

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE LESSONS.

THIRD QUARTER: STUDIES IN JEWISH HISTORY.

R. C. 1095.]

LESSON V. SAUL CHOSEN OF THE LORD.

[Aug. 4.

Authorized Version.

1 Sam. 9. 15-27.

[Commit to memory verses 15, 16.]



15 Now the LORD had told Sam'u-el in his ear a day before Saul came, saying,

16 To-morrow about this time I will send thee a man out of the land of Ben'ja-min, and thou shalt anoint him to be captain over my people Is'ra-el, that he may save my people out of the hand of the Phi-lis'tines:

for I have looked upon my people, because their cry is come unto me.

17 And when Sam'u-el saw Sa-ul, the LORD said unto him, Behold the man whom I spake to thee of! this same shall reign over my people.

18 Then Saul drew near to Sam'u-el in the gate, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, where the seer's house is.

19 And Sam'u-el answered Saul, and said, I am the seer: go up before me unto the high place; for ye shall eat with me to-day, and to-morrow I will let thee go, and will tell thee all that is in thine heart.

20 And as for thine asses that were lost three days ago, set not thy mind on them; for they are found. And on whom is all the desire of Is'ra-el? Is it not on thee, and on all thy father's house?

21 And Saul answered and said, Am not I a Ben'ja-mite, of the smallest of the tribes of Is'ra-el? and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Ben'ja-min? wherefore then speakest thou so to me?

22 And Sam'u-el took Saul and his servant, and brought them into the parlor, and made them sit in the chiefest place among them that were bidden, which were about thirty persons.

23 And Sam'u-el said unto the cook, Bring the portion which I gave thee, of which I said unto thee, Set it by thee.

24 And the cook took up the shoulder, and that which was upon it, and set it before Saul. And Sam'u-el said, Behold that which is left: I set it before thee, and eat; for unto this time hath it been kept for thee since I said, I have invited the people. So Saul did eat with Sam'u-el that day.

25 And when they were come down from the high place into the city, Sam'u-el communed with Saul upon the top of the house.

26 And they arose early: and it came to pass, about the spring of the day, that Sam'u-el called Saul to the top of the house, saying, Up, that I may send thee away. And Saul arose, and they went out both of them, he and Sam'u-el, abroad.

27 And as they were going down to the end of the city, Sam'u-el said to Saul, Bid the servant pass on before us, (and he passed on,) but stand thou still a while, that I may show thee the word of God.

Revised Version.

15 Now the LORD had revealed unto Sam'u-el a day before Saul came, saying, To-morrow about this time I will send thee a man out of the land of Ben'ja-min, and thou shalt anoint him to be prince over my people Israel, and he shall save my people out of the hand of the Phi-lis'tines: for I have looked upon my

17 people, because their cry is come unto me. And when Sam'u-el saw Saul, the LORD said unto him, Behold the man of whom I spake to thee! this same

18 shall have authority over my people. Then Saul drew near to Sam'u-el in the gate, and said, Tell me,

19 I pray thee, where the seer's house is. And Sam'u-el answered Saul, and said, I am the seer: go up before me unto the high place, for ye shall eat with me to-day; and in the morning I will let thee go, and

20 will tell thee all that is in thine heart. And as for thine asses that were lost three days ago, set not thy mind on them; for they are found. And for whom is all that is desirable in Is'ra-el? Is it not for

21 thee, and for all thy father's house? And Saul answered and said, Am not I a Ben'ja-mite, of the

22 smallest of the tribes of Is'ra-el? and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Ben'ja-min? wherefore then speakest thou to me after this man-

23 ner? And Sam'u-el took Saul and his servant, and brought them into the guest-chamber, and made

24 them sit in the chiefest place, among them that were bidden, which were about thirty persons. And Sam-

25 u-el said unto the cook, Bring the portion which I gave thee, of which I said unto thee, Set it by thee.

26 And the cook took up the thigh, and that which was upon it, and set it before Saul. And Sam'u-el said, Behold that which hath been reserved! set it before

27 thee and eat; because unto the appointed time hath it been kept for thee, for I said, I have invited the

28 people. So Saul did eat with Sam'u-el that day.

29 And when they were come down from the high place into the city, he communed with Saul upon the

30 house-top. And they arose early: and it came to pass about the spring of the day, that Sam'u-el called

31 to Saul on the housetop, saying, Up, that I may send thee away. And Saul arose, and they went out both

32 of them, he and Sam'u-el, abroad. As they were going down at the end of the city, Sam'u-el said to

33 Saul, Bid the servant pass on before us, (and he passed on,) but stand thou still at this time, that I may cause thee to hear the word of God.

EXPOSITORY NOTES.

BY REV. MILTON S. TERRY, D.D., GARRETT BIBLICAL INSTITUTE.

Introductory. From the persistent demand for a king on the part of the Israelitish leaders, we now pass to notice how the first king of Israel was designated for the kingdom and introduced to the prophet Samuel. Saul, the son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin, is here introduced to us and described as "a choice young man, and a goodly: and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people." 1 Sam. 9, 2.

Verse 15. The Lord had told Samuel. The Hebrew reads, "Jehovah uncovered the ear of Samuel." This is an exquisite metaphor, suggesting the thought of one person approaching another in a most confiding way, removing the long locks of hair which fell over his ears, or perhaps a part of his turban, and whispering therein a secret word which he would not have any one else hear.

16. To-morrow about this time. Observe how specific this revelation. I will send thee. God himself is here represented as acting in human affairs and directing the movements of men. Thou shalt anoint. The king was thus to be consecrated and set apart as fit for a holy office, like the priest. Hence his subsequent designation as "the Lord's anointed," Chap. 12, 5; 24, 6; 2 Sam. 1, 14, 16. **Captain over my people.** Chieftain and military leader. The expression, "my people," is one of affectionate endearment. **Hand of the Philistines.** Although these enemies had been, according to chap. 7, 13, subdued before Israel, yet, according to the same verse, they seem to have sought to regain their power all the days of Samuel. They were