

SCHOLARS' NOTES.

(From Westminster Question Book.)

LESSON III.

Oct. 21, 1889. [1 Sam. 8:1-10.]

ASKING A KING.

COMMIT TO MEMORY, vs. 4-6.

1. And it came to pass when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel.
2. Now the name of his firstborn was Joel; and the name of his second, Abiah; they were judges in Beersheba.
3. And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment.
4. Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah.
5. And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.
6. But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us; and Samuel prayed unto the Lord.
7. And the Lord said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.