

Lesson X.

NATHAN REBUKES DAVID

June 6, 1915

2 Samuel 11 : 22 to 12 : 7a. Study 2 Samuel 11 : 1—to 12 : 7a—Memory Verses, 5-7a.

Golden Text—Create in me a clean heart, O God.—Psalm 51 : 10.

22 So the messenger went, and came and shewed Da'vid all that Jo'eb had sent him for.

23 And the messenger said unto Da'vid, Surely the men prevailed against us, and came out unto us into the field, and we were upon them even unto the entering of the gate.

24 And the shooters shot from off the wall upon thy servants; and some of the king's servants be dead, and thy servant Uri'ah the Hi'tite is dead also.

25 Then Da'vid said unto the messenger, Thus shalt thou say unto Jo'ab, Let not this thing displease thee, for the sword devoureth one as well as another: make thy battle more strong against the city, and overthrow it: and encourage thou him.

26 And when the wife of Uri'ah heard that Uri'ah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband.

27 And when the mourning was past, Da'vid sent and fetched her to his house, and she became his wife, and bare him a son. But the thing that Da'vid had done displeased the LORD.

Ch. 12 : 1 And the LORD sent Na'than unto Da'vid. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor.

2 The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds:

3 But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter.

4 And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him.

5 And Da'vid's anger was greatly kindled against

the man; and he said to Na'than, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die:

6 And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.

7 And Na'than said to Da'vid, Thou art the man.

THE LESSON RETOLD

One day a man named Nathan came to King David and told him a story. Nathan was a good man. He was called a prophet; he listened to God's messages, and told them to the people. God had sent Nathan to David.

King David's happiness was gone. He had sinned hideously. He could not forget the deed he had done. This was the evil thing that David had done. A brave soldier of his, named Uriah, had a beautiful wife, whose name was Bathsheba.

Now David wished to have Bathsheba for his wife, so he formed a very wicked plan to get Uriah put out of the way. He wrote a letter to his general Joab. The letter said, "Put Uriah in the first line of the hottest battle, where he may be hit and killed."

When the next battle was fought, Joab did as David's letter had told him to do. In this battle the army of the Israelites was defeated by their enemies, after a fierce fight, and poor Uriah was killed.

A messenger ran and told David the news. Now one would have expected that David would have been grieved and angry when he heard that his army had been defeated. But Joab knew that the king would be so pleased at hearing of Uriah's being killed, that he would not say anything about the losing of the battle. Could a king be happy after such a cruel deed?

A very short time after Uriah's death, David sent for Bathsheba, and she became his wife. But God was grieved and displeased, and sent Nathan the prophet with a message to David. When Nathan reached the king's palace he told David this story:

"Once there were two men who lived in the same city. The one was rich, the other poor. The rich man had many flocks and herds. The poor man had nothing, except one little lamb.

"The little lamb grew with the poor man's children. He gave his own food to it. He let it drink from his own cup. He often