

## 2. Victory.

What was caused by this convocation of the people at Mizpeh?

In what frame of mind were the people at this time? What difference of spirit is shown by the statement of ver. 8 from the spirit which moved them at Aphek? 1 Sam. 4, 3.

What was the occasion of the victory? How will you explain ver. 10; as recording a miracle, or a natural occurrence, which proved advantageous to Israel?

Give reasons for your answer to the last question.

How complete was the victory? vers. 13, 14.

To whom did Samuel ascribe the victory?

## Practical Teachings.

Twenty years was a long time for penitent sorrow; but the sin had been very heinous.

It brought true repentance. How good to come to love God before the awful sins begin! Have you come to him?

They put away their idolatry. Have you?

They asked God's servant to pray for them. Let us all do that too.

Samuel was their mediator; but we have a better one—Christ Jesus, the Lord.

Their mediator grew older. Ours never changes.

Their mediator died. Ours ever liveth.

Their mediator was a man. Ours is very God of very God.

Their mediator God heard. Will he not much more hear ours?

## Hints for Home Study.

1. Study the geography of this lesson.

2. Find five other instances of prayer, for others that God answered.

3. For illustration, find in English history how fervent prayer before entering battle was crowned with victory.

4. Learn all you can about the worship of Baal and Astarte.

## QUESTIONS FOR INTERMEDIATE SCHOLARS.

## 1. Repentance, v. 1-6.

Who brought back the ark of God?

From what place was it brought? See chap. 6, 20, 21.

How long did the ark remain there?

What demand did Samuel make on Israel?

What is true repentance? (Golden Text.)

What did Samuel promise to Israel?

What like promise is made to every sinner? Isa. 55, 7.

Where was it brought, and to whose charge was it given?

From whose worship did Israel turn, and to whom?

What assembly did Samuel summon?

By what acts and words did Israel make confession?

## 2. Victory, v. 7-12.

What enemy came up against Israel?

How did the Israelites feel?

What appeal did they make to Samuel?

What two things did Samuel do?

How did the Lord answer him?

Which army was now victorious?

How far did the Israelites pursue the foe?

Where did Samuel set up a memorial?

What was its name and meaning?

## Teachings of the Lesson.

From what facts in this lesson may we learn—

1. That we ought to forsake sin?

2. That we ought to serve God?

3. That we ought to remember his mercies?

## Home Work for Young Bereans.

Learn who removed the ark from Kirjath-jearim. Find other instances when God miraculously delivered Israel from their enemies.

## QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER SCHOLARS.

What did the Philistines do with the ark? They took it to their own country.

What came upon the place where the ark was kept?

Great plagues.

What did the Philistines finally do with the ark?

They sent it back to the Israelites.

Why were the Israelites glad? Because the ark was the sign of God's presence.

To what place was it finally taken? To Kirjath-jearim.

How long did it remain there? Twenty years.

For what were the Israelites sorry? For their sins.

What good prophet prayed for them? Samuel.

What did he tell them to put away? Their false gods.

Where did they go to fast and pray? To Mizpeh.

Who came to fight against them there? The Philistines.

What did Samuel do? He offered sacrifices and prayed.

Who were defeated? The Philistines.

Why did the Israelites gain the victory? The Lord was on their side.

What did they set up in remembrance of the victory?

A stone of help.

What was it called? Ebenezer.

What should we remember? How God helps.

## Words with Little People.

## THE DOWNWARD WAY.

It is easy to go away from God. A little naughty temper, a little self-will, a little untruth, how quickly they shut God out!

## THE UPWARD WAY.

How can we come back? "Cease to do evil, learn to do well." Only God can teach us how; when he sees we are sorry for sin, he will come and help us.

## THE LESSON CATECHISM.

[For the entire school.]

1. How long a time passed before God once more showed mercy to his people? "The time was long twenty years."

2. How did the people prove that their lamenting was sincere? "They put away Baalim and Asherahim."

3. For what did Samuel gather the people to Mizpeh? For a service of confession.

4. What was the great lesson which in substance Samuel here taught them? "Cease to do evil; learn to do well."

5. What was the result of this new consecration? A victory for Israel.

6. In what words did Samuel recognize this divine help? "Hitherto hath the Lord," etc.

## CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

31. What do you call this mystery?

The mystery of the Holy Trinity.

32. What do you mean by mystery?

A truth which man's reason could not discover, and which God by degrees makes known.

B. C. 1095.]

## LESSON IV. ISRAEL ASKING FOR A KING.

[July 28.

## Authorized Version.

## Revised Version.

1 Sam. 8, 1-20. [Conform to memory verses 4-7.]

1. Then all the elders of Is'ra-el gathered themselves together, and came to Sam'u-el unto Ra'mah.

5 And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.

6 But the thing displeased Sam'u-el, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Sam'u-el prayed unto the Lord.

7 And the Lord said unto Sam'u-el, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.

