

**LESSON NOTES.**

THREE MONTHS WITH DAVID AND THE PSALMS.

**THIRD QUARTER.**

KINDNESS TO JONATHAN'S SON.

B. C. 1034.] **LESSON IV.** July 27.

2 Sam 9. 1-13. Commit to mem. vs. 6, 7.

**GOLDEN TEXT.**

Thine own friend and thy father's friend, forsake not.—Prov. 27. 10.

**CENTRAL TRUTH.**

A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

**DAILY READINGS.**

M. 1 Sam. 18. 1-9. Th. Ps. 41. 1-13.  
T. 1 Sam. 19. 1-7. F. 1 Sam. 20. 24-42.  
W. 1 Sam. 20. 1-23. Sa. 2 Sam. 1. 17-27.  
Su. 2 Sam. 9. 1-13.

TIME.—Possibly about B.C. 1040.

PLACES.—(1) Jerusalem, as in last lesson. (2) *Lodebar*, east of the Jordan and north of the Jabbok, and probably near Mahanaim, the capital of Mephibosheth's uncle, Ishbosheth.

INTRODUCTION.—This incident is narrated here without any close connection with what precedes or follows. It forms a conclusion or appendix to the first section of the history of David's reign. Read carefully the story of the relation of David and Jonathan (see Daily Readings).

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—1. *Is there any—*David possibly had never heard of the birth of Jonathan's son. All the rest of Saul's numerous family had perished. *For Jonathan's sake* (1 Sam. 20. 17). 3. *Kindness of God*—Kindness resulting from God's indwelling, and showing itself great and purlike His (Luke 6. 36; Rom. 11. 29). *Lame*—He could make David no return, and he was powerless to do an injury. 5. *Fetch'd*—Did not invite, but brought him—6. *Thy servant*—See under *Mephibosheth*. 7. *Fear not*—From the experience of his family and from Oriental customs he had reason to fear. *Eat bread at my table*—David once feared to eat at Saul's table (1 Sam. 20. 5). 8. *David dog*—The strongest expression an Eastern man could use. A live dog was the object of contempt and dislike. 9. *All that pertained to Saul*—The family estate, inherited by David's wife, Michal (Num. 27. 8), or forfeited to the crown by Ishbosheth's rebellion (chap. 12. 8). 10. *Master's son*—I.e., grandson. 11. *Saul the king*—Read rather, "So Mephibosheth did eat at David's table." 13. *Was lame*—The fact is repeated because so much depends upon it (chap. 16. 1-4; 19. 24-30).

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—Jonathan.—David's relations to Jonathan.—The fortunes of Saul's house.—Ziba.—Mephibosheth.

**QUESTIONS.**

INTRODUCTORY.—How did David become acquainted with Jonathan? What did Jonathan do for David? What covenant did they make? (1 Sam. 20. 14-17). What had become of Jonathan? What had become of Saul and his family? How had David felt about it? (2 Sam. 1. 14-16; 4. 9-12).

SUBJECT: FRIENDSHIP, ITS BLESSINGS AND REWARDS.

I. AN OLD FRIENDSHIP REMEMBERED (vs. 1-4).—What did David ask? Why did he ask it? Why had he not done this before? What was he told? How does this show that Saul's house must have been brought very low? Who was Ziba? What did he say? How did Jonathan's son become lame? Why should Ziba mention the lameness? For whose sake did David do all this? What did David wish to do? Was David under any obligations to do this? How had Saul treated David?

II. AN OLD FRIENDSHIP REVIVED (vs. 5-8).—What did David do? How did Mephibosheth appear before David? What does this show? What did David tell Mephibosheth? Had Mephibosheth any reason to fear? What did David promise? How did Mephibosheth receive this? Who called himself more brutish than any man? (Prov. 30. 2, 3). Was he? Who called himself "the chief of sinners?" Was he? What is meant by such expressions? When should we use them?

III. AN OLD FRIENDSHIP REWARDED (vs. 9-13).—What did David tell Ziba? How could David do this? What was Ziba to do? What shows Ziba's position and wealth? What change would this make in Ziba's condition? Who was Michal? What do we hear of him again? (1 Chron. 8. 34.) Why is Mephibosheth's lameness spoken of again? What more do we hear of Ziba? How was this kindness of David ever rewarded? What are the best rewards of friendship? How can friends be gained? How can they be kept? Who is the best friend?

**PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.**

1. Children may reap when their parents have sown.
2. He that hath a friend "hath given hostages to fortune."
3. The true friend will seek out occasion for kind offices.
4. It is good sometimes to bethink ourselves whether there be any promises or engagements that we have neglected to make good.—HENRY.
5. The kindness of God is that which is shown in God and for God's sake.—BERLEMERGER BIBLE.
6. Treat orphans as a father, and thou shalt be the Son of the Most High.
7. He that watereth shall be watered also himself.—(Prov. 11. 25.)
8. "For Jonathan's sake" illustrates the words "For Christ's sake" and "In His Name."

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

13. How had Jonathan felt toward David? ANS. He loved him as he loved his own soul?
14. What had he done? ANS. He had made a covenant with the house of David?
15. What did David do long after Jonathan's death? ANS. He inquired for any of the house of Saul, that he might show him the kindness of God for Jonathan's sake. 16. What kindness did David show? ANS. He restored Saul's estate to Jonathan's son, and gave him a seat at his own table.

B. C. 1034.] **LESSON V.** [Aug 3.

**DAVID'S REPENTANCE.**

Ps. 51. 1-19. Commit to mem vs. 9-12.

**GOLDEN TEXT.**

My sin is ever before me.—Ps. 51. 3.

