

Lesson III.

SAMUEL'S FAREWELL ADDRESS

July 19, 1903

1 Sam. 12 : 13-25, Study 1 Sam. 12 : 1-25—Memory Verses, 23-25.

Golden Text—Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all your heart.—1 Sam. 12 : 24.



13 Now therefore behold the king whom ye have chosen, *and* whom ye have desired ! and, behold, the LORD hath set a king over you.

14 If ye will fear the LORD, and serve him, and obey his voice, and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall both ye and also the king that reigneth over you continue following the LORD your God :

15 But if ye will not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall the hand of the LORD be against you, as *it was* against your fathers.

16 Now therefore stand and see this great thing, which the LORD will do before your eyes.

17 *Is it* not wheat harvest today ? I will call unto the LORD, and he shall send thunder and rain ; that ye may perceive and see that your wickedness *is* great, which ye have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking you a king.

18 So Samuel called unto the LORD ; and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day : and

all the people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel.

19 And all the people said unto Sam'uel, Pray for thy servants unto the LORD thy God, that we die not : for we have added unto all our sins *this* evil, to ask us a king.

20 And Sam'uel said unto the people, Fear not : ye have done all this wickedness : yet turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart ;

21 And turn ye not aside : for *then should ye go* after vain *things*, which cannot profit nor deliver ; for they *are* vain.

22 For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake : because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people.

23 Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you : but I will teach you the good and the right way :

24 Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart : for consider how great *things* he hath done for you.

25 But if ye shall still do wickedly, ye shall be consumed, both ye and your king.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Though Saul had been chosen king over Israel, he had not yet been crowned. In the meantime he and his soldiers won a great victory in battle over Israel's enemies the Ammonites.

To celebrate this victory and to crown Saul as their legal king, the Israelites now held a great gathering at Gilgal, where they offered thank-offerings to God, and all the people kept holiday.

Here the old white-haired judge and prophet Samuel, who was now more than seventy years old, made his last great address.

And Samuel said to the people, " God has listened to your foolish request and given you a king. Now, therefore, stand by the king whom God has set over you and obey him. If he and you will continue to obey and serve the Lord, it shall be well with you. But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord, then He will turn against you as He turned against your fathers."

It was now the season of wheat harvest in Canaan and a time of year when the skies were always clear and no rain fell. As Samuel and the people looked over the valleys from Gilgal, they could see field after field