

SCHOLARS' NOTES.

(From Westminster Question Book.)

LESSON XII.

Sept. 16, 1883. [1 Sam. 1: 21-28.]

A PRAYING MOTHER.

COMMIT TO MEMORY vs. 26-28.

21. And the man Elkanah, and all his house went up to offer unto the Lord the yearly sacrifice, and his vow.
22. But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, I will not go up until the child be weaned, and then I will bring him, that he may appear before the Lord, and there abide for ever.
23. And Elkanah her husband said unto her, Do what seemeth thee good; tarry until thou have weaned him; only the Lord establish his word. So the woman abode, and gave her son suck until she weaned him.
24. And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bullocks, and one ephah of flour, and a bottle of wine, and brought him unto the house of the Lord in Shiloh: and the child was young.
25. And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to Eli.
26. And she said, Oh my lord, as thy soul liveth, my lord, I am the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the Lord.
27. For this child I prayed: and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of him:
28. Therefore also I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord. And he worshipped the Lord there.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord."—1 SAM. 1: 28.

TOPIC.—A Picture of a Godly Mother.

LESSON PLAN.—1. TRAINING HER CHILD AT HOME, vs. 21-23. 2. DEDICATING HIM TO THE LORD, vs. 24-28.

Time.—B.C. 1171. Place.—Ramah and Shiloh. INTRODUCTORY.

The first book of Samuel contains the history of the Israelites from the birth of Samuel to the death of Saul. At the close of the period of the judges the civil authority was united with the spiritual in the person of Eli, who was high priest (1: 9) as well as Judge in Israel (4: 18). He resided at the tabernacle in Shiloh, and was assisted in the discharge of his duties by his sons Hophni and Phinehas. During the time of his administration Samuel was born. His mother had vowed that if the Lord would give her a son, she would give him unto the Lord all the days of his life (v. 11). At his birth she called his name Samuel ("heard of God") in grateful acknowledgment that God had heard her prayer. How this praying mother fulfilled her vow we learn in this lesson.

LESSON NOTES.

V. 21. WENT TO OFFER UNTO THE LORD.—at Shiloh, where the tabernacle had remained since the time of Joshua. AND HIS VOW.—the solemn expression of his concurrence in Hannah's vow. V. 22. HANNAH WENT NOT UP.—men only were required to attend the solemn feasts (Ex. 23: 17) but Hannah, like other pious women, was in the habit of going; now she thought it best to remain at home until her son was of a proper age for her to fulfil her vow. V. 23. THE LORD ESTABLISH HIS WORD.—complete his work by accepting as his servant all his days the child given in answer to prayer. V. 24. WHEN SHE HAD WEANED HIM.—this might be after he had reached his third year, or even later. THREE BULLOCKS.—the Old Testament in Greek reads "a bullock of three years." Some suppose that there were three bullocks, one for each year of the child's life, and that they were used for the three greater sacrifices—the burnt, sin and thank offerings. ONE EPHAH OF FLOUR—for a meal—that is, food—offering. Lev. 2: 1-11. A BOTTLE OF WINE—to be poured out with the meat offering. With this sacrifice of thanksgiving Hannah presented herself and her child before Eli. V. 26. AND SHE SAID.—standing in the very place where she had prayed, with her child in her arms or at her side, she made herself known to Eli, and for the first time revealed to him the burden of her prayer. V. 27. THE LORD HATH GIVEN ME MY PETITION.—has heard and answered my prayer. V. 28. THEREFORE.—she gladly and promptly renews her vow. LENT HIM TO THE LORD.—marginal reading, "returned him, whom I have obtained by petition, to the Lord."

TEACHINGS: 1. God hears the prayers of parents for their children. 2. Parents may make promises for their children according to the will of God. 3. They should thankfully acknowledge his mercies and promptly fulfil their vows. 4. They should dedicate their children to the Lord from their birth. 5. A praying mother is a precious blessing.

LESSON XIII.

Sept. 23, 1883. [1 Sam. 8: 1-19.]

THE CHILD SAMUEL.

COMMIT TO MEMORY vs. 10-13.

1. And the child Samuel ministered unto the Lord before Eli. And the word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no open vision.
2. And it came to pass at that time, when Eli was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see;
3. And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep;
4. That the Lord called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I.
5. And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down.
6. And the Lord called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again.

7. Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, neither was the word of the Lord yet revealed unto him.
8. And the Lord called Samuel again the third time: And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the Lord had called the child.
9. Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down; and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place.
10. And the Lord came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.
11. And the Lord said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.
12. In that day I will perform against Eli all things which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end.
13. For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth: because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.
14. And theretore I have sworn unto the house of Eli, that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering for ever.
15. And Samuel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the Lord. And Samuel feared to show Eli the vision.
16. Then Eli called Samuel, and said, Samuel, my son. And he answered, Here am I.
17. And he said, What is the thing that the Lord hath said unto thee? I pray thee hide it not from me: God do so to thee, and more also, if thou hide any thing from me, of all the things that he said unto thee.
18. And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said, It is the Lord: let him do what seemeth him good.
19. And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth."—1 SAM. 8: 9.

