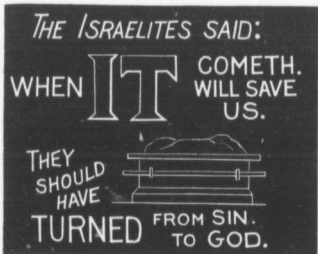


A Great Loss. Show picture of the ark of God. Tell that it meant the presence of God among his people. What will keep God out of the heart? Yes, sin; and sin can keep him from coming to the help of those who cling to it. When we put away sin, then God will come to our help. Tell how the Israelites sent for the ark. They thought it would save them. Only God can save, and he will save only when we put away sin and turn to him. Tell of the overthrow of the Israelites, and the capture of the ark.

The Death of Eli. Eli was now an old man, ninety-eight years old. He loved God, though he had sinned in letting his sons do so wickedly. He was very sad about the taking of the ark to the battle, for he knew the people had not put away sin. Tell how the sad news of the defeat and the death of his sons came to him, and what followed. Print in large letters, "Sin kills," and teach that we must learn to fear the beginnings of self-will, for it will surely end in ruin.

Blackboard.



This is an illustration of the folly of trusting in a religious ceremony or form for salvation when the heart has not turned from sin. The point of this lesson is that the Israelites did not turn to God, and call on him to save them. What did they do? [Have some one tell.] Yes, they said, "When it [the ark] comes, it will save us." What does God's word say about confession of sins? Read Psa. 66, 18; 32, 5; Prov. 28, 13; 1 John 1, 9. A religious ceremony alone will not save a sinner. One must repent of sin, forsake sin, and turn to God. Joining the Church will not save one without forgiveness of sins. A certificate of Church membership, without love toward God, is of no avail. God is merciful, ready and willing to save, only we must turn to him.

Berean Methods. The Teachers' Meeting.

Draw a map showing as nearly as possible the position of the Philistines and that of the Israelitish army, and the relation of the battle-field to Shiloh. Picture these two armies. The Philistines were a warlike race, doubtless well furnished with ammunition. The Israelites were a thoroughly equipped agricultural people, and had been frequently through the previous years deprived of all their weapons of war by hostile invaders.... Describe an ancient battle; its test of physical and mental endurance. The ark of the covenant; its history; reasons for superstitious regard in which it was held.... Genuine piety of Eli, the climax of whose grief is found in the news of the capture of the ark of God.... The effect of this capture on a people who regarded its presence as the proof and indication of the presence of their God.

References. FREEMAN. Ver. 4: "Between the cherubim," 295. Ver. 12: Rending the clothes, 70; Earth on the head, 279. Ver. 18: Gates, 15; The seat of judgment, 248.... FOSTER'S CYCLOPEDIA. Prose, 234, 1691, 2643, 2644, 4313, 4303, 8198, 8201, 5005, 9196, 10895, 10897, 11442. Ver. 8: Prose, 9131. Ver. 9: Prose, 8481, 8483, 8487; Poetical, 550; Prose, 485, 551, 5262, 7596, 12190, 12197. Ver. 11: Poetical, 3122; Prose, 7335, 7327. Ver. 12: Prose, 9518, 11945. Ver. 15: 8207, 8212, 8213, 8215.

ANALYTICAL AND BIBLICAL OUTLINE. Results of Forsaking God.

I. RESULTS TO ISRAEL.

- Weakness.** "Israel was smitten," v. 2.
"Turned their backs.... accursed," Josh. 7, 12.
- Superstition.** "Fetch the ark," v. 3.
"To obey is better than sacrifice," 1 Sam. 15, 22.
- Presumption.** "Israel shouted," v. 5.
"Tempted.... the most high God," Psa. 78, 56.
- Loss of Privilege.** "Ark of God.... taken," v. 11.
"He forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh," Psa. 78, 60.

II. RESULTS TO ELI.

- Anxiety.** "Heart trembled," v. 13.
"If I forget thee.... tongue cleave," Psa. 137, 6.
- Sorrow.** "Two sons.... dead," v. 17.
"In one day they shall die," 1 Sam. 2, 34.
- Death.** "He died," v. 18.
"I will cut off thine arm," 1 Sam. 2, 31.

THOUGHTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

Folly and sin.

- All misdeeds arise from either folly or sin.
- All follies bring their own mischievous consequences in this life.
- All sins merit punishment in the life to come.
- God's providence is an instrument of chastisement in this world, as well as of advantage and prosperity. But providence never punishes.
- God's providence will supply all short-comings of good sense, if God is only applied to for wisdom.
- If men were guided by providence in their secular actions and by his Spirit in their moral decisions, sins and sorrow would be banished from the earth, and the millennium would already have dawned.

HOME READINGS.

- M. The sorrowful death of Eli. 1 Sam. 4, 1-9.
T. The sorrowful death of Eli. 1 Sam. 4, 10-18.
W. Eli warned. 1 Sam. 2, 27-34.
Th. Certainty of death. Job 7, 1-10.
F. Righteous judgment. Lam. 3, 31-41.
S. Parental obligation. Deut. 11, 18-25.
S. God's law to be taught. Psa. 78, 1-8.

GOLDEN TEXT.

His sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not. 1 Sam. 3, 13.

TIME.—1141 B. C.

PLACES.—Ebenezer. Aphek. Shiloh.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Retribution.

LESSON HYMNS.

- No. 248, Dominion Hymnal.
O happy is the child who hears
Instruction's warning voice.
- No. 275, Dominion Hymnal.
God of pity, God of grace,
When we humbly seek thy face.
- No. 278, Dominion Hymnal.
Sing to the great Jehovah's praise
All praise to him belongs.