

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson IV, April 25, 1915.

David and Goliath. I. Samuel 17: 1-54. First 17: 38-51.

Commentary.—I. Goliath's challenge and David's acceptance (vs. 1-37). 1-11. The armies of the Philistines and of the Israelites were racing each other in a narrow part of the valley of Elah. The crests of the hills are about a mile apart and five or six hundred feet high. One army occupied the highland on the north, and the other the highland on the south. For one army to leave its place of defence and descend into the plain and ascend the hill on the other side would be to give the other army an advantage and invite defeat. Each army waited thus day after day hoping that the other would leave its place of security, but neither would do so. At last the Philistines challenged the Israelites to decide the struggle by single combat. They named Goliath as their champion, who offered to fight any one of Israel. It was probable that he was the remnant of the Amalekites, nearly all of whom Joshua destroyed, which remnant became identified with the Philistines. Goliath was from eight to ten feet in height. The cubit is the length of the forearm from the tip of the middle finger to the point of the elbow, hence varies so much that the cubit is said to be from sixteen to twenty-one inches. He wore metallic armor weighing from ninety to one hundred and fifty pounds, and his spear weighed from twelve to eighteen pounds. He had a man to carry his shield before him to protect him.

12-37. David's three eldest brothers were in Saul's army and Jesse sent him from Bethlehem to the valley of Elah with food for them. When he saw Goliath's defiance of Israel and the true God, his courage arose and he declared that he was willing to meet the giant. His eldest brother would have David be quiet, but word came to Saul of David's offer and he sent for him. Saul doubted the ability of the youth to fight successfully against the experienced giant, but when David related his combat with a lion and a bear and expressed his faith in God, he consented to let him act as the champion of Israel.

II. David's armor (vs. 38-40). 38. Saul armed David with his armor—"Saul clad David with his apparel." R.V. It seemed to Saul that David should be properly clothed and protected if he was going into battle with such a powerful adversary as Goliath. A helmet of brass—in ancient warfare the vital parts of the body, and in many instances the entire body, were protected with armor that would resist the strokes of the sword or spear. coat of mail—A garment consisting of small, overlapping sheets of metal to cover the upper part of the body. 39. girded his sword.—The sword was worn suspended from a belt, assayed—Attempted, have not proved them—David had had no experience in the use of steel weapons as these, hence he distrusted his ability to use them successfully. 40. staff—The shepherd's crook, chose him five smooth stones—Smooth stones would pass more easily through the air than rough, and would be more likely to hit the mark, out of the brook—Through the centre of the valley ran a brook in the ravine, and there was an abundance of pebbles in the bed of the stream, scrip—A skin bag for carrying his belongings.

III. Goliath's boast (vs. 41-44). 41. The man that bore the shield—Goliath, mighty in physical strength and clad with weighty metallic armor, advanced toward David accompanied by his shield-bearer. David was alone, a youth, and with no weapon of defense. 42. Disclaimed him—Goliath felt insulted when an unarmed youth presented himself for combat against him. A youth—he may have been from 20 to 25 years of age. Ruddy—Auburn-haired. 43. Am I a dog—it was customary for combatants before engaging in a fight to hurl abusive remarks at each other. Goliath's speech was full of venom, but David's was full of pious trust in the God of Israel. The giant considered the staff a fit instrument with which to punish that despised animal, the dog. Cursed David by his gods—The gods of the Philistines were Dagon, Baal and Ashtoreth. Goliath called down upon David the curses of these gods. 44. I will give thy flesh, etc.—The giant believed he could easily vanquish his adversary. He had no regard for God, in whose name David trusted. He was boastful, and it was only a few minutes until his boasting was shown to be in vain.

IV. David's victory (vs. 45-54). 45. Then said David—it was not simply a contest of man with man, but of the true God with false gods. David expressed his firm reliance upon his God. 46. The Lord will deliver thee into mine hand—Goliath boasted in himself, but David depended upon Jehovah. That all the earth may know—David was not considering his own exaltation from the expected victory, but had the honor of God in view. 47. The battle of the Lord's—From a human standpoint, the advantage was entirely in Goliath's favor. His helmet of brass, his coat of mail, greaves and shield promised complete protection from any missile his youthful antagonist could hurl, but David looked higher than the natural. He believed God would interpose in his behalf. 48. David basted—He was eager to meet and defeat the foe of God and Israel. 49. Smote the Philistine in his forehead—The stone either struck an unprotected spot or pierced the giant's helmet. Some suppose that Goliath raised his head either in using his spear or in laughing in disdain at his antagonist, and thus exposed his forehead to the missile. David did his best in slinging the stone and trusting God, and God gave the victory. 50. No sword in the hand of David—There was given him a sword when Saul put his armor upon him, but he had laid it aside for the weapon with which he was familiar, and which proved to be the one weapon with which he could successfully meet his great opponent.