TOPIC.—A Picture of a Godly Child.

LESSON PLAN.—1. THE CHILD CALLED, vs. 1-10. 2. THE MESSAGE GIVEN, vs. 11-14. 3. THE MESSAGE DELIVERED, vs. 15-19.

Time.—B.C. 1160. Place.—Shiloh, at the tabernacle of the Lord. INTRODUCTORY.

While Samuel was yet very young he was entrusted to the care of Eli and began to assist in the services of the sanctuary (2: 11), clothed in an official robe (2: 18). Josephus says he was twelve years old when he received the call to the prophetic office and the first message from the Lord, of which we are to study in this lesson. (Compare Luke 2: 42.)

LESSON NOTES.

V. 1. MINISTERED.—performed such duties as were suited to his age. God accepts the services of children. THE WORD OF THE LORD WAS PRECIOUS.—there were few revelations from God. NO OPEN VISION.—no open appearances or audible voice; no publicly accredited prophet to whom the people might go to know the will of God. V. 2. ELI WAS LAID DOWN IN HIS PLACE.—in an apartment built for his use near the tabernacle, not in it. V. 3. THE LAMP OF GOD.—the portion of the gold lampstand which held lamps partly filled with oil, which were suffered to burn out. WAS NOT YET PUT OUT.—this indicates that it was not yet morning, and probably was before midnight. IN THE TEMPLE.—the tabernacle. SAMUEL WAS LAID DOWN.—near Eli. THE LORD CALLED SAMUEL.—probably from the holy place, near which both Samuel and Eli were lying. HERE AM I.—all should thus promptly answer when God calls. V. 5. HE HATH GIVEN ME MY PETITION.—the voice was his. V. 7. DID NOT YET KNOW THE LORD.—did not yet recognize Jehovah as the one speaking. NEITHER WAS THE WORD OF THE LORD YET REVEALED TO HIM.—he was not yet accustomed to receive such communications from God. V. 8. ELI PERCEIVED.—was convinced that the call came from God. Certain that it would be repeated the fourth time, he told Samuel what to answer. V. 10. THE LORD CAME AND STOOD.—before, the voice appeared to come from a distance; now the sound was as if the speaker stood close beside him. There may have been some divine appearance. SPEAK; FOR THY SERVANT HEARETH.—listening with purpose to heed and obey. V. 11. SHALL TINGLE.—with astonishment and fear, as when a loud noise suddenly strikes upon the ear. V. 12. WHICH I HAVE SPOKEN.—by the prophet (ch. 2: 29). BEGIN.—what God begins, whether in mercy or judgment, he finishes. V. 13. THE INIQUITY WHICH HE KNOWETH.—he was not ignorant of the wicked course of his sons. MADE THEMSELVES VILE.—profaning the sanctuary of God by their vile conduct, even when they were ministering as priests. RESTRAINED THEM NOT.—as he should have done, both as a father and as high priest. V. 14. SHALL NOT BE PURGED.—terrible punishment shall come upon them, and his family shall be cut off from the priesthood. V. 15. FEARED.—to give pain and sorrow to his beloved teacher. V. 16. ELI CALLED SAMUEL.—anxious to know what God had revealed to the child and hidden from him. V. 18. IT IS THE LORD.—Jehovah, my God and King. LET HIM DO WHAT SEEMETH HIM GOOD.—the submission of sincere penitence and piety. If anything seems good to God, it must be good, however painful to us.

TEACHINGS: 1. Children should love and serve the Lord. 2. God gives special honor to early piety. 3. The Lord calls those whom we would employ in his service. 4. Children should heed and obey the admonition of parents. 5. Judgments will come on parents who do not restrain their children.

REVIEW.

LESSON XIV.

Sept. 30, 1883. [Josh. 1: 1-11.]

GOLDEN TEXT.—"Not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spake concerning you."—JOSH. 23: 14.

