

PHONE 263w STOUFFVILLE

for your

# WHEAT CLEANING and TREATING APPOINTMENT

STATE — Your name and phone number.  
Number of bags of grain to be cleaned.  
If to be treated for smut.  
If to be graded (for removal of wild oats or tares).

Approximate date you wish.

THEN — Have your grain ready for our phone call on previous evening, giving you hour of appointment.

WE SELL SHUR-GAIN and SWIFT'S FERTILIZERS

## DICKSON'S HILL MILLS

263j Evenings

### THIS WEEK'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

**THE REIGN OF DAVID**  
GOLDEN TEXT.—As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the Lord is tried; he is a buckler to all them that trust in him.  
2 Sam. 22:31

**THE LESSON AS A WHOLE**  
Approach to the Lesson

The reign of David was in striking contrast to the reign of Saul, his predecessor. Saul began his kingship on a tidal wave of enthusiasm and optimism, and, apart from a few worthless fellows (1 Sam. 10:27), with the unanimous support of a unified nation. David, on the other hand, came to the throne in a day of disillusion and disappointment and frustration. The Philistines, whom Saul should have crushed beyond recovery, were exulting in a great victory over Israel, in which their king and three of his sons had fallen. The army was dispersed and morale was at a low ebb. In addition, the nation as a whole did not rally to him, and it was only after a hard struggle of seven and a half years that he sat securely on the throne of all Israel.

Nevertheless, from the near wreck which he inherited from the hands of the rejected Saul, David built a strong, united nation, well administered by capable men. He thoroughly crushed the enemy within their own borders, and extended the dominion of Israel north, east, and south, till there was none to challenge his sway. He established a strong capital, centralized the worship of the people, and encouraged true piety throughout the land. True, his reign was not without its tragedies, but he passed on to the hands of his son Solomon a kingdom united and extensive. The peace and magnificence of Solomon's reign must be attributed in large measure to David. The son reaped what his father had sown.

This contrast between Saul and David is traceable to one basic difference. Saul, for all his pretense to obedience, did not have his heart right with the Lord, but sought his own honor (1 Sam. 15:30). David, for all his faults and sins, was a lover of God, a man who humbly accepted the rebukes of the Lord, deeply repented, and set the Lord always before him. As a result, Saul went deeper and deeper into sin and dismay failed, while David, although reaping much bitter fruit of his sins, triumphed over them, and led his people from victory to victory. "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life" (Prov. 4:23).

Verse 5:6.—"Except thou take away the blind and the lame, thou shalt not come in hither." The Jebusites reckoned their stronghold so impregnable that blind and lame men could hold it against any comer. This was really a taunt to David, being their way of defying him.

Verse 7.—"Nevertheless David took the strong hold of Zion." The impregnability of the place and the boast of the Jebusites were no discouragement to David. His generalship and the prowess of his mighty men, were equal to any situation.

Verse 8.—"Whosoever getteth up to the gutter . . . shall be chief and captain." It is thought that a subterranean passage is here referred to as the only approach to the fortress, and such a passage was discovered by Sir Charles Warren. Joab undertook the mission, and was restored to the command which he apparently had lost as a result of his murder of Abner (1 Chron. 11:6).

Verse 9.—"So David dwelt in the fort, and . . . built round about from Millo." Establishing Zion as his capital, he needed buildings to house his officers, and so forth.

"Millo" is rendered "citadel" in the Septuagint. The entire hill thus became a stronghold.

Verse 10.—"And David went on, and grew great, and the Lord God of hosts was with him." The phrase "went on, and grew great," is a Hebrew idiom for "grew greater and greater." The secret was, of course, that the Lord was with him.

Chap. 8:13.—"And David got him a name . . . from smiting of the Syrians." No wonder, for the Syrians were the mighty nation of that day. It was a complete subjugation. See verse 6.

Verse 14.—"And he put garrisons in Edom." And the Lord preserved David. This region (Negeb) has figured in very recent history. David thus secured his southern border.

Verse 15.—"David executed judgment and justice unto all his people." In peace as in war David was zealous in the exercise of justice as in the prosecution of conquests. Apparently Absalom's charges were not well founded (chap. 15:3, 4).

Verse 16.—"And Joab . . . was over the host; and Jehoshaphat . . . recorder." Joab maintained his position throughout David's reign after his seizure of Zion. "Recorder" means "remembrancer." He probably was the official historian.

Verse 17.—"Zadok . . . and Ahimelech." Two high priests were not strictly legal. Zadok was at Gibeon, and Ahimelech at Jerusalem. (Note: the Syriac reads, "Abiathar, son of Ahimelech," and it was Abiathar who came to David in the cave after his father Ahimelech was slain at Saul's command, 1 Sam. 22:20-23.)

Verse 18.—"And Benaiah . . . was over both the Cherethites and the Pelethites." Two small tribes from Philistine territory, who formed the king's bodyguard. Benaiah became commander of the army when Solomon came to the throne.

