

The Sunday-School.

THIRD QUARTER,
LESSON VI.—August 9.

DAVID AND GOLIATH.

I Samuel 17: 38-49.

Study Verses 32-54. Read the Chapter;
also I Chron. 11: 10-14.GOLDEN TEXT.—*If God be for us, who
can be against us?*—Rom. 8: 31.THE LESSON.—The entire chapter, to-
gether with the brief account in I
Chron. 11: 10-14.LEARN BY HEART.—Vs. 45-47; Prov.
16: 18; Phil. 4: 13.HISTORICAL SETTING.—*Time*.—Prob-
ably about B.C. 1063, or about 1020 B.
C., according to the Assyrian Canon.
Two or three years after the last lesson.*Place*.—The upper part of the valley
of Elah, which extended from the Philis-
tine country beyond Gath, southeasterly
to the hills near Hebron.*Persons*.—Saul, still king of Israel.
Samuel, in his retirement at Ramah.
David, about twenty-two years old; his
home at Bethlehem. Goliath, the Philis-
tine from Gath, was perhaps, as Geikie
says, "one of the last of the old gigantic
race of the Anakim, which Israel had
overcome at the time of the conquest,
and round whom hung a superstitious
terror." His four brothers were also
giants.GOLIATH A TYPE OF WORLDLY POWER.
—I Sam. 17: 1-31. After David's in-
troduction to Saul's court an event oc-
curred which profoundly influenced the
fortunes of Saul and David. This was
a powerful attack from the Philistines.
This formidable enemy had gathered its
armies, and marched up the valley of
Elah to Shocho, about sixteen miles
southwest of Jerusalem and half that
distance from Bethlehem. As the two
armies faced each other, Goliath, of
Gath, stepped forth from the Philistine
troops, and challenged any Israelite to
decide the war by single combat. The
challenge was renewed, morning and
evening, for forty days. Goliath was a
giant, 9 feet 8 inches high.An unexpected champion redeemed
the Hebrew cause. David, sent from
tending his father's sheep to bear food to
his three older brothers a few hours'
walk away, happened to hear Goliath's
challenge. He also heard that Saul had
offered, to any one who would conquer
Goliath, immense wealth, his own daugh-
ter in marriage, and political freedom
for his father's house. At once he pre-
sented himself for the trial.GOLIATH, A TYPE OF WORLDLINESS. 1.
In his bulk. The church struggling
against the world, often finds vast forces
arrayed against it—millions of money,
armies of men, mighty reputations.2. In his armor. Worldly evils, like
intemperance, political corruptions,
social vice, gambling, infidelity, seem
as adamant.3. In the awe he inspired. Men shrink
from opposing the world, from stand-
ing with the minority—and God.4. In his pride. Worldly evils are ar-
rogant and contemptuous toward re-
ligious forces.5. In his real weakness. The world,
like Goliath, can be humbled by God at
a touch. No sincere reformer has ever
attacked it in vain.DAVID, A TYPE OF THE CHRISTIAN
FIGHTING AGAINST EVIL.—I Sam. 17: 32-

37. When David proposed to fight Goliath, Saul looked at him in amazement. He was only a youth, and of slight body. To reassure Saul, David told him how, in his shepherd days he had fought singlehanded with a lion and a bear that attacked his father's sheep. Evidently, however, his reliance was not on his own prowess but on God's upholding. Finally Saul gave permission for the combat.

LESSONS FROM DAVID.—If Goliath is a fit type of the evil world, how is David a fit type of the man of God fighting against it?

1. In his apparent insignificance. Even yet the church seems weak, in money and other resources, compared with the power of opposing evils.

2. In his real power. "One, with God, is a majority."

3. In his superb confidence. The church has no doubt of its ultimate triumph.

4. In his simple weapons, as we see in the next section. The church will conquer the world, not by the use of the world's weapons, but by gentleness, reason, love, the indwelling Spirit of God.

SAUL'S ARMOR: EVERY MAN TO HIS OWN WEAPON.—Vs. 38-40. *Saul armed David with his armor.* David must have been at least twenty years old, or he would not be large enough to wear Saul's armor at all. *And David girded his sword upon his armor, and he assayed to go.* He tried to walk, but staggered under the unusual weight. *For he had not proved it.* That is, he had never before tried to wear armor. He frankly told Saul, *I cannot go with these.**Practical*.—Be contented with the gifts and opportunities God has made natural for you.*And put them off him.* He desired to go forth to the battle in the lightest possible armor: strong in the Lord, not in himself. *And he took his staff in his hand.* The shepherds of the East always carry a staff. *And choose him five smooth stones out of the brook.* Smooth that they might fly more swiftly and accurately. *And put them in the shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip.* The scrip was a small leather bag, the wallet in which a traveller would carry food and other necessities. *And his sling was in his hand.* Shepherds of the East carry a sling and stones still for driving away and killing the enemies of the flock.

THE LESSON.—Every Christian has his own best way of doing work for God. Some can sing. Some can speak in prayer meeting. Some are most useful in private conversation, in prayer, teaching in Sunday school, writing letters or books. Good work comes, not from imitating others, but from developing your own speciality. Every one can do something.

