

The Love of Jesus.

SOFTLY sing the love of Jesus !
For our hearts are full of tears,
As we think how, walking humbly
This low earth for weary years,
Without riches, without dwelling,
Wounded sore by foe and friend,
In the garden, and in dying,
Jesus loved us to the end !

Gladly sing the love of Jesus !
Let us lean upon his arm,
If he loves us what can grieve us ?
If he keeps us, what can harm ?
Still he lays his hand in blessing
On each timid little face,
And in heaven the children's angels
Near the home have always place.

Ever sing the love of Jesus !
Let the day be dark or clear,
Every pain and every sorrow
Bring him to his own more near.
Death's cold wave need not affright us,
When we know that he has died,
When we see the face of Jesus
Smiling from the other side !

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN JEWISH HISTORY.

B.C. 1095] LESSON V. [Aug. 4

SAUL CHOSEN OF THE LORD.

1 Sam. 9. 15-27. Memory verses 15, 16

GOLDEN TEXT.

By me kings reign and princes decree justice. Prov. 8. 15.

OUTLINE.

1. Saul's Coming, v. 15, 16.
2. Saul's Visit, v. 17-25.
3. Saul's Departure, v. 26, 27.

TIME.—1095 B.C.

PLACE.—Ramah, (?) or some city in the land of Zuph.

CONNECTING LINKS.—The chronicler whom we study turns aside from Israel's history to show by an incident from the pastoral family life of this people how God uses trivial occurrences to manifest his will. The story of Saul and his search for the lost property brings us at once to our lesson.

EXPLANATIONS.—*Told Samuel in his ear*—That is, revealed it so plainly that it was as if he heard it. *Captain over my people*—That is, head man, or king. *In the gate*—The gate of all Oriental cities was the place of judgment. *The desire of Israel*—The desire of the people was for a king. *The parlor*—Not such a room as we mean by "parlor," but the banqueting-room where Samuel and his guests feasted. *The high place*—Some place without the city; where sacrifice was offered. *The top of the house*—Hebrew houses were flat-roofed, and the roof was a favourite place for conversation. *Spring of the day*—At sunrise.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Saul's Coming.

What had been the result of the people's demand for a king? 1 Sam. 8. 22.
How did Samuel go about fulfilling the people's desire?
While he waited what simple incident happened? 1 Sam. 9. 1-10.
What method of divine providence is thus illustrated?
What does ver. 16 show concerning the so-called voluntary actions of men?
What is the scriptural doctrine concerning all God's ways with men? Acts 15. 18.

2. Saul's Visit.

How soon did Samuel recognize in Saul God's chosen one?
For what purpose did Saul say he had come?
How did Samuel prove his assertion concerning himself that he was the seer?
How would this prepare Saul for the next communication he was to receive?
What seems to have been Saul's character as manifested in this first interview?
What means did Samuel take to make the chief citizens acquainted with Saul?
What impression would his personal appearance naturally produce? 1 Sam. 10. 23.

3. Saul's Departure.

What means did Samuel to still further impress Saul with the responsibility that was coming to him?
How did they separate? ver. 27.
Why was the servant bid to pass on?
What ceremony next took place? chap. 10. 1.
What new proof did Samuel give to Saul? that his words were authoritative? chap. 10. 2-6.
What word spoken by Daniel was here first exemplified in Israel's history? Dan. 2. 21.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Here is taught God's complete direction of the affairs of men.
Here is taught how trivial things often are God's means for shaping great results.
Here is shown an obedient servant of God willingly choosing another to supersede him in power because God bade him.
Here is taught life's oft-repeated lesson: we know not what a day may bring forth.

HINTS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Read all of chaps. 9 and 10.
2. Can you think of any reasons why the tribe of Benjamin should be chosen to furnish the first king?
3. Can you find any political necessity hinted at in ver. 16 that caused the desire for a king?
4. What customs of society of the day are alluded to in ver. 18, "Samuel in the gate;" ver. 19, "Go before me to the high place;" ver. 25, "The top of the house," and any other Orientalisms.

