

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE LESSONS.

THIRD QUARTER: STUDIES IN JEWISH HISTORY.

B. C. 1151.]

LESSON I. SAMUEL CALLED OF GOD.

[July 7.]

Authorized Version.

Revised Version.

1 Sam. 3. 1-14.

[Commit to memory verses 8-10.]



1 And the child Sam'u-el ministered unto the LORD before E'li. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision.

2 And it came to pass at that time, when E'li was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see;

3 And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was, and Sam'u-el was laid down to sleep;

4 That the LORD called Sam'u-el: and he answered, Here am I.

5 And he ran unto E'li, and said, Here am I: for thou callest me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down.

6 And the LORD called yet again, Sam'u-el. And Sam'u-el arose and went to E'li, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again.

7 Now Sam'u-el did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him.

8 And the LORD called Sam'u-el again the third time. And he arose and went to E'li, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And E'li perceived that the LORD had called the child.

9 Therefore E'li said unto Sam'u-el, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. So Sam'u-el went and lay down in his place.

10 And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Sam'u-el. Sam'u-el. Then Sam'u-el answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.

11 And the LORD said to Sam'u-el, Behold, I will do a thing in Is'ra-el, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.

12 In that day I will perform against E'li all things which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end.

13 For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.

14 And therefore I have sworn unto the house of E'li, that the iniquity of E'li's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering forever.

1 And the child Sam'u-el ministered unto the LORD before E'li. And the word of the LORD was precious

2 in those days; there was no open vision. And it came to pass at that time, when E'li was laid down in his place, (now his eyes had begun to wax dim,

3 that he could not see,) and the lamp of God was not yet gone out, and Sam'u-el was laid down to sleep, in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was;

4 that the LORD called Sam'u-el: and he said, Here am I. And he ran unto E'li, and said, Here am I; for thou callest me. And he said, I called not; lie

6 down again. And he went and lay down. And the LORD called yet again, Sam'u-el. And Sam'u-el arose and went to E'li, and said, Here am I; for thou callest me. And he answered, I called not, my son;

7 lie down again. Now Sam'u-el did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed

8 unto him. And the LORD called Sam'u-el again the third time. And he arose and went to E'li, and said, Here am I; for thou callest me. And E'li perceived

9 that the LORD had called the child. Therefore E'li said unto Sam'u-el, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. So Sam'u-el went and lay down in his place.

10 And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Sam'u-el. Sam'u-el. Then Sam'u-el answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth. And the LORD said to Sam'u-el, Behold, I will do a thing in Is'ra-el, at which both the ears of every one that

12 heareth it shall tingle. In that day I will perform against E'li all that I have spoken concerning his

13 house, from the beginning even unto the end. For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever, for the iniquity which he knew, because his sons did bring a curse upon themselves, and he restrained

14 them not. And therefore I have sworn unto the house of E'li, that the iniquity of E'li's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering for ever.

EXPOSITORY NOTES.

BY REV. MILTON S. TERRY, D.D., GARRETT BIBLICAL INSTITUTE.

We learn from the present lesson that when Samuel appeared in Israel the word of the Lord was rare. No visions or revelations of Jehovah were given among the people. It was one of the darkest periods of Israelitish history. The chapter preceding our lesson shows how the priests who ministered at the altar were guilty of gross immorality and sacrilege. Where the priests were so destitute of piety, what must the people have been? In this dark period, and rising up in the midst of such wickedness, Samuel appeared as a great light in Israel. He was the last of the Judges and the first of the great prophets. Like Samson he was a Nazirite from the womb, and, while yet a tender child, was taken to the tabernacle at Shiloh and there consecrated to the service of the Lord. While he was yet a youth all Israel, from Dan to Beer-sheba, knew that Jehovah had called and confirmed him as a prophet (ver. 20). He became the founder of the schools of the prophets, and after the nation had chosen a king he retired among his spiritual children in one of these schools (chap. 19, 18). There have been other prophets in some respects greater than Samuel; other Judges of Israel surpassed him, per-

haps, as hero and warrior, but, considering his holy childhood, his unblemished character, and all his work as judge and prophet, we find for him in history no parallel.

Verses 1. The child Samuel. He had been consecrated to the service of the Lord soon after he was weaned (chap. 1, 24) in accordance with a vow his mother made before his birth (chap. 1, 11). According to Josephus (*Ant.*, v, 10, 4), he began to prophesy when he was twelve years old. Ministered. As a young Levite, wearing a linen ephod (chap. 28, 3). His work was that of lighting the lamp (ver. 3), opening the doors of the house of the Lord (ver. 15), and other similar duties of the Levites, such as a child might perform. His father, Elkanah, was a Levite of the Kohathite family (comp. chap. 1, 1 with 1 Chron. 6, 34), and may have often ministered in the sanctuary along with his son at such times as he went up from his home in Mount Ephraim to worship and sacrifice at Shiloh (chap. 1, 3). Before E'li. Under his oversight and direction. E'li was a descendant of Ithamar, the youngest son of Aaron; but according to Numa. 30, 28, Eleazar, the elder son, succeeded his