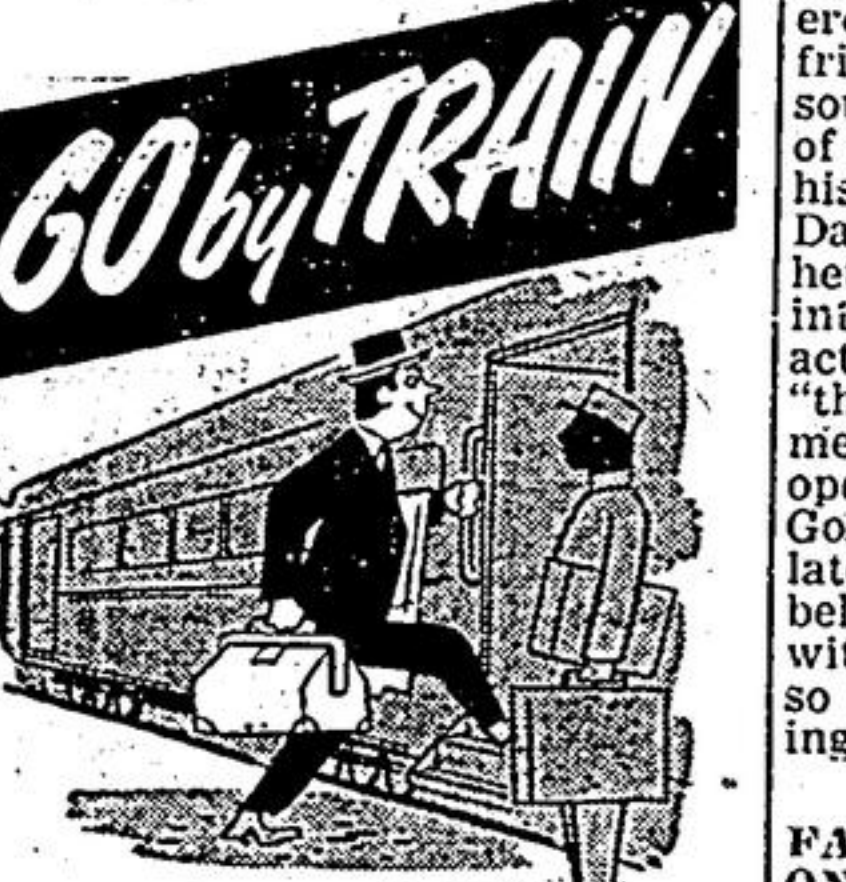
**The Heart of the Lesson**  
Being king of Israel was no easy task. There were enemies within the borders of their land whom the tribes had failed to subdue or drive out, and these were constant pricks and thorns not only hindering the development of the nation, but at times gaining the ascendancy and oppressing the Israelites. The very citadel which David chose as capital was in the hands of the Jebusites, who boasted of their unshakable possession of it. We, too, have inward foes, who hold the very citadel of our being, the will, until our mighty David wrests it from their grasp. Read Romans 7:15-25.

Then there were foes beyond the borders of Israel, jealous of the rising power of David, and seeking occasion to halt his progress. Moab, Syria and Edom, Ammon and Amalek, all had to be subjugated. There was no living amicably with these nations, bent on the destruction of God's people. So we have foes without. The powers of darkness rage against all who name the name of Christ, and there can be no truce. It we would win new territory for our Lord, it will be on the field of battle, not around a conference table.

Kingship also called for administration. So we read of David's organization of the kingdom. He himself held the ministry of justice, but chose men of proved worth to share with him the responsibilities of state in its various branches. We remember that there are diverse offices in the church, and the Apostle Paul reminds us that every member of the body has an assigned task appropriate to his gift. Read 1 Corinthians, chapters 12 and 13.

But a king is also a man, and he is most kindly when he is best performing his duties as a man among men. David did not allow the burdens of kingship to crowd out the finer qualities of pity and generosity. He remembered the lovely friendship of Jonathan, and he sought out the sole surviving son of his friend to do him kindness for his father's sake. The story of David's dealings with Mephibosheth (chap. 9) constitutes a lovely interlude in a life so full of public activity. If only we studied to show "the kindness of God" to needy men, many a bitter heart might be opened for the reception of the Gospel. The thing that made the late King George VI of Britain so beloved was his personal touch with the people, and his kindnesses so freely bestowed, especially during the nation's dark days.

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### FARM PRICES ON WAY UP

Farm prices of agricultural products are on the way up for the first time in a year. The Bureau of Statistics reported last week the turning point came in June.

The bureau's index for June, based on 1935-39 equalling 100, stood at 263.7 compared with 257.8 in May and 300.7 in the same month in 1951. The increase occurred in all provinces.

The bureau said the June gain was attributable mainly to higher prices for livestock, potatoes, poultry and eggs. These offset slightly lower average prices for grains and dairy products.

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