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What was the cause of Saul's coming to Samuel? The Lord sent him. 2. How did Samuel know that Saul was to be king? "The Lord said, Behold the man." 3. What did Samuel tell him of his future? Israel would seek him for a king. 4. What did Samuel do to Saul before they parted? Anointed him, and kissed him. 5. What is the doctrine concerning kings which our GOLDEN TEXT teaches? "By me kings reign," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—God's government.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

35. What more do we learn concerning God?
That he is holy and righteous, faithful and true, gracious and merciful.
36. What do you mean by the omnipresence of God?
That God is everywhere.

B.C. 1095] LESSON VI. [Aug. 11

SAUL'S FAREWELL ADDRESS.

1 Sam. 12. 1-15. Memory verses, 14, 15

GOLDEN TEXT.

Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you. 1 Sam. 12. 24.

OUTLINE.

1. The Just Judge, v. 1-5.
2. The Righteous Lord, v. 6-15.

TIME.—1095 B.C.

PLACE.—Gilgal.

CONNECTING LINKS.—When Saul and Samuel had gone out of the city, as described in our last lesson, and Saul's servant had passed on at Samuel's command, Samuel had anointed Saul, and declared that the Lord would call him to be king over Israel. He had told him also what would occur to him as he went homeward, and how he should be changed in character. This all happened. Then Samuel assembled the people at Mizpeh, and cast lots among them by their tribes for the tribe out of which the king should be chosen. Then, when he had thus taken the tribe of Benjamin, he cast lots among the families of the tribe, and then among the individuals of the family, and the lot fell upon Saul. He was then set apart by the prophet, and the people shouted, "God save the king!" A faction rebelled and refused to yield allegiance. Saul went quietly to his home and waited till God gave him the opportunity to establish his claim by his magnificent victory over the Ammonites. This turned the tide, and again the nation gathered at Gilgal to renew their fealty to the king, and here Samuel spoke the words of the lesson.

EXPLANATIONS.—*My sons are with you*—These were they who had been Samuel's aids,

and had been bribe-takers. *Before his anointed*—That is, the new king. Samuel thus at the outset submits to Saul as his judge. *The righteous acts of the Lord*—That is, the acts of wonderful favour that God had done for them in the past.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. *The Just Judge.*
At what place was the final full acceptance of Saul as king made? chap. 11. 14.
After the renewal of the kingdom what occurred?
Was the work of Samuel done?
What last official act did he perform?
To what could he point in his official life?
What was his spirit in this last duty?
What was the testimony of the people as to his character?
How did Samuel show his complete acceptance of the new order of things? vers. 2 and 5.
What had been the one principle of his entire administration?
2. *The Righteous Lord.*
What was the character of his last public utterance?
Why did he rehearse these portions of their history?
What reason had they had in the past for trusting now?
What had God shown himself in all his dealing with them?
What ought to have been the effect in their lives?
What from the past had been the only cause of weakness?
What warning ends these farewell words of the prophet?
How had these same warnings been heretofore spoken? Lev. 26. 14-20; Deut. 28. 15-68.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Integrity is the best achievement of a life. From childhood to old age. Childhood is the place to start in the pathway of virtue. See this man appeal to a nation. Hear the nation answer. It was better to be right with life-work done than to be an untried king.

The world knows righteousness when it sees it. It may not practice, but it knows. What does it say of you?
We wonder at these men's distrust, but is it more than ours?
They had their Nahash and forgot God. We have what? Surely something, for we all forget God.

HINTS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Review the acts of Samuel's career carefully. Learn it.
2. Find the historical incidents to which he refers, and verify them.
3. Find five other notable instances of the same traits of this people.
4. Find what connection there had been between this people and Nahash.
5. Find a reason, not heretofore given, why they wanted a king.

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. When Samuel had renewed the covenant of the people with Saul what did he do? He abdicated his office as judge. 2. To what did he invite the people's scrutiny? To his official record. 3. What did he confidently claim? A record of perfect integrity. 4. With what did he reproach them? With distrust in God. 5. What was his parting injunction? "Only fear the Lord and serve him," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The value of character.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

37. What do you mean by the almightiness or omnipotence of God?
That God can do whatever he will.
I know that thou canst do everything, and that no thought can be withholden from thee.—Job 42. 2.
Matthew 19. 26.

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