

willing to obey. **Eli** perceived, etc. He knew that God had been speaking to Samuel, and told the lad what to answer when he heard the voice again. God had spoken to Eli himself shortly before, through a prophet, ch. 2 : 27-36. **The Lord came . . stood . . called.** This time He was seen as well as heard. Samuel answers as Eli directed him.

II. INSTRUCTED.—11-14. I will do a thing in Israel. The whole nation had sinned, and therefore must suffer. **Ears... shall tingle.** The news would shock the hearers, as a loud shrill sound thrills the ears with pain. **Perform against Eli.** The punishment was to fall most heavily upon him and his family. **Begin... make an end.** God's work is always thoroughly done. **Iniquity... he knew** (Rev. Ver.)... and **restrained... not.** Eli had merely given his sons a gentle reproof (ch. 2 : 23,24) for their wickedness (ch. 2 : 12-17), when he should have expelled them from the priesthood. **Not be purged,** etc. No sacrifice or offering could now prevent their being punished.

III. OBEYING.—15-21. Samuel feared to shew Eli. It was hard for the young lad to give so great pain to one whom he loved, and who had done so much for him. Eli . . said . . God do so to thee, etc.' Let my fate be yours, if you do not tell me all. Then Samuel told him every whit, and Eli bowed submissively to God's will. The Lesson closes by telling that, from Dan . . to Beersheba, that is, from north to south of Israel, God established Samuel's authority as a prophet, appearing to him again in Shiloh from time to time.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



Due north 5 miles from Jerusalem is a cone-shaped hill, which may be the site of RAMIAH, the birthplace, residence and burial-place of Samuel. The site, however, is not certainly known.

Traveling 18 miles on the great road from Jerusalem to Shechem, and then turning $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the northeast, one comes to **SHILOH**. This place is 12 miles south of Shechem. Here Joshua divided

Canaan by lot amongst the twelve tribes. For about 400 years, during the period of the Judges, the Ark of the Covenant and the Tabernacle were stationed

here, and Shiloh thus became the most revered sanctuary in the land. From Samuel's home at Ramah is was about 14 miles to Shiloh.

LESSON QUESTIONS

Where was Samuel born ? To whose service did his mother give him ? Where was the tabernacle at the time of the Lesson ? Who was the high priest ?

1-10 What was Samuel's age? What was his work? Why did God at this time seldom speak through prophets? Where was Samuel when God spoke to him? Whose voice did Samuel think it was? To whom did he go? How often did he go to Eli, thinking that he had called him? What did Eli, at the third time, tell him to do?

11-14 For what did the Lord tell Samuel He would surely punish Eli? What did He say would not prevent this punishment?

15-20 Why did Samuel hesitate to tell Eli all he had heard? How did Eli induce him to make all known to him? What title is given to Samuel in v. 20? How far did his authority extend?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Our responsibility for the sins of others.
2. Difficult duties as a test of character.

A LESSON FOR LIFE

Everything comes to him who is ready. In a recent story, a common laborer got his foot firmly on the ladder to success, because in his spare moments he had studied engineering sufficiently to be able to carry out the plans of a chief engineer who was taken ill. We need not be over anxious about opportunities of serving God and our fellow man. They will come in good time, as surely as Samuel's opportunity came to him, if we fit ourselves for them by patient training and discipline.

Prove from Scripture—That we should heed God's Word.

Shorter Catechism—*Quæ.* 81. *What is forbidden in the tenth commandment?* *A.* The tenth commandment forbiddeth all discontentment with our own estate, envying or grieving at the good of our neighbour, and all inordinate motions and affections to anything that is his.

The Question on Missions—[FOREIGN MISSIONS IN CANADA—CHINESE.] 11. What is our church doing for the Chinese in Canada? Work is being carried on through Sunday Schools, Christian Associations, preaching services and personal visitation, by seven missionaries and a large number of Sunday School teachers and other workers.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What message concerning Eli did God give to Samuel ?.....

2. In what position was Samuel established?