

B. C. 1141.]

LESSON II. THE SORROWFUL DEATH OF ELI.

[July 14.]

Authorized Version.

Revised Version.

1 Sam. 4. 1-18. [Commit to memory verses 17, 18.]



they slew of the army in the field about four thousand men.

3 And when the people were come into the camp, the elders of Is'ra-el said, Wherefore hath the Lord smitten us to-day before the Philis'tines? Let us fetch the ark of the covenant of the Lord out of Shil'oh unto us, that, when it cometh among us, it may save us out of the hand of our enemies.

4 So the people sent to Shil'oh, that they might bring from thence the ark of the covenant of the Lord of hosts, which dwelleth between the cherubim: and the two sons of E'li, Hoph'ni and Phin'e-has, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.

5 And when the ark of the covenant of the Lord came into the camp, all Is'ra-el shouted with a great shout, so that the earth rang again.

6 And when the Philis'tines heard the noise of the shout, they said, What meaneth the noise of this great shout in the camp of the He'b'ews? And they understood that the ark of the Lord was come into the camp.

7 And the Philis'tines were afraid; for they said, God is come into the camp. And they said, Woe unto us! for there hath not been such a thing heretofore.

8 Woe unto us! who shall deliver us out of the hand of these mighty Gods? These are the Gods that smote the E-gyp'tians with all the plagues in the wilderness.

9 Be strong, and quit yourselves like men, O ye Philis'tines, that ye be not servants unto the He'b'ews, as they have been to you: quit yourselves like men, and fight.

10 And the Philis'tines fought, and Is'ra-el was smitten, and they fled every man into his tent: and there was a very great slaughter; for there fell of Is'ra-el thirty thousand footmen.

11 And the ark of God was taken; and the two sons of E'li, Hoph'ni and Phin'e-has, were slain.

12 And there ran a man of Ben'ja-min out of the army, and came to Shil'oh the same day with his clothes rent, and with earth upon his head.

13 And when he came, lo, E'li sat upon a seat by the way-side watching: for his heart trembled for the ark of God. And when the man came into the city, and told it, all the city cried out.

14 And when E'li heard the noise of the crying, he said, What meaneth the noise of this tumult? And the man came in hastily, and told E'li.

15 Now E'li was ninety and eight years old; and his eyes were dim, that he could not see.

16 And the man said unto E'li, I am he that came out of the army, and I fled to-day out of the army. And he said, What is there done, my son?

17 And the messenger answered and said, Is'ra-el is fled before the Philis'tines, and there hath been also a great slaughter among the people, and thy two sons also, Hoph'ni and Phin'e-has, are dead, and the ark of God is taken.

18 And it came to pass, when he had mention of the ark of God, that he fell from off the seat backward by the side of the gate, and his neck brake, and he died: for he was an old man, and heavy. And he had judged Is'ra-el forty years.

1 And the word of Sam'u-el came to all Is'ra-el.

Now Is'ra-el went out against the Philis'tines to battle, and pitched beside Eben'ezer: and the

2 Philis'tines pitched in A'phek. And the Philis'tines put themselves in array against Is'ra-el: and

when they joined battle, Is'ra-el was smitten before the Philis'tines: and they slew of the army in the

3 field about four thousand men. And when the people were come into the camp, the elders of Is'ra-el

said, Wherefore hath the Lord smitten us to-day before the Philis'tines? Let us fetch the ark of the

4 covenant of the Lord out of Shil'oh unto us, that it may come among us, and save us out of the hand of

5 our enemies. So the people sent to Shil'oh, and they brought from thence the ark of the covenant of the

6 Lord of hosts, which sitteth upon the cherubim: and the two sons of E'li, Hoph'ni and Phin'e-has, were

7 there with the ark of the covenant of God. And when the ark of the covenant of the Lord came into

8 the camp, all Is'ra-el shouted with a great shout, so that the earth rang again. And when the Philis'tines

9 heard the noise of the shout, they said, What meaneth the noise of this great shout in the camp of the

10 He'b'ews? And they understood that the ark of the Lord was come into the camp. And the Philis'tines

11 were afraid, for they said, God is come into the camp. And they said, Woe unto us! for there hath

12 not been such a thing heretofore. Woe unto us! who shall deliver us out of the hand of these mighty

13 gods? these are the gods that smote the E-gyp'tians with all the plagues in the wilderness. Be

14 strong, and quit yourselves like men, O ye Philis'tines, that ye be not servants unto the He'b'ews, as

15 they have been to you: quit yourselves like men, and fight. And the Philis'tines fought, and Is'ra-el

16 was smitten, and they fled every man to his tent: and there was a very great slaughter; for there fell

17 11 of Is'ra-el thirty thousand footmen. And the ark of God was taken; and the two sons of E'li, Hoph'ni

18 and Phin'e-has, were slain. And there ran a man of Ben'ja-min out of the army, and came to Shil'oh

19 the same day with his clothes rent, and with earth upon his head. And when he came, lo, E'li sat upon

20 his seat by the way-side watching: for his heart trembled for the ark of God. And when the man came

21 into the city, and told it, all the city cried out. And when E'li heard the noise of the crying, he said,

22 What meaneth the noise of this tumult? And the man came in hastily, and told E'li. Now E'li was ninety

23 and eight years old; and his eyes were set, that he could not see. And the man said unto E'li, I am he that came

24 out of the army, and I fled to-day out of the army. And he said, What is there done, my son?

25 And he brought the tidings answered and said, Is'ra-el is fled before the Philis'tines, and there hath been

26 also a great slaughter among the people, and thy two sons also, Hoph'ni and Phin'e-has, are dead, and the

27 ark of God is taken. And it came to pass, when he made mention of the ark of God, that he fell from

28 off his seat backward by the side of the gate, and his neck brake, and he died: for he was an old man,

29 and heavy. And he had judged Is'ra-el forty years.

EXPOSITORY NOTES.

In giving us an account of Samuel's call to the prophetic office, the last lesson disclosed the deplorable condition of the priesthood in Israel, and the purpose of God to visit the house of Eli with most bitter judgment.

This lesson shows how speedily the punishment began to come, and how certainly the prophetic word was destined to be fulfilled. While the internal and religious condition of the nation was so lamentable, the external was no less so. The Philistines were holding