51. Philistines . . . fled—According to the arrangement previously made they were defeated, for Goliath, their champion, had been slain by the champion of the Israelites.

Questions.—What positions did the armies of Israel and the Philistines occupy in the opening of the lesson? What plan was offered for deciding who should be the victor? Describe Goliath and his armor. How long did Goliath defy Israel? Describe the coming of David to the camp of Israel. What offer did he make? What was the outcome of the combat? Why did David undertake the contest with Goliath?

PRACTICAL SURVEY.

Topic.—Faith demonstrated.

I. For the exaltation of divine power.

II. For the deliverance of Israel.

I. For the exaltation of divine power. Faith here stands alone in the person of David. Abject terror reigned throughout the entire army of Israel. The Philistines proposed to make the issue depend on a single combat between their champion and an Israelite warrior whom they might appoint to meet him. The impotence of Saul and his army without God, was thereby clearly and conclusively demonstrated.

It was after that humiliating demonstration that the Lord brought into the field his own champion. During his retirement David received that divine preparation which should fit him for great achievements, especially the overthrow of the adversaries of Israel. To him it was an abhorrent strength against God. With all the sincerity of goodness and force of conviction he was not afraid to let it be known that he differed from others. Faith in God gave him at once the true point of view. He felt that the cause of the armies of Israel was the cause of the living God and that the Philistines were arrayed therefore against the power of God. That the power of God is adequate to any need was the basis of David's reasoning. The proud challenge of Goliath fully justified David's burning indignation and patriotic zeal. There was cause to act and cause to speak when God's honor was outraged. In David's sense of Goliath's sin increased in proportion as his faith in God expanded. While Israel thought of Goliath's strength David thought of God's power. He had been living in communion with God, storing up spiritual strength which he exhibited under circumstances which appalled the hearts of other men. There was settled within his soul a deep and holy confidence in the existence and absolute rule of the divine Being. His jealousy for the honor of the God of Israel was equal to his confidence in his ability to save. His one desire was to take away the reproach from Israel and to let all the world know that there was a God in Israel.

II. For the deliverance of Israel. Before David well knew to what he had committed himself, he found himself pledged to a deadly conflict with Goliath, the champion of idolaters. David felt the immeasurable difference between material force and moral force, between man at his proudest and God using his feeblest instrument. When the moment came for the conflict, David did not hesitate. He declared his faith to the giant that "the Lord saveth not with sword and spear." The issue proved that the Philistines laid the foundation of their own defeat when they deprived Israel of swords and spears and compelled them to try other means for the accomplishment of their deliverance. David's determination to fight only with the weapons with which he was familiar was a stroke of military genius, though his confidence rested mainly in the immutability of God, the divine worker. He who defied the armies of Israel had to reckon with the God of those armies. David was specially prepared, providentially led and inwardly impelled to the conflict. He felt the seriousness of the crisis, notwithstanding his bravery. He conquered the temptation to share in the general cowardice of the army before he conquered Goliath. Instead of being overcome by the rage of Eliab, David went on his course with the same glowing enthusiasm as before. A marvelous exhibition was given that day in the valley of Elah that those who are gentle under provocation are strongest in the fight, and that meekness is really an attribute of might.

In David simplicity and strength of heart appear throughout together with meekness, modest dignity, courage, humility and confidence. Though the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul, he could recognize the workings of that Spirit and bid Godspeed to another in an exploit forbidden to himself. Goliath, representing mere human force, appeared with sword and shield, helmet and spear. David, representing faith, appeared with simple sling and stone, but in God's strength and in his name. The vainglories of the Philistines were silenced by the son of Jesse. David gained three victories in quick succession: first, over the spirit of anger in Eliab; second, over the precautions of disbelief in Israel; and third, over the proud blasphemer, Goliath. David's victories were victories for all Israel.

