

Ye have this day rejected your God, v. 19. There are many modern methods of rejecting God. He is rejected when a voter casts a ballot in favor of any law that will interfere with the sacredness of the Sabbath, or hinder the cause of temperance, or put an obstacle in the way of any other good cause. He is rejected by those who practise dishonesty and untruthfulness in their business. He is rejected by those, who, for the sake of their own pleasure, break His laws. He is rejected by all who do not "do justly" and "love mercy" and "walk humbly" with Him. And if we reject Him in any of these ways, it will count for nothing in His sight, that we profess to believe in Him and offer Him formal worship.

And Saul the son of Kish was taken, v. 21. Choice to a position of responsibility may be the stepping stone to higher attainments in character, for added honors and duties ripen those who already have the right material in them. Or, alas! as in the case of Saul, it may open the way to new temptations, which there is not strength to overcome. Covet not, therefore, lofty places, but rather the virtue which fits for them.

POINTS AND PARAGRAPHS

A careful review of the past helps to a true pre-view of the future. vs. 17, 18.

The mercies of God furnish the most powerful motive to the service of God. vs. 18, 19.

In the Lord's hands the feeblest may become the foremost. v. 20.

We should show neither rashness in accepting nor cowardice in refusing great responsibilities. v. 21.

There is nothing hidden from the eye of God. v. 22.

The health of the soul is of more importance than bodily strength. v. 23.

Royalty carries with it the right to loyalty. v. 24.

King and people alike owe allegiance to God. v. 25.

As the harp gives forth its music under the hand of the musician, the human heart answers, in love and devotion, to the touch of God. v. 26.

Behold, he hath hid himself among the stuff, v. 22. Few virtues are rarer than the grace of humility. Few qualities are so unattractive as over-confidence. Cocksurenness generally goes with unfitness. Meekness is commonly the companion of great ability. True Christian excellence gradually acquires the charm of unconsciousness. It becomes as a little child. The fact that men shrink from great tasks, does not necessarily prove that they are really unfitted for exalted service, or that they would be justified in refusing positions of trust involving great responsibilities. He who enters lightly on the duties of an important position is not likely to put much earnestness and zeal into the doing of them.

God save the king, v. 24. If the Israelites had done wrong in asking for a king, they certainly did well in praying for him. We should always remember that those in positions of power have great responsibility and many temptations, so that they need the prayers of all Christian people over whom they rule. If evils exist in the government of the country, the blame is partly ours if we fail to pray for our law makers.

Our treatment of heaven's gifts reveals the nobility or baseness of our character. v. 27.

If a king had been chosen from one of the leading tribes, the rival tribe might have been unwilling to submit to his rule. But the tribe of Benjamin was so weak in point of numbers and influence, that the selection of a member of it as king would rouse no jealousy. It would have been impossible for the king, had he been so disposed, to raise so weak a tribe to the chief position.—Dr. G. B. Wilson.

Look at the terrible possibility of God's allowing men to have their own way! Israel insisted upon having a king. God said, "In so insisting, you are rejecting and grieving Me; yet take him and see the end!" We may clamor until God's patience yields to our importunity, and He inflicts upon us the intolerable punishment of allowing us to have our own way.—Joseph Parker.