron. 15: 15), amid the greatest enthusiasm.

The residence of Joseph Read, Norwegian vice-consul, was totally destroyed by fire Saturday morning. The fire had made great headway before being discovered. The most of the contents on the ground floor were saved, but most of that in the upper portion was burned. The house was one of the most substantial in the place. There was a small insurance on the building and the loss will be heavy. Nothing on the contents.

BOYS OF TO-DAY.

WILL BE THE MEN OF THE FUTURE.

They Should be Rugged and Sturdy, Full of Life and Ready for Work, Play or Study—Keep Them Healthy.

Growing boys and girls should always be healthy and rugged. Ready for play, ready for study, and ready at any time for a hearty meal. This condition denotes good health but there are entirely too many who do not come up to this standard. They take no part in the manly games all healthy boys indulge in; they are stoop-shouldered, dull and listless; they complain of frequent headaches, and their appetite is variable. Sometimes parents say, "Oh, they'll out grow it." But they won't—its the blood that's out of condition, and instead of getting better they get worse. What boys of this class require to make them bright, active and strong, is a tonic, something that will build up the blood and make the nerves strong. There is no medicine that can do this as quickly and as effectively as Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Mrs. Mary Crompton, of Merriton, Ont., tells what these pills did for her sixteen year old son. She says: "About two years ago my son Samuel began to decline in health. He grew very pale and thin and at times experienced serious weak spells, coupled with a tired, worn out feeling, and as the weeks went by he grew worse. This alarmed me, for my husband had died of what the doctors called pernicious anaemia, and I feared my son was going the same way. I had often read that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills would cure anaemia, and decided that he should try them. A couple of boxes made a decided improvement in his condition, and by the time he had taken a half dozen boxes his health was better than it had been for some years previous. His weight had increased, his listlessness had disappeared, and he was blessed with a good appetite. I may add that other members of my family have been benefited by the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills and I consider these pills the best of all medicines."

Poor and watery blood is the cause of nearly all diseases, and it is because Dr. Williams' Pink Pills act directly upon the blood, both enriching it and increasing the quantity, that they cure such troubles as anaemia, rheumatism, indigestion, neuralgia, heart troubles, incipient consumption and the various ailments that afflict so many women. These pills may be had from any dealer in medicine or will be sent post paid at 50c a box or six boxes for \$2.50 by writing to the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont. If you value your health never allow a dealer to persuade you to take something else.

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