

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—In our studies we pass from the story of Ruth to the story of Samuel. He was born at Ramah, or Ramathaim (ch. 1 : 1), in answer to the prayer of his mother Hannah (ch. 1 : 11) who gave him to the service of God in the tabernacle at Shiloh. (For the places named, see Geography Lesson. At this time Eli was the high priest, and also a judge over Israel. It was a time of great confusion and disorder in the land (see Judges 21 : 25). Every man did that which was right in his own eyes. Samuel was raised up to restore order and to rule over Israel.

GOLDEN TEXT—Speak, Lord ; for thy servant heareth.—1 Samuel 3 : 9.

Memorize vs. 8-10. THE LESSON PASSAGE—1 Samuel 3 : 1-21. Read 1 Samuel, chs. 1 to 4.

1 And the child Sam^uel ministered unto the LORD before E^li. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days ; *there* was no open vision.

2 And it came to pass at that time, when E^li was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, *that* he could not see ;

3 And ²ere the lamp of God ³went out ⁴in the temple of the LORD, *w*ere the ark of God *was*, and Sam^uel was laid down *to sleep* ;

4 That the LORD called Sam^uel : and he ⁵answered, *Here am I*.

5 And he ran unto E^li, and said, *Here am I* ; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not ; lie down again. And he went out and lay down.

6 And the LORD called yet again, Sam^uel. And Sam^uel arose and went to E^li, and said, *Here am I* ; for thou ⁶didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son ; lie down again.

7 Now Sam^uel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him.

8 And the LORD called Sam^uel again the third time. And he arose and went to E^li, and said, *Here am I* ; for thou ⁶didst call me. And E^li perceived that the LORD had called the child.

9 Therefore E^li said unto Sam^uel, Go, lie down : and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, *Speak, LORD ; for thy servant heareth*. So Sam^uel went and lay down in his place.

10 And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Sam^uel, Sam^uel. Then Sam^uel ⁵answered, *Speak ; for thy servant heareth*.

11 And the LORD said to Sam^uel, Behold, I will

Revised Version—(now his eyes had begun to wax dim, that he could not see) ; ²*Omit* ere ; ³was not yet gone out ; ⁴*Put* in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was, *after* sleep ; ⁵said ; ⁶calledst ; ⁷that I ; ⁸from the beginning even unto the end ; ⁹knew ; ¹⁰did bring a curse upon themselves ; ¹¹spoken ; ¹²spake.

Daily Readings—(Courtesy, I. B. R. A.)—M.—Lent to the Lord, 1 Sam. 1 : 21-28. T.—Hannah's song, 1 Sam. 2 : 1-11. W.—A child minister, 1 Sam. 2 : 12-19. Th.—The boy Samuel, 1 Sam. 3 : 1-10. F.—The boy Samuel, 1 Sam. 3 : 11-21. S.—Children's praise, Matt. 21 : 1-16. S.—Jesus calls a child, Matt. 18 : 1-14.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. CALLED.—1, 2. The child Samuel ; now probably a little over twelve years. (Compare Jesus



SHILOH

at twelve, Luke 2 : 42-49.) Ministered unto the LORD ; helped in the services of the tabernacle. Word of the LORD . . precious ; that is, rare, because, owing to the wickedness of the times, God now

do a thing in Is^{ra}el, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.

12 In that day I will perform against E^li all ⁷things which I have spoken concerning his house : ⁸when I begin, I will also make an end.

13 For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he ⁹knoweth ; because his sons ¹⁰made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.

14 And therefore I have sworn unto the house of E^li, that the iniquity of E^li's house shall not be purged with sacrifices nor offering for ever.

15 And Sam^uel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Sam^uel feared to shew E^li the vision.

16 Then E^li called Sam^uel, and said, Sam^uel, my son. And he ⁵answered, *Here am I*.

17 And he said, What is the thing that the LORD hath ¹¹said unto thee ? I pray thee hide it not from me. God do so to thee, and more also, if thou hide *any* thing from me of all the things that he ¹²said unto thee.

18 And Sam^uel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said, It is the LORD : let him do what seemeth him good.

19 And Sam^uel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.

20 And all Is^{ra}el from Dan even to Beer-she-ba knew that Sam^uel was established to be a prophet of the LORD.

21 And the LORD appeared again in Shiloh : for the LORD revealed himself to Sam^uel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD.

seldom spoke to the people through prophets. **No open vision** ; no message from God which was published amongst the people. **At that time** ; literally " on that day ", a day which Samuel could never forget. **Eli laid down** ; in some building connected with the tabernacle. **Eyes dim**. Old and half blind, he needed some one like Samuel at hand to wait upon him. **Lamp of God** ; the seven-branched lampstand, which stood in the Holy Place, Ex. 40 : 24. It was lighted in the evening, and burned until the morning, Ex. 27 : 20, 21. **Samuel laid down to sleep** ; not far from Eli, and ready to answer any call from him. **In the temple** ; a name used here and in ch. 1 : 9 for the tabernacle. Twice the Lord called Samuel, and the boy ran to Eli, thinking it was the old man's voice. **Did not yet know the Lord** ; did not understand God's way of speaking to His servants, though he knew Him, in the sense of loving and obeying Him.

8-10. The third time. Again the Lord called, for He knew that Samuel, though inexperienced, was