T. R. A.

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FARM GARDEN

FAT AND LEAN.

In the busy world of dairying even a few meagre calculations show great differences, whether in cows, their owners, the land, the bank deposits or the cost of fat, etc., fat and lean are mixed, good results and poor, even on adjoining farms, even in two stalls in the one stable. One owner gets perhaps 200 pounds of milk from each lean, hungry acre; a neighbor, with better methods, produces the fat total of seventeen hundred pounds of milk per acre, keeping 16 good cows on a well-tiled eighty-acre farm. One milk producer with poor grade cows, never averages of less than three thousand pounds of milk per cow; another producer, who is a real dairyman, revels in the knowledge of each of his sixteen cows giving over eight thousand pounds of milk that will test fairly rich in fat.

Then when it comes to feeding for profit, not simply for existence, we find one man with a hundred pounds of milk costing him only 59 cents for feed but a neighbor has to admit the impeachment of milk costing him per hundred at least 90 cents, perhaps over a dollar. So one will make the fat profit above feed of over thirty dollars per cow, while his neighbor is down to the lean margin of only three dollars. Why do such amazing differences occur? Primarily because dairyman has not studied each cow individually. Dairy records alone can shed light on these problems.

In one dairy record centre maintained by the dairy division, Ottawa, in 1914 there were such surprising contrasts in yields of milk and fat that they have command the attention of every progressive dairyman.

The best cow is one herd, gave only 4,158 pounds of milk and only 155 pounds of fat; the average of the whole herd was only 3,772 pounds of milk and 136 pounds of fat. In a herd near by the poorest yield of any one cow was 5,658 pounds of milk and 278 pounds of fat; the herd average was 7,255 pounds of milk and 312 pounds of fat.

There were several individual yields of over eight thousand pounds of milk, while one good grade cow gave 14,400 pounds of milk and 562 pounds of fat.

Coming to the cost of feed, plenty of herds had an average cost per cow of from forty to fifty-five dollars; even at these high figures the profit above the cost of feed ran up to forty-six and fifty dollars as the herd average.

Such results are full of encouragement for the owners, and augur well for the future of cow testing in the Maritime Provinces. Other dairymen may well strive to emulate these records of fifty and sixty-five dollars clear profit above the cost of feed as made by good individual cows. This sensible method of determining the respective merit of each cow as a profit maker lays a solid foundation for building up a singularly interesting herd from a modern business standpoint.

TREATMENT OF SMUT.

Commissioner Clark, writing in the Agricultural War Book on "Treatment for Smut Prevention" says that in Eastern Canada there is considerable smut in the grain crops each year, but that it has not been sufficiently prevalent to make treatment for its prevention general. The losses, however, are much greater than is commonly realized, and the value of the crop could be considerably increased if treatment for smut prevention were more generally practiced. Over half the samples of fall wheat collected in Ontario contain smut, and it is also very common in the spring crops, especially oats. Reports on the samples treated indicate that formalin, one pound in forty gallons of water, is much more popular than bluestone as a preventative.

EXPERIMENTS IN WEED ERADICATION.

During the past three years (1912-13-14) the Department of Botany of the Ontario Agricultural College, in connection with the work of the Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union, carried on co-operative experiments in the eradication of weeds. Some forty-five farmers co-operated in this work. The weeds experimented with were perennial sow thistle, twitch grass, bladder campion, wild mustard and ox-eye daisy. Some very interesting and valuable results were obtained. Those who took part in these experiments profited by the experience. In nearly every instance they cleaned the field experimental with and demonstrated to their own satisfaction the effectiveness of the methods tried, and at the same time the results furnish practical information to others. Some of the practical information gained from these co-operative weed experiments.

1. That good cultivation, followed tails of "the way somebody blundered by rape sown in drills, provides a means of eradicating both perennial sow thistle and twitch grass."

2. That rape is a more satisfactory crop to use in the destruction of twitch grass than buckwheat.

3. That rape gives much better results in the eradication of twitch grass and perennial sow thistle when sown in drills and cultivated, than it does when sown broadcast.

4. That thorough, deep cultivation in fall and spring, followed by a well cared for hoe'd crop, will destroy bladder campion.

