

Lesson I.

ISRAEL ASKING FOR A KING

July 5, 1903

1 Sam. 8: 1-10. Study 1 Sam. 1: 22—Memory Verses, 4-7.

Golden Text—Prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and serve him only.—1 Sam. 7: 3.

1 And it came to pass, when Sam'uel was old, that he made his sons judges over Is'rael.

2 Now the name of his firstborn was Jo'el; and the name of his second, Abi'ah: *they were judges in Be'er-she'ba.*

3 And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment.

4 Then all the elders of Is'rael gathered themselves together, and came to Sam'uel unto Ra'mah,

5 And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.

6 But the thing displeased Sam'uel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Sam'uel prayed unto the LORD.

7 And the LORD said unto Sam'uel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.

8 According to all the works which they

have done since the day that I brought them up out of E'gypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee.

9 Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and shew them the manner of the king that shall reign over them.

10 And Sam'uel told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him a king.

THE LESSON RETOLD

When Samuel grew so old that he could no longer travel about from place to place judging the people of Israel, he appointed his two sons, Abiah and Joel, to help him in his work.

But these young men, not being noble and upright like their father, were greedy of money, and they took bribes from the people and made unfair and wicked judgments.

When the people of Israel had borne with the sons of Samuel as long as they could, the elders came one day to the prophet's house at Ramah, saying, "You are an old man now and cannot be our leader much longer. As for your sons, every one knows they cannot be trusted. So we want you before you die to appoint a king to rule over us and to go before us in battle, that we may be like other nations."

When Samuel heard the Israelites asking for a king, he was much troubled and displeased, for it meant that the people were no

longer satisfied to have God alone for their king.

And Samuel prayed unto the Lord and God comforted Samuel, saying, "Do not let yourself be too much surprised and disturbed by what the people say. Do you not remember how often they and their fathers have rebelled against me, ever since the day I first brought them out of Egypt? It is not you they have now turned their backs upon. But they have rejected Me, that I should no longer be their King." And God said to Samuel "Do as they ask, and make them a king. But warn them first of the hard service they will be obliged to give him."

Then Samuel told the elders of Israel all that the Lord had said, saying, "It is well for you to know beforehand just what kind of things your king will do. He will take the best of your young men to be his soldiers and footmen to run before his carriage and fight his battles. Others of your sons shall be com-

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