

Lesson I.

SAUL REJECTED BY THE LORD

April 4, 1915

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—The Lesson follows closely upon Lesson XII. of last Quarter, ch. 14: 1-13.

GOLDEN TEXT—Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice.—1 Samuel 15: 22.

*Memorize vs. 22, 23. THE LESSON PASSAGE—1 Samuel 15: 10-23. Study 1 Samuel, ch. 15.

10 Then came the word of the Lord unto Sam'uel, saying,

11 It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And I have grieved Sam'uel; and he cried unto the Lord all night.

12 And when Sam'uel rose early to meet Saul in the morning, it was told Sam'uel, saying, Saul came to Carmel, and, behold, he set him up a place, and is gone about, and passed on, and gone down to Gilgal.

13 And Sam'uel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the Lord: I have performed the commandment of the Lord.

14 And Sam'uel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?

15 And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the Lord thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.

16 Then Sam'uel said unto Saul, Stay, and I will tell thee what the Lord hath said to me this night. And he said unto him, Say on.

Revised Version—1 Samuel was wroth: 2 Omit when; 3 and; 4 monument; 5 Though thou; 6 that which was evil; 7 devoted things, to sacrifice; 8 idolatry and teraphim.

HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

M.—Saul rejected by the Lord, 1 Sam. 15: 1-9.

T.—Saul rejected by the Lord, 1 Sam. 15: 10-23.

W.—Saul rejected by the Lord, 1 Sam. 15: 24-35.

Th.—Untruthfulness punished, 2 Kgs. 5: 20-27.

F.—Merited rejection, 1 Sam. 2: 27-34.

S.—God's justice and mercy, Ezek. 33: 10-19.

Sunday—The advocate with the Father, 1 John 2: 1-12.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

The Lord, through Samuel, instructed Saul to go against the Amalekites. Saul was commanded to destroy all the Amalekites and all their cattle, vs. 1-3. Instead, he spared Agag, the king, and the best of the flocks and herds, vs. 4-9.

I. DISOBEDIENCE.—10, 11. The word of the Lord unto Samuel; in a vision of the night (see next verse). It repenteth me, etc.; not that God ever makes mistakes which He regrets, but that He changes His way of treating those with whom He deals. Turned back from following me. It was Saul's disobedience which had led to the change in God's treatment of him. Not performed my commandments; for example, in not utterly destroying the Amalekites and their cattle. It grieved Samuel; angered him that the Lord had disappointed his hopes for Saul. Cried... all night; protesting against the Lord's decision.

II. FALSEHOOD.—12-14. Saul came to Carmel ("park" or "garden"); a city in the mountainous country of Judah, about 27 miles south of Jerusalem. Set

him up a place; erected a monument or trophy of his victory, perhaps an arch of myrtles, palms and olives. Gone down to Gilgal; the place where Saul had been confirmed in his kingship, ch. 11: 14, 15. Blessed be thou of the Lord; a customary friendly salutation. I have performed, etc.; a bold and boastful lie. Samuel said... this bleating... and... lowing... I hear. The sheep and the oxen were witnesses more deserving of belief than Saul.

III. EXCUSES.—15, 16. They have brought... the people spared. Saul tries to shift the blame from himself to his followers. The best... to sacrifice. Hypocrisy is added to lying. The Lord thy God; "thy God," as if the Lord were not Saul's God as

well as Samuel's. Samuel's forgetting this lay at the root of his disobedience. The rest... destroyed; as if partial obedience to God were sufficient. Stay; have done with these flimsy excuses. What the Lord hath said; and before His judgment Saul's lying defences would be swept away.



GILGAL, PLAIN OF JERICHO

*The Scripture Memory Passages of the Supplemental Leaflets are recommended as a substitute for those here given Sabbath by Sabbath. Their recitation leads to the obtaining of a beautiful Certificate or Diploma.

†Courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Hon. Secretary, 56 Old Bailey, London, England.