GOLIATH'S DISDAIN: HOW THE WORLD SCORNS THE MAN OF GOD.—Vs. 41-44. *The Philistine came on.* He must have been a terrible object, with his great stature, and his clanking armor. *And the man that bare the shield went before him.* His armor-bearer. *Disdained him.* There is a legend that Goliath, ridiculing David, threw back his head in laughter,—a gesture which shifted his helmet so that his forehead was exposed to David's missile. *Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves?* Goliath did not notice the sling. The staff was ordinarily employed againstbeasts. *And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.* The combat thus became a question not merely between David and Goliath, but between God and idols. *I will give thy flesh unto the fowls.**The Folly of Pride*.—The world trusts in size, strength, and money.DAVID'S CONFIDENCE: HOW GOD'S MEN SHOULD MEET THE WORLD.—Vs. 45-47. David was not a man to be daunted by big words. *Thou comest . . . with a shield, but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the hosts of heaven, or the armies of Israel, or both. This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand.* It was God who was to conquer, and not David. *Unto the fowls of the air.* David repeats Goliath's threat (v. 44). *That all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.* That Israel hath a God. *And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth not with his sword and spear.**The Christian's Confidence*.—1. It knows God's power. 2. It trusts God's promises. 3. It remembers the victories of the past. 4. It seeks God's glory and not its own. 5. It boldly faces overwhelming odds. 6. It disregards temporary reverses. 7. It is always victorious in the end.DAVID'S VICTORY: TRUST IN GOD JUSTIFIED.—Vs. 48-50, and to the end of the chapter. *The Philistine . . . drew nigh.* In his contempt and anger. *David hastened, and ran toward the army* (the Philistine troops) *to meet the Philistine.* David thus showed his courage and his eagerness for the combat. He ran also, that he might sling a stone with greater force. *Took thence a stone, and slang it, first whirling his sling around his head. And smote the Philistine in his forehead.* Goliath's armor, if he wore the whole of it, covered all his person but his eyes and the part of his forehead just above,—almost the only part where a small stone hurled from a sling could inflict a fatal injury. *That the stone was sunk into his forehead, and he fell upon his face to the earth.* He was running and bending forward.

The remainder of the chapter relates how David ran and stood upon the prostrate giant, drew his great sword and cut off his head, which was afterwards preserved at Jerusalem, while the young warrior preserved the armor in his tent.

Dismayed at the fall of their champion, the Philistines fled, while the Israelites pursued them for nearly twenty-five miles, slaying many, till they found refuge in their fortified cities, Ekron and Gath. Then Saul and his men returned, and spoiled the abandoned tents of the Philistines.

DAVID'S COMBAT—A TYPE OF CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE.—1. As David was amazed at the supineness of the Hebrew warriors, and indignant at the insults offered by Goliath, so every Christian should be eager to avenge upon Satan the insults he offers constantly to Christ.

2. Satan appears in many gigantic forms, which we must fight,—our own sin, the iniquity around us, mammon, corruption, intemperance, impurity, infidelity.

3. Our adversary, Satan, is mightier than we. But we also may advance "in the name of the Lord of hosts."

4. Like David, we must reject the weapons of the world,—selfish prudence, cynical maxims, regard for money, and the like.

5. But, like David again, we must use some weapon,—the one that God has given us. Each soul has his own best way of fighting God's enemies and doing God's work. Discover that way, practise it, use it.

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SMOOTHES THE DAY.

"Since I began," said Dr. Payson, when a student, "to beg God's blessing on my studies, I have done more in one week than in the whole year before." Luther, when most pressed with his gigantic toils, said, "I have so much to do that I cannot get along without three hours a day of praying. Gen. Havlock rose at four, if the hour for marching was six, rather than lose the precious privilege of communion with God before setting out. Sir Matthew Hale said: "If I omit praying and reading God's Word, in the morning, nothing goes well all day." (Mark 1: 35).



Out of the Shadow.

The discouragement, the despair of ill-health, out in the noon-tide glory of health, vigor and strength. Are you seeking this way? Are you wishing to replace weakness by strength, despondency by hope and expectation, pale cheeks and lusterless eyes by roses bloom and sparkling eyes. If you but use Ferrozone you will make rich red blood, your nerves will grow strong. Old time vigor will return and with it endurance that will enable you to live an active, energetic and successful life. Remember the name, Ferrozone. Sold by all druggists.

He who would be a great soul in the future must be a great soul now. —
R. W. Emerson.

Ignorance is a Curse.—"Know thyself" is a good admonition, whether referring to one's physical condition or moral habitudes. The man who is acquainted with himself, will know how to act when any disarrangement in his condition manifests itself. Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil is a cheap and simple remedy for the eradication of pain from the system and for the cure of all bronchial troubles.

You can never offer salvation to the wrong person.—C. D. Meigs.

Good Digestion Should Wait on Appetite.—To have the stomach well is to have the nervous system well. Very delicate are the digestive organs. In some so sensitive are they that atmospheric changes affect them. When they become disarranged no better regulator is procurable than Parmelee's Vegetable Pills. They will assist the digestion so that the hearty eater will suffer no inconvenience and will derive all the benefits of his food.

No fountain is so small that heaven may be imaged in its bosom.—Nathaniel Hawthorne.