

B. C. 1141-1120.]

LESSON III. SAMUEL THE REFORMER.

[July 21.]

Authorized Version.

Revised Version.

1 Sam. 7. 1-12. [Commit to memory verses 3, 4.]



1 And the men of Kir'jath-j'e-a-rim came, and fetched up the ark of the LORD, and brought it into the house of A-bin'a-dab in the hill, and sanctified E-le-a'zar his son to keep the ark of the LORD.

2 And it came to pass, while the ark abode in Kir'jath-j'e-a-rim, that the time was long; for it was twenty years; and all the house of Is'ra-el lamented after the LORD.

3 And Sam'u-el spake unto all the house of Is'ra-el, saying, If ye do return unto the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ash'ta-roth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and serve him only; and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philis'tines.

4 Then the children of Is'ra-el did put away Ba'al-im and Ash'ta-roth, and served the LORD only.

5 And Sam'u-el said, Gather all Is'ra-el to Miz'pah, and I will pray for you unto the LORD.

6 And they gathered together to Miz'pah, and drew water, and poured it out before the LORD, and fasted on that day, and said there, We have sinned against the LORD. And Sam'u-el judged the children of Is'ra-el in Miz'pah.

7 And when the Philis'tines heard that the children of Is'ra-el were gathered together to Miz'pah, the lords of the Philis'tines went up against Is'ra-el. And when the children of Is'ra-el heard it, they were afraid of the Philis'tines.

8 And the children of Is'ra-el said to Sam'u-el, Cease not to cry unto the LORD our God for us, that he will save us out of the hand of the Philis'tines.

9 And Sam'u-el took a sucking lamb, and offered it for a burnt-offering wholly unto the LORD; and Sam'u-el cried unto the LORD for Is'ra-el; and the LORD heard him.

10 And as Sam'u-el was offering up the burnt-offering, the Philis'tines drew near to battle against Is'ra-el; but the LORD thundered with a great thunder on that day upon the Philis'tines, and discomfited them; and they were smitten before Is'ra-el.

11 And the men of Is'ra-el went out of Miz'pah, and pursued the Philis'tines, and smote them, until they came unto Beth'car.

12 Then Sam'u-el took a stone, and set it between Miz'pah and Shen, and called the name of it Eb-en-e'zer, saying, Hitherto hath the LORD helped us.

1 And the men of Kir'jath-j'e-a-rim came and fetched up the ark of the LORD, and brought it into the house of A-bin'a-dab in the hill, and sanctified E-le-a'zar his son to keep the ark of the LORD.

2 And it came to pass, from the day that the ark abode in Kir'jath-j'e-a-rim, that the time was long; for it was twenty years; and all the house of Is'ra-el lamented after the LORD. And Sam'u-el spake unto all the house of Is'ra-el, saying, If ye do return unto the LORD with all your heart, then put away the strange gods and the Ash'ta-roth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and serve him only; and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philis'tines. Then the children of Is'ra-el did put away the Ba'al-im and the Ash'ta-roth, and served the LORD only.

5 And Sam'u-el said, Gather all Is'ra-el to Miz'pah, and I will pray for you unto the LORD. And they gathered together to Miz'pah, and drew water, and poured it out before the LORD, and fasted on that day, and said there, We have sinned against the LORD. And Sam'u-el judged the children of Is'ra-el in Miz'pah. And when the Philis'tines heard that the children of Is'ra-el were gathered together to Miz'pah, the lords of the Philis'tines went up against Is'ra-el. And when the children of Is'ra-el heard it, they were afraid of the Philis'tines. And the children of Is'ra-el said to Sam'u-el, Cease not to cry unto the LORD our God for us, that he will save us out of the hand of the Philis'tines. And Sam'u-el took a sucking lamb, and offered it for a whole burnt-offering unto the LORD; and Sam'u-el cried unto the LORD for Is'ra-el; and the LORD answered him.

10 And as Sam'u-el was offering up the burnt-offering, the Philis'tines drew near to battle against Is'ra-el; but the LORD thundered with a great thunder on that day upon the Philis'tines, and discomfited them; and they were smitten down before Is'ra-el. And the men of Is'ra-el went out of Miz'pah, and pursued the Philis'tines, and smote them, until they came under Beth'car. Then Sam'u-el took a stone, and set it between Miz'pah and Shen, and called the name of it Eb-en-e'zer, saying, Hitherto hath the LORD helped us.

11 And the men of Is'ra-el went out of Miz'pah, and pursued the Philis'tines, and smote them, until they came under Beth'car. Then Sam'u-el took a stone, and set it between Miz'pah and Shen, and called the name of it Eb-en-e'zer, saying, Hitherto hath the LORD helped us.

EXPOSITORY NOTES.

The loss of the ark was a terrible blow to Israel, but it probably also taught them some salutary lessons. The victorious Philistines carried the wonderful trophy to the temple of their God Dagon, in Ashdod. But their idol was overthrown and the whole city was severely plagued. They carried it about from city to city, but plague, terror, and confusion followed in every place. After remaining in the Philistine territory seven months it was returned to Israel as far as to Beth-shemesh, and treated with such reverence as the lords of the Philistines knew how to show. But the people of Beth-shemesh were smitten for sacrilegious handling of the sacred treasure, and they petitioned the inhabitants of Kir'jath-jearim to come and take it away. Such is the substance of what is related in the two chapters intervening between the last lesson and the present. The reader should carefully study the details of these two chapters, and note that the power and glory of Israel's God were magnified among the Philistines more by the bare symbol of his presence than when it was accompanied by the corrupt priests. The present lesson sets in strong contrast with the previous one the great defeat of the Philistines by the Israelites under the leadership of the holy Samuel.

Verse 1. Kir'jath-jearim. The name means "city of forests," and indicates the presence in ancient times of extensive forests in this part of Canaan. It was seven or eight miles from Beth-shemesh, on the way toward Shiloh, and may be noted on the map a few miles to the north-west of Jerusalem. It has been commonly identified in modern times with a place called Kuryet-el-Enab, situated in a picturesque basin among the hills, but Lieutenant Conder proposes to identify it with Erma, some four miles east of Beth-shemesh. The men of this place were requested by the people of Beth-shemesh to come down and fetch the ark away from their city, where it had caused such terrible destruction. (See vers. 19-21 of the previous chapter, to which the verse properly belongs.) **Fetched... brought.** Literally, "caused to go up and caused to come in;" that is, effected its transportation. In what particular manner it was brought up and brought into Abinadab's house we are not informed. Why it was not taken back to Shiloh is a question not easily determined. It has been commonly supposed that the Abinadab here mentioned was a Levite, whose house was in the hill, or upon the hill-side, overlooking the town. This would have been a reason for taking the ark thither, and it is confirmed by the statement that