

Having chosen Jehovah for his Lord, and entered into solemn covenant with Him, David now makes choice of his people as his future friends and companions. It is the good that are truly great ; they are heaven's nobility. When he comes to the throne Jehovah shall be King over him, and His saints, however humble, shall be princes of the kingdom. With his own elevation from shepherd rank to kingship a new era would begin, and holiness would be the chief title to advancement. The Cromwellian theory was forestalled. Alas, for young enthusiasm ! Old warriors had to be recompensed. "The sons of Zeruiah were too strong for him." Class prejudices had to be satisfied. "The good" were forgotten. "The old Adam was too strong" for the young monarch.

אֲדִיר denotes "bigness," not moral "excellence." The A.V. is too prematurely theological for David's time, and the R.V. lacks continuity.

*"Many are their troubles that hurry after another (Lord, Saul, e.g.). I will not anoint myself with their anointings of blood, and will not take their titles upon my lips."*

The transition of thought from himself and his associates in exile, to the condition of his rival and his followers in power, is easy and natural. His theory of Divine government had led him and his army into great straits ; but neither were his enemies, who held a different theory, free from troubles. They were driven, in maintaining their titles by their own hands, to war and murder. The rejected king was subject to fits of frenzy. נָסַךְ is here mentally contrasted with מָשַׁח, the mere pouring on of the oil with the sacred anointing (2 Sam. xiv. 2 ; 1 Sam. ix. 16 ; xvi. 12). Moreover, Saul's daily anointing was with "blood," and now that Jehovah had rejected him his title was of human right. David shrinks from such a baptism, from the thought of winning the crown, or holding it by such means, and would not take such titles into his lips. Great as his difficulties and hardships are, they are less than the sorrows of those "who followed another lord."

*"Jehovah is the portion of mine inheritance, and of my cup."*