5. That mustard may be prevented from seeding in oats, wheat and barley by spraying with a twenty per cent solution of iron sulphate.

These co-operative weed experiments will be continued this year. The weeds to be experimented with are perennial sow thistle, twitch grass, bladder campion or cow bell, wild mustard and ox-eye daisy. All who have any of these weeds on their farms are invited to write to the Director of Co-operative Experiments in Weeds Eradication, G. A. C. Gough, Ontario, who will gladly

communicate concerning this experiment work.

SEEDS AND BUSTS OF GRAIN CROPS.

It is estimated that the losses sustained from smuts in Ontario grain crops amount to \$2,250,000 annually, about two-thirds of which occur in oats, wheat being the next greatest sufferer. To cope with this danger, Bulletin 22, entitled "Smuts and Rusts of Grain Crops," prepared by J. E. Howitt and R. E. Stone, has been issued by the Ontario Department of Agriculture, for free distribution to those who may apply for it. This very practical bulletin goes fully into the cause and cure of smuts and rusts, and gives a number of ways of treating seed grain in order to avoid or lessen injury to grain crops from these causes. Practical farmer will find it as a valuable adviser regarding relief from these two common grain troubles.

EXPERIMENTS WITH FARM CROPS

The members of the Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union are pleased to state that for 1915 they are prepared to circulate into every Township of Ontario material of high quality for experiments with Grain, Fodder, Crops, Roots, Grasses, Clovers and Alfalfa, as follows:

No. 1—Testing two varieties of Oats 2 plots.

No. 2a—Testing O.A.C. No. 21 Barley and Emmer 2 plots.

No. 2b—Testing two varieties of two-round Barley 2 plots.

No. 2—Testing two varieties of Hulless Barley 2 plots.

No. 4—Testing two varieties of Spring Wheat 2 plots.

No. 5—Testing two varieties of Buckwheat 2 plots.

No. 6—Testing two varieties of Field Peas 2 plots.

No. 7—Testing two varieties of Spring Rye 2 plots.

No. 8—Testing two varieties of Soy, Soja, or Japanese Beans 2 plots.

No. 9—Testing three varieties of Husking Corn 3 plots.

No. 10—Testing three varieties of Mangels 3 plots.

No. 11—Testing two varieties of Sugar Beets for feeding purposes 2 plots.

No. 12—Testing three varieties of Fall Turnips 3 plots.

No. 13—Testing two varieties of Fall Turnips 2 plots.

No. 14—Testing two varieties of Carrots 2 plots.

No. 15—Testing three varieties of Fodder and Silage Corn 3 plots.

No. 16—Testing three varieties of Millet 3 plots.

No. 17—Testing two varieties of Sorghum 2 plots.

No. 18—Testing Grass Peas and two varieties of Vetches 3 plots.

No. 19—Testing Rape, Kale and Field Cabbage 3 plots.

No. 20—Testing three varieties of Clover 3 plots.

No. 21—Testing two varieties of Alfalfa 2 plots.

No. 22—Testing four varieties of Grasses 4 plots.

No. 22—Testing three varieties of Field Beans 3 plots.

No. 24—Testing two varieties of Sweet Corn 2 plots.

No. 23—Testing three grain mixtures for grain production 3 plots.

No. 30—Testing three grain mixtures for fodder production 3 plots.

Any person in Ontario may choose any one of the experiments for 1915 and apply for the same. The material will be furnished in the order in which the applications are received, while the supply lasts. Each applicant should make a second choice, as the first choice might be exhausted before his application is received. All material will be furnished free of charge to each applicant, and the produce will, of course, become the property of the person who conducts the experiment. Each person applying for an experiment should write his name and address very carefully, and should give the name of the county in which he lives.—C. A. Zavitz, Director, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, March, 1915.

AVERAGE VALUES OF ONTARIO CROPS.

The figures in the following table are obtained or deduced from the Census and Statistics Monthly for December, 1914, and January, 1915. Profits per acre for 1914 will vary with the cost of production, yield and market price.

Average yields and values per acre of field crops for Ontario in 1914:

Crops Av. yield Av. value per acre per bush.

Fall wheat 21.51 \$23.22

Spring wheat 13.80 20.12

Oats 35.00 17.15

Barley 30.34 19.42

Corn (husking) 36.11 38.71

Flax 15.76 26.79

Rye 17.19 14.61</p