

23. As for me. Samuel promises to be faithful to the people, both by his intercessions and his instructions. **Sin against the Lord.** Israel was under the charge of Samuel as God's appointed prophet, therefore to neglect their true interests would be a sin. **9. Every servant of God** has a responsibility for the souls of those around him. **To pray for you.** Though rejected as their judge, he will still be their mediator with God. **I will teach you.** They asked his prayers; he gives them also the promise of his inspired instructions.

24. 25. Fear the Lord. See note, ver. 14. **In truth.** In sincerity, not with a false and formal service of profession without practice. **Consider how great things.** All the mercies which God had bestowed upon the people, and his power in delivering them from their enemies. **Still do wickedly.** As they had done in the past, and were ever prone to do, for throughout Israelite history there was only a small minority steadfast in serving God. **Be consumed.** Destroyed and swept away. **Ye and your king.** The two are linked together in destiny. The king might drag down the nation in his own fall, and in after time did so, to such a degree that at his death Israel was under foreign rule. **10. No man lives or dies to himself alone.**

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 Two Ways, v. 13-15.
2. The Token, v. 16-19.
3. The Teacher, v. 20-25.

HOME READINGS.

- M. Samuel's farewell address. 1 Sam. 12. 13-25.
 T. Samuel's appeal. 1 Sam. 12. 1-12.
 W. The law of the Lord. Psa. 19. 1-14.
 Th. The fear of the Lord. Deut. 4. 5-14.
 F. The name of the Lord. Psa. 20. 1-9.
 S. The people of the Lord. Isa. 51. 1-11.
 S. The goodness of the Lord. Rom. 11. 22-36.

Time.—1095 B.C.

Place.—Gilgal, in the Jordan valley.

Connecting Link.—1. The invasion of the Ammonites. 1 Sam. 11. 1-3. 2. The relief of Jabesh-gilead. 1 Sam. 11. 4-13. 3. The renewal of the kingdom at Gilgal. 1 Sam. 11. 14, 15.

Explanations.—*The king whom ye have chosen*—They had chosen to have a king, and Saul was the man whom God had selected. *The Lord hath set a king*—God had granted their desire and given them a king. *Fear the Lord*—Hold him in reverence, and look to him as God. *Serve him*—Obey and worship him. They were to regard their king as under the rule of their God. *As it was against your fathers*—Who were oppressed by enemies and helpless because of their sins. *Wheat harvest*—Which is in Pales-

tine a season of very dry weather. *Thunder and rain*—Which, coming at once in answer to Samuel's call, would show God's power. *That ye may perceive*—This would show them how divine a king they had forsaken for one who was but man. *Fear the Lord and Samuel*—Samuel as God's prophet. *Pray for thy servants*—They had faith in Samuel's prayers, the power of which they had just seen. *We have added this evil*—They now felt that in asking for a king they had neglected the King of kings. *Ye have done all this wickedness*—He would not have them consider their sins as of small account. *Vain things*—Idols, which have neither power nor life. *It hath pleased the Lord*—God had chosen them by his own grace, not because they were worthy of the honour. *Ye shall be consumed*—The same trouble that their fathers had suffered would come to them if they sinned.

LESSON HYMNS.

No. 259, *New D. H.*

O for a heart to praise my God.

No. 109, *New D. H.*

Oh, sometimes the shadows are deep.

No. 45, *Hymn Book.*

C.M.

O God, our strength, to thee our song
 With grateful hearts we raise;
 To thee, and thee alone, belong
 All worship, love, and praise.

In trouble's dark and stormy hour
 Thine ear hath heard our prayer;
 And graciously thine arm of power
 Hath saved us from despair.

And thou, O ever gracious Lord,
 Wilt keep thy promise still,
 If, meekly hearkening to thy word,
 We seek to do thy will.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. **The Two Ways**, v. 13-15. What were the two ways? Who showed them to the people, and when? What four duties did Samuel name as one of the two ways? What was the way against which the Israelites were warned? What would be the results of walking in the wrong way? Which of these two ways is your choice?

2. **The Token**, v. 16-19. What was the token? Of what was it a token? By whose power was it caused? How did the thunder and rain show God's power? What is said in James 5. 16-18? What was its effect upon the people? What did they ask Samuel to do? Who is the one that prays for us to God? 1 John 2. 1.

3. **The Teacher**, v. 20-25. Who was the teacher of the Israelites? Against what did he warn them? What did he teach them to do? What two things did Samuel do for the people in verse 23? What motive for serving God do you find in the GOLDEN TEXT? Are you trying to serve him?