

Lesson XI.

THE BOY SAMUEL

December 14, 1902

1 Samuel 3 : 6-14. Study 1 Sam. 3 : 1-14—Memory Verses, 7-10.

Golden Text—Speak, Lord ; for thy servant heareth.—1 Sam. 3 : 9.

6 And the LORD called yet again, Sam'uel. And Sam'uel 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'uel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him.

8 And the LORD called Sam'uel 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'uel, Go, lie down : and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD ; for thy servant heareth. So Sam'uel went and lay down in his place.

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

11 And the LORD said to Sam'uel, Behold, I will do a thing in Is'rael, 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 Eli's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering for ever.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Among those who came up every year to worship at the temple in Shiloh, during the time of the judges, was a woman called Hannah and her husband. The husband's name was Elkanah, and their home was at Ramah, which means "the hill."

Now Hannah had no children, and once when she was praying in God's house she asked the Lord to send her a little son, promising if God would so bless her she would lend the child to Him as long as he should live.

And God answered Hannah and sent her a little boy whom she called Samuel, meaning "asked of God."

When Samuel was about three years old, his mother took him to the temple, giving him in charge of Eli, the high priest ; with whom Samuel stayed, helping him to keep the temple in good order, trimming the lamps and running messages for the old

priest, who was now nearly blind. And Hannah, when she came to worship at the temple every year at the feast time, brought with her a new little coat for her boy, and over it Samuel wore a linen ephod or apron while he did his work. Thus the clothes that he wore reminded him of his mother and his home.

One night, when Samuel was about twelve years old, as he was sleeping in his bed in the temple, he heard a voice calling his name. The lamp before the holy of holies, which was lighted at sunset and burned until the morning, had not gone out, so that it could not be time to get up. What could the matter be ? He ran quickly to Eli, thinking he must want something. As he ran he answered the call. He was too polite and considerate to keep the old man in doubt whether he had heard the call. But Eli said, "I did not call you. Go back and lie down." But again the voice called "Samuel," and