

Lesson II.

SAUL CHOSEN KING

July 12, 1903

1 Sam. 10 : 17-27. Commit to memory, vs. 24, 25. Read 1 Sam., chs. 9, 10.

17 And Sam^uel called the people together unto the LORD at Miz^upeh;

18 And said unto the children of Is^{ra}el, Thus saith the LORD God of Is^{ra}el, I brought up Is^{ra}el out of Egypt and delivered you out of the hand of all the kings of Egypt, and of the hand of all the 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 Is^{ra}el to come near, the tribe of Ben^{ja}min was taken.

21 When he had caused the tribe of Ben^{ja}min to come near by their families, the family of Ma^{ti} 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,

Revised Version—1 Mizpah; 2 the; 3 the kingdoms that oppressed you; 4 but; 5 saveth; 6 calamities; 7 distresses; 8 So Samuel brought all the tribes of Is^{ra}el near, and; 9 And he brought the tribe of Ben^{ja}min near; 10 the Matrites; 11 Is there yet a man to come hither? 12 to his house; 13 the host, whose hearts; 14 certain sons; 15 present.

GOLDEN TEXT

Isa. 33 : 22. The LORD is our King; he will save us.

DAILY READINGS

M. —1 Sam. 9 : 25 to 10 : 8. Saul anointed.

T. —1 Sam. 10 : 17-27. Saul chosen king.

W. —Rom. 13 : 1-8. Duty to rulers.

Th. —Jer. 22 : 1-9. God's council.

F. —Psalm 21. A king's trust.

S. —Psalm 63. "The Lord reigneth"

S. —Psalm 24. The King of glory.

CATECHISM

Q. 85. What doth God require of us, that we may escape his wrath and curse due to us for sin?

A. To escape the wrath and curse of God due to us for sin, God requireth of us faith in Jesus Christ, repentance unto life, with the diligent use of all the outward means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption.

EXPOSITION

Connecting Links—This narrative joins on to the last lesson, ch. 8. Chapter 9 and the early portion of chapter 10 give an account of the way in which Samuel was privately made acquainted with the man whom God had chosen as king, and relates Saul's search for his father's asses, his meeting with Samuel, the signs he received, and his private anointing as king.

I. A Solemn Statement, 17-19.

V. 17. *Samuel called the people together.* He summoned the national assembly or "congregation of Is^{ra}el." "This body was composed of all Israelites of twenty years old or upwards (Num. 1 : 3) who had not forfeited their privileges (Ex. 12 : 19), together with foreigners admitted under certain conditions," Lev. 19 : 33, 34. *Unto the Lord.* The presence of God was connected with holy

places or with the ark, Gen. 28 : 16; ch. 14 : 36. *To Mizpah;* the "watch-tower." (Compare Judges 20 : 1.)

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 Sam^uel sent all the people away, every man to his house.

26 And Saul also went to home to Gil^{ga}h; and there went with him a band of men, whose hearts God had touched.

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

TIME AND PLACE

B.C. 1079; Mizpah. This is Mizpah of Benjamin; to be distinguished from Mizpah of Gilead, Judge 10 : 17; 11 : 11. For another important gathering held here see Judges ch. 20. It is either a lofty hill (*Neby Sam^uel*) about 5 miles northwest of Jerusalem, or a broad ridge (Scopus) north of the same city.

LESSON PLAN

I. A Solemn Statement, 17-19.

Made by Samuel to the people.

II. An Important Choice, 20-25.

Of Saul as king over Is^{ra}el.

III. A Twofold Reception, 26, 27.

By loyal and by disloyal subjects.

LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise, 541; 9; 76 (Ps. Sel.) ; 17; 67; 64.

places or with the ark, Gen. 28 : 16; ch. 14 : 36. *To Mizpah;* the "watch-tower." (Compare Judges 20 : 1.)

Vs. 18, 19. *Said unto the children of Is^{ra}el.* Samuel charges the people with, (1) ingratitude towards God, who in the past had redeemed and guided the nation (compare Ex. 20 : 2; Hosea 11 : 1; Amos 2 : 10); (2) present rejection of Jehovah's teaching and commands. *I brought up Is^{ra}el.* Note the contrast between what God had done, and what the people (and ye) were doing. *The kingdoms that oppressed you* (Rev. Ver.). The reference is to the deliverances recorded in the Book of Judges. *Ye have said unto him.* The request made to Samuel was virtually addressed to God. *By your tribes and by your thousands.* Along with the natural division of the nation into tribes, of the tribes into families, or clans, of the families into house-