

SAUL REJECTED AS KING

July 26, 1903

1 Sam. 15 : 13-23. Study 1 Sam. 15 : 10-31—Memory Verses, 20-22.

Golden Text—To obey is better than sacrifice.—1 Sam. 15 : 22.

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 Amal'ekites : 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.

17 And Sam'uel said, When thou wast little in thine own sight, *wast* thou not made the head of the tribes of Is'rael, and the LORD anointed thee king over Is'rael?

18 And the LORD sent thee on a journey, and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amal'ekites, and fight against them until they be consumed.

19 Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the

spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD?

20. And Saul said unto Sam'uel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought A'gag the king of Am'alek, and have utterly destroyed the Amal'ekites.

21 But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gil'gal.

22 And Sam'uel said, Hath the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey *is* better than sacrifice, *and* to hearken than the fat of rams.

23 For rebellion *is as* the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness *is as* iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from *being* king.

THE LESSON RETOLD

One of the first things the Lord gave King Saul to do was to go and fight against the Amalekites, a fierce and warlike tribe who had been the enemies of God's laws and His people for many years.

And God said, "You shall utterly destroy these people, with Agag their king, and their cattle, and everything that belongs to them."

But Saul and his men, after the battle, instead of obeying the Lord exactly, saved Agag alive and brought him with a great number of the enemies' cattle and sheep and oxen back with them into the camp of Israel.

When Samuel, who had been warned by God in a dream of what had been done, heard that Saul was returning, he went out to meet him.

Then Saul, pretending that he had done well, greeted Samuel with false words, saying, "Blessed be thou of the Lord, I have finished all that the Lord required."

And Samuel answered, "What then is the meaning of this bleating of sheep and the lowing of oxen which I hear?"

But Saul tried to throw the blame upon others, and said that his men had saved only a few of the best of the animals to offer as sacrifices and thank-offerings to God.

Then Samuel told the king that he had been warned by God in a dream to give him this message. And Samuel said, "When you were a poor and unknown young man the Lord chose you to be the king of His people. He trusted you with a great work.