

left all alone. It is the old story. Tired of the old steadfast protector, the nation wants a new ruler, and, like the rest of the world, they want a king.

Why, the time was when God called him and every body else wanted him, and at Mizpeh he was the sturdy wall that rose between Israel and death. But it has come at last; Israel does not want Samuel any longer. They desire a king. Poor, heavy-hearted, weary old man! There is One who wants him, and to him he goes. It is not Samuel they reject, God tells Samuel; it is God. And yet Samuel is told to hearken to the people; to hearken and protest.

So there they are again before the white-haired old prophet. What wonder if shame flush their faces! What wonder if they hang their heads in confusion! But Samuel looks at them steadily, his clear eyes searching to the bottom of their hearts. Do they still want a king?

Then Samuel paints. He talks and they look. You look also. You see a man with long, grasping hands reaching down among the sons of the people. He plucks this one for a charioteer. He pulls over the heap and picks out a second for a horseman, a third for a chariot-runner. There is another overhauling and drafting. Hark! You hear the whirl of the sickle as some drafted son slashes it through the king's wheat, or you catch the "clang-clang," as he pounds the king's iron for a royal weapon, or for the royal chariot.

Do they want a king?

Samuel paints again. O, the hungry, greedy hands of the royal gormandizer, reaching down, picking out a daughter to be cook or confectioner, or baker! You see him gorging himself at his feasts or wallowing amid his cups. And then he may stagger out his covetous craving for vineyard or olive-yard, or sweep the poor man's lamb into the king's rich folds. And hark! Hear the cry of Israel caught between the mill-stones of the king's power and the king's greed.

Surely now those beggars before Samuel will hearken to Samuel. But listen again! Hear that shout-of-loyalty?

It is "may" still. It is a clamor for a king!

When Samuel is again alone, heavier yet must have been his heart. It is not so much a king the people have enthroned, but it is God they would dethrone.

### Primary and Intermediate.

#### LESSON THOUGHT. *Choosing a King.*

Review. Let some child tell all he can about Samuel. Remind of the fact that Samuel was called to the prophetic office when but twelve years of age—just the age Jesus was when he went up to Jerusalem. Tell that now he was seventy years old. He had been judge of Israel for many years, and now the people were uneasy and wanted a king.

Pin a gilt crown to the board. What is a king's business? To rule. Who ruled Israel? Tell that the Israelites had prophets and judges, but God was their King. The prophets were men through whom God chose to speak to the people, and the judges were good men also, who sought to know what God wanted the people to do, and taught them to do it. Tell why the Israelites asked for a king now: because Samuel was growing old, and his sons were not like their father, good, true men.

*Choosing earthly kings.* Can we see God? No, not with these eyes. How do we know that there is a God who thinks about us? Show a watch. Talk about it. Tell what it does. How did it come to be? Show that

there would have been no watch but for a maker. We have not seen the man who made it, but we believe in him because we have seen his work. Sing "Little Gentle Breath," and teach that although we cannot see God or hear him we know that he is, because he has made our wonderful bodies, and given us hearts that can love and believe. Tell that the Israelites were tired of having a King whom they could not see. They wanted an earthly king who would speak great words to them, and sit upon an earthly throne, and make a fine appearance. Every time we choose the things of earth before God we are like these Israelites with whom God was displeased. Tell the story of Samuel's prayer to God, his warning to the people, and their persistent desire to be like other people.



*Choosing King Jesus.* Make a large heart on the board. Tell that every child's heart must be under the rule of King Jesus or the world. If we choose the world we choose self-will, pride, discontent, hard service. If we choose Jesus we choose obedience, love, gentleness, a contented mind, and heaven hereafter. Which will we have? Teach that the right time to choose is in childhood. Pin the crown above the heart, and ask each child to close the eyes and whisper a little prayer that from his heart he may this day choose Jesus for his King.

### Blackboard.



Draw this design with care before the school assemblies.

DIRECTIONS. The outline of the crown in bright yellow, touched up with crimson and green, where the small marks are noticed. The rays may be made of a different shade of yellow or white. The words round about the crown should be white. The large letters, "ONE KING," make in bright red, and shade them with yellow or green; the remaining words make all alike in white.

APPLICATION. The Israelites rejected God, the invisible KING. I also reject him when I refuse to do his will or to obey his commands.

### Berean Methods. The Teachers' Meeting.

Ascertain the true meaning of the request for a king to judge Israel. Give in detail the reason which led Samuel to believe that this desire for a king was a rejection of himself....The incapacity and injustice of his sons....Give the reasons for God's assertion that the