

1 Sam. 10 : 17-27—Memory Verses, 24, 25.

**Golden Text**—The LORD is our King ; he will save us.—Isa. 33 : 22.



17 And Sam'uel called the people together unto the LORD to Miz'peh :

18 And said unto the children of Is'rael, Thus saith the LORD God of Is'rael, I brought up Is'rael out of E'gypt, and delivered you out of the hand of the E'gyptians, and out of the hand of all kingdoms, and of them that oppressed you :

19 And ye have this day rejected your God, who himself saved you out of all your adversities and your tribulations ; and ye have said unto him, *Nay*, but set a king over us. Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes, and by your thousands.

20 And when Sam'uel had caused all the tribes of Israel to come near, the tribe of Ben'jamin was taken.

21 When he had caused the tribe of Ben'jamin to come near by their families, the family of Ma'tri was taken, and Saul the son of Kish was taken : and when they sought him, he could not be found.

22 Therefore they enquired of the LORD further, if the man should yet come thither. And the LORD answered, Behold, he hath

hid himself among the stuff. 23 And they ran and fetched him thence : and when he stood among the people, he was higher than any of the people from his shoulders and upward.

24 And Sam'uel said to all the people, See ye him whom the LORD hath chosen, that *there is none like him among all the people?* And all the people shouted, and said, God save the king.

25 Then Sam'uel told the people the manner of the kingdom, and wrote *it* in a book, and laid *it* up before the LORD. And Samu'el sent all the people away, every man to his house.

26 And Saul also went home to Gib'eah ; and there went with him a band of men whose hearts God had touched.

27 But the children of Be'lial said, How shall this man save us ? And they despised him, and brought him no presents. But he held his peace.

#### THE LESSON RETOLD

When Samuel had called a meeting of the Israelites at Mizpeh that they might choose their king, he again warned them of their sin, saying, "Thus saith the Lord, the God of Israel: 'I delivered your fathers when they were slaves in Egypt from the power of the taskmasters. I have driven out your enemies from before you until you have become a great nation. Yet you have turned your back upon me, saying, 'One of ourselves shall be our king.'"

And Samuel said, "Since as a people you are determined to do this wickedness, present yourselves in order by tribes and families before the Lord, that you may choose your king by lot."

Now the lot of God fell first, not upon one of the large and powerful tribes, but upon the little tribe of Benjamin. Then Samuel called for the families of Benjamin to stand apart, and the lot fell at last to Saul, a young farmer whose father's name was Kish.

When the people heard who had been chosen, they called for Saul to be brought before them. But the young man was nowhere to be found. Thinking there had been some mistake, the excited people began to ask, "Where is he?" And God answered, "See, he is hiding among the tents and the baggage."

So they ran and brought him before the people, and he was head and shoulders