Lesson I Suppl.—What did the Lord say to Joshua?
School.—Moses, my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan; thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them. 1: 2.
Suppl.—What encouraging promise did the Lord give Joshua?
School.—As I was with Moses, so will I be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. 1: 5.
II. Suppl.—What command was given to the priests who bore the ark?
School.—When ye are come to the brink of the water of Jordan, ye shall stand still in Jordan. 3: 8.
Suppl.—What did the Israelites do?
School.—All the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan. 3: 17.
III. Suppl.—What feast did the Israelites keep after crossing Jordan?
School.—The children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and kept the passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho. 5: 10.
Suppl.—What took place after Joshua had marched round Jericho for seven days, as the Lord commanded?
School.—The wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city. 6: 20.
IV. Suppl.—What was the reason of the defeat of the Israelites at Ai?
School.—There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel, thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you. 7: 13.
Suppl.—How was Achan punished?
School.—All Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones. 7: 25.
Singing.
V. Suppl.—What did Joshua do when he had placed the tribes of Mount Ebal and Gerizim?
School.—He read all the words of the law, the blessings and cursings, according to all that is written in the book of the law. 8: 34.
VI. Suppl.—For what purpose were the cities of refuge appointed?
School.—That whosoever killed any person at unawares might flee thither, and not die by the hand of the avenger of blood until he stood before the congregation. 20: 9.
VII. Suppl.—What choice did Joshua propose to the people?
School.—If it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve. 24: 15.
Suppl.—What was the response of the people?
School.—The Lord our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey. 24: 24.
VIII. Suppl.—What did the Israelites do after the death of Joshua and the men of that generation?
School.—They forsook the Lord, and served Baal, Judg. 2: 13.
Suppl.—How were they punished?
School.—The anger of the Lord was not against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers. Judg. 2: 14.
Singing.
IX. Suppl.—What did the Lord promise Gideon?
School.—By the three hundred men that lapped with I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand. Judg. 7: 7.
X. Suppl.—How did Sampson die?
School.—He took hold on the two middle pillars and he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon all the people that were therein. Judg. 16: 29, 30.
Singing.
XI. Suppl.—What was Ruth's beautiful reply to Naomi?
School.—Whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge; thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God. Ruth 1: 16.
XII. Suppl.—What did Hannah say to Eli about Samuel?
School.—For this child I prayed: and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of him: therefore also I have lent him to the Lord. 1 Sam. 1: 27, 28.
XIII. Suppl.—What did Samuel say when the Lord called him?
School.—Speak; for thy servant heareth. 1 Sam. 3: 10.
Suppl.—What did Eli say when he heard the Lord's message?
School.—It is the Lord; let him do what seemeth him good.
Singing.
Review drill on Titles, Topics, Golden Texts, etc.

THE LORD IN ALL, AND ALL IN THE LORD.

BY MRS. ANNIE A. PRESTON.
"I had in my parish at one time," said an aged pastor, "a very wealthy man, who was also a godly man, giving liberally of his abundance to every worthy cause, and rejoicing continually in the Lord's goodness.
"Reverses came to him. He lost his property, and was obliged to enter as book-keeper the large mercantile establishment that had once been his own. Still he was as regular as ever at church and at the prayer-meeting, spoke just as cheerfully and hopefully, and, aside from the fact that he was not able to give as largely as heretofore, there was no change whatever to be seen in him.

"How do you keep up so?" I said to him one day; "we all expected you to be melancholy and down-hearted, but of the two you are brighter you are more sunshiny in your demeanor than you were before your reverses."
"Let me tell you about it," he said cheerfully. "When I was rich and could have everything that heart could desire; that money could buy, I enjoyed the Lord in all things. Now that I have nothing only what I can earn from day to day, I enjoy all things in the Lord. I feel that I have more reason than ever before to rejoice, for the Lord has kept me and allowed his glorious love to pour into my soul in prosperity through the changes to which I have been subjected and now he is with me in adversity so what have I to do but to praise and glorify his name from day to day?"—American Messenger.

MY COMPANY.

"I have read," said Mr. Spurgeon, "of one who dreamed a dream when in great distress of mind, about religion. He thought he stood in the outer court of heaven and he saw a glorious host marching up singing sweet hymns, and bearing the banners of victory; and they passed by him through the gate, and when they had vanished he heard in the distance sweet strains of music.
"Who are they?" he asked.
"They are the goodly fellowship of the prophets who have gone to be with God."
"And he heaved a deep sigh as he said.
"Alas, I am not one of them, and never shall be, and I cannot enter there."
By and by there came another band equally lovely in appearance, and equally triumphant, and robed in white. They passed within the portals, and again were shouts of welcome heard within.
"Who are they?"
"They are the goodly fellowship of the apostles."
"Alas," he said, "I belong not to that fellowship and I cannot enter there."
He still waited and lingered in the hope that he might yet get in; but the next multitude did not encourage him, for they were the noble army of martyrs. He could not go with them nor wave their palm branches. He waited still and saw, that the next was a company of goodly ministers and officers of Christian churches, but he could not go with them. At last, as he walked, he saw a larger host than all the rest put together, marching and singing most melodiously, and in front walked the woman that was a sinner; and the thief that died upon the cross hard by the Saviour; and he looked long, and saw such as Manasseh and the like; and when they entered he could see who they were, and thought:
"There will be no shouting about them."
"But to his astonishment it seemed as if all heaven was rent with seven-fold shouts as they passed in. And the angels said to him:
"These are they that are mighty sinners, saved by mighty grace."
And then he said:
"Blessed be God! I can go with them."
And so he awoke.

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