**CENTRAL TRUTH.**

Repentance and confession the way to salvation.

**DAILY READINGS.**

M. 2 Sam. 12. 1-23. Th. Luke 15. 1-10.  
T. Psa. 51. 1-19. F. Luke 15. 11-32.  
W. Psa. 32. 1-11. Sa. Matt. 4. 17; Acts 2. 37-47.  
Su. John. 31. 17.

AUTHOR.—David, after he had been king 20 years.

DATE.—About 1034, six years after the last lesson.

PLACE.—2 Sam., chaps. 11 and 12. Psa. 32 was written in the same connection, soon after Psa. 51.

CIRCUMSTANCES.—David had committed the great sin of his life, adultery and murder combined. The prophet Nathan went to him and reproved him. David was humbled, and repented, and this Psalm was the public expression of his repentance. The repentance should be as public as the sin.

DAVID'S CHARACTER.—David was a good man, full of many great and good qualities, and this sin was a great blot on his character because it was so good. No heathen monarch of his time would have thought of the acts as sin. We must look at the great good in David while we abhor this sin.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—1. *Loving-kindness*—Note the three words expressing God's mercy in this verse. *Transgressions*—Note the three words expressing sin, (1) *Transgression*, going over the bound into forbidden ground; (2) *iniquity*, injustice; (3) *sin*, from a word meaning to miss the mark,—failing of duty. 4. *Against thee only have I sinned*—He had wronged man, but all wrong to man is sin against God, and that sin was so great as to overshadow the wrong to man. *That thou mightest be justified*—He confessed his sin, so that he might show that all God's punishment was just. 5. *I was shapen in iniquity*—He inherited wrong tendencies. 7.

*Purge me with hyssop*—I.e., by sprinkling atoning blood upon him (Lev. 14. 52; Num. 19. 19). He wanted the real purification thus symbolized. 12. *Free spirit*—Willing, ready for service. 16. *Thou desirest not sacrifice*—The sacrifice in itself is not what God desires, for it is but a means to a right state of heart which God desires. 18. *Zion, Jerusalem*—Types of the Church and kingdom of God. 19. *Thou shalt be pleased with the sacrifices*—While God does not desire sacrifices as an end or substitute for the right feelings, yet He is pleased with them as the expressions of a grateful and true heart.

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—David's sin.—David's character.—David's repentance.—The 51st Psalm.—Repentance as a way to salvation.—Confession of sin.—The desire for holiness.—The fruits of repentance.—What forgiveness does for us.

**QUESTIONS.**

INTRODUCTORY.—How long had David now been king? What was his character? What great sins did he commit? How could he be said to be "a man after God's own heart?" What parable by the prophet Nathan led him to repentance? (2 Sam. 12. 1-10.) What Psalms did David write expressing his sorrow? Why did he make his repentance so public?

SUBJECT: REPENTANCE, CONFESSION, SALVATION.

I. A PRAYER FOR MERCY (vs. 1, 2).—What was David's great desire after he had sinned? Does this show him to have been a good man at heart? What three words are here used to express God's mercy? Do we all need this mercy? Why? What three words are used to express sin? What is it to be washed from iniquity?

II. REPENTANCE AND CONFESSION (vs. 3-5).—Did David try to hide his sins? Did he blame others for them? Against whom had he sinned? How was it "against thee only?" Why did David confess? What marks of true repentance do you find in these verses? What is meant by being "shapen in iniquity?" What contrast did he see between his deeds and what was required by God?

III. A PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS (vs. 7-9).—Meaning of "purge me with hyssop?" How would he be whiter than snow? What is expressed by "the bones which thou hast broken?" How can a sinner find joy? What is meant by God's hiding his face from sins? What does forgiveness do for us? Does it take away all the consequences of sin?

IV. A PRAYER FOR HOLINESS (vs. 10-12).—What was David's next desire after forgiveness? What is meant by the heart? by a clean heart? Why must it be created? (John 3. 3-5.) What was his prayer as to God's Spirit? What had been the effect upon Saul of the taking away of God's Spirit? What is the joy of salvation?

V. FRUITS OF REPENTANCE (vs. 13-19).—What was the first fruit that followed David's repentance? (v. 13.) How could he do more good to other sinners than he could before? What was the second fruit? (vs. 14, 15.) What was the third fruit? (vs. 16, 17.) What was the fourth fruit? (vs. 18, 19.) How do you reconcile verse 19 with verse 16?

**PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.**

1. Even good men sometimes fall into sin.
2. But they always repent and forsake with their whole heart, as Peter and David, contrasted with Judas and Saul.
3. We should judge of men not by one sin or one good act, but by their character as a whole.
4. The first need of all men is forgiveness of the past.
5. The next need is a new heart.
6. Those who repent will bear fruit in the upbuilding of God's kingdom.

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

1. What took place about the middle of David's reign? ANS. He fell into a great sin. 2. What did he do in regard to it? ANS. He repented with his whole heart. 3. What did he desire? ANS. God's mercy and forgiveness. 4. What next did he pray for? ANS. A new heart, that he might sin no more. 5. How did he show that he was sincere? (1) He confessed his sin publicly; (2) he praised God; (3) he sought to lead others to God.

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48. Wyatt's Rebellion.

**BIOGRAPHICAL.**

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|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Gladstone.            | 23. Napoleon.            |
| 2. Beaconsfield.         | 29. Stephenson.          |
| 3. Nelson.               | 30. Spurgeon.            |
| 4. Wellington.           | 31. Dickens.             |
| 5. Luther.               | 32. Garibaldi.           |
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| 7. Chaucer.              | 34. Fox.                 |
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