

Israel Asking for a King

His people by showing them their sin.

Introduction—We are going to turn away back in our Bibles and hear some more stories about the children of Israel. Recall briefly their crossing of the Red Sea, entrance into Canaan, etc. Recall God's constant companionship with, and care over them.

Three Companions—Let us call God's companionship His Good-will towards them. When they reached Canaan, they met Ill-will from the people living there. During all this time they had with them a very bad companion, we shall call him Self-will. He stayed in their hearts. (Print SELF-WILL within outline of a heart.) He led them into all sorts of bad ways, grumbling, disobedience, idolatry. Did you ever hear of a boy or girl who had this companion? (Tell a story of a self-willed child who suffered for his own sin).

Lesson—Do you remember the little boy Samuel, whose mother took him to the house of the Lord in Shiloh and said, "As long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord." Well, God "borrowed" him and used him and he became a great, good, wise man, a judge of the people. Now he is old. The children of Israel thought they would not have any more judges. Self-will was telling them to ask for a king such as other

nations had. God had been their King and had told his wishes to the judges and prophets and thus ruled the people. (In asking for a king they were rejecting God.) Tell of the elders' request and Samuel's displeasure.

A Praying Man—Samuel was a praying boy and also a praying man, v. 6.

God's Warnings—God saw their sin. He was displeased because they had taken Self-will for their companion and had turned away from serving Him. He told Samuel to warn the people of the power a king would have over them. They might be sorry for their choice, vs. 10-18. Self-will said: "Nay, but we will have a king," v. 19.

Golden Text—Samuel told these words to the people. (Repeat whole verse.) God had kept His promise, but they had again turned from Him. Print—"PREPARE YOUR HEARTS," etc. (The analogy between the preparation of a garden bed, taking out the weeds, watering, etc., and the rooting out of sin from our hearts, may explain the Golden Text in a practical way.)

A Whisper Sentence—God sees my sin.

Repeat—

Faithful to God we'll ever be,
And put self-will to flight.

BLACKBOARD REVIEW

By The Associate Editor

A KING REQUESTED GOD REJECTED

It excites curiosity and therefore interest, sometimes to begin the review a good piece away from the lesson. Recall here, for instance, by a little outline of the story and a few questions, the prodigious folly of Esau in selling His birthright for the mess of pottage—what a poor bargain-maker he was. Now, approach the similar example of bad bargaining in this lesson, by questions as to who brought the Israelites out of Egypt and into Canaan, and whose leadership that leader followed; what were the rulers that came after him called; who now ruled; what dissatisfaction had sprung up; what were the reasons given for it; what was the real reason; what the people would gain by having a king; what they cast away in order to gain their desire. The bargain, as the Blackboard shows, was A KING REQUESTED; GOD REJECTED. Leave the scholars the question. What shall I gain by wanting and getting my own way and refusing God and God's way?