

LESSON VI—August 9th, 1896.

David's Victories. 2 SAM. 10: 8-19.

(Commit to memory verses 11, 12).

GOLDEN TEXT: "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?" Ps. 27: 1.

PROVE THAT—God's service requires courage. Deut. 31: 6.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 72. *What is forbidden in the seventh commandment?* A.

The seventh commandment forbiddeth all unchaste thoughts, words and actions.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 116, 176, 130, 119.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* David's victories. 2 Sam. 10: 8-19. *Tuesday.* A song of victory. Ex. 15: 1-11. *Wednesday.* Divine preservation. 1 Chr. 18: 1-13. *Thursday.* Trust in God. Ps. 144. *Friday.* Deliverance from God. Ps. 18: 32-50. *Saturday.* Praise for deliverance. Ps. 54. *Sabbath.* The soul's warfare. Eph. 6: 10-20. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. Upon hearing of the death of Na'hash, king of Ammon, David remembering past kindness shewn to him by Na'hash, sent a kindly message to Ha'nun congratulating him on his accession, and offering sympathy in connection with his father's death. The princes of Ammon evidently despised David, being jealous of his growing power. They persuaded Hanun that David's messengers were simply spies in disguise. After subjecting them to the vilest insults they sent them back. Knowing that David would not allow such an outrage to pass unavenged, they immediately prepared for war. They succeeded in getting the Ar-a-me'ans of Zo'bah, Re'hob, Ma-a'ah and Tob to make common cause with them. These realms furnished 33,000 hired soldiers. Parallel passage 1 Chron. 9-19.

LESSON PLAN. I. In Battle Array. vs. 8-11. II. Enemies Vanquished. vs. 12-19.

8. **Came out**—Not content with the insult heaped on the messengers of David the "children of Ammon" resolved to meet the army of Israel on the field of battle. The **Syr'ians**—of various states were hired by the Am'mon-ites to make a common cause with them, to check and, if possible, to crush the growing kingdom of David. 9. **Joab**—David's nephew and the commander-in-chief of his army. **Set against him**—The two confederate armies stood facing each other; the army of Am'mon before the city Rab'bah, the army of Sy'ri-a in the plain before Med'e'-ba. If Joab attacked the one army the other would be in his rear. 10. **The rest of the people**—Joab divided his forces. He placed all the skilled men under himself, with the view of attacking the Syrian army which was evidently the more formidable. The rest he placed under the command of Ab-i-sha'i to check the Ammonites. 11. **And he said**—The plan of attack was wisely arranged. A mutual agreement was entered into, in which the one brother would in case of need be ready to render timely help to the other. It is the duty of all the soldiers of Christ as brethren to be thoughtful of each others' condition, to sympathize with and help each other (Phil. 2: 4). 12. **Be of good courage**—Every man that assumes the position of leader in any

worthy enterprise ought to be a man of "courage" or "virtue" (Josh. 1: 6; 2 Pet. 1: 5). Courage is a quality of mind which meets difficulty, danger, pain or death, calmly and fearlessly. Only such as are truly courageous can act the manly part. **The cities of our God**—Joab in his address gave two excellent reasons why they should be "courageous" and quit themselves like men. 1. For our people. 2. For the cities of our God. Patriotism and piety. A truly religious man will be a true patriot. 13. **They fled**—The Syrians were defeated and put to flight. 14. **They likewise fled**—When the children of Ammon saw their allies put to flight, they too lost courage and fled. The army of Israel was victorious for the Lord was on their side. 15. **Gathered themselves together**—Smarting under their defeat, the Syrians made a fresh attempt to recover their lost honors. 16. **Had-a-re'-zer**—To whom a number of petty princes owed allegiance. He summoned forces from a number of different states and placed them under the command of Sho'bach. 17. **Array against David**—David for some reason or other placed himself at the head of the army of Israel and led them forth to battle. Again the Israelites were victorious. The petty princes sued for peace, and acknowledged the supremacy of Israel.

LESSONS. 1. Beware of requiting evil for kindness. 2. Christians ought to encourage and strengthen the hands of their brethren. 3. The soldiers of Christ that do battle valiantly are certain of victory.