

Responsive Review Service for the Third Quarter.

BY LILY LATHBURY.

TOPIO FOR THE QUARTER.—Israel Under the First Hebrew King.

GOLDEN TEXT FOR THE QUARTER.—"Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all."—1 Chron. 29. 11.

LESSON I.

Samuel Called of God.

Superintendent. In what part of the Old Testament are the lessons of this quarter?

School. In the first book of Samuel?

Supt. Of what is this book the history?

School. Of the lives of two great men; Samuel, Judge, reformer, and prophet of Israel, and Saul, the first Hebrew king.

Supt. What is our first glimpse of Samuel?

School. As a child, twelve years old, assisting the high-priest Eli in his sacred duties of the tabernacle.

Supt. How did God show Samuel he was chosen to be a prophet?

School. He appeared to him in a vision by night and revealed to him the awful judgment about to fall upon Eli and his house.

Supt. What was Samuel's answer to God's call?

School. "Speak, for thy servant heareth." (Golden Text.)

LESSON II.

The Sorrowful Death of Eli.

Supt. What is the story of this lesson?

School. The story of a long and bloody conflict between the Israelites and the Philistines. Of the defeat of the Israelites, the death of Eli's sons, the capture of the ark of God. Of the aged father and high-priest sitting in the gate of the tabernacle by the road-side waiting for news of the battle. Of a swift messenger running from the battle-field to the city with torn garments, and dust upon his head. Of Eli, heart-broken at the terrible tidings, falling from his seat dead.

Supt. What explanation of this sudden calamity to Eli is given in the Golden Text?

School. "His sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not."

LESSON III.

Samuel the Reformer.

Supt. What is the first of the three events of this lesson?

Bible Class. The Israelites gather together in a great national assembly at Mizpeh to renounce their idolatry and repent before the Lord. Samuel offers sacrifice, and they join in a solemn public humiliation.

School. "Cease to do evil; learn to do well." (Golden Text.)

Supt. What is the second event?

Boys. The Philistines, fearing that the Israelites are preparing to throw off the yoke of their authority, send out a large army to disperse and subdue them.

School. "The wicked watcheth the righteous and seeketh to slay him."

Supt. What is the third event?

Girls. In answer to the prayer of Samuel for his unarmed and defenseless people, God sends a great storm of thunder and hail to smite the Philistines, and the Israelites win victory and peace for their country.

School. "Blessed be the Lord God.... of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things."

HYMN. (No. 231, Epworth Hymnal.)

"Fight the good fight."

LESSONS IV, V, AND VI.

Samuel the Judge.

Supt. Lesson fourth shows us Samuel listening to the request of the elders of Israel for "a king like other nations," and wisely trying to dissuade them from their purpose.

School. "Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us." (Golden Text.)

Supt. Troubled by this rebellious spirit, Samuel goes to the Lord, who tells him that he has "hearkened to the voice of the people," and chosen Saul, the son of Kish the Benjamite, to be their king.

School. "By me kings reign and princes decree justice." (Golden Text.)

Supt. Obedient to God's command, Samuel anoints Saul king over Israel, calls the people together at Mizpeh, and presents him before them as their king.

School. His magnificent presence wins instant allegiance, and for the first time in Israel the air is filled with shouts of "God save the king."

Supt. Soon after this event the Israelites are again gathered together at Gilgal to celebrate the victories of their king, now become the "pride and glory of Israel." Here Samuel addresses them for the last time as ruler and judge. Of what does he remind them?

School. Of the mercies of God in the past, and their ungrateful demand for a king.

Supt. What does he ask them to do?

School. To recall his life among them and judge whether his rule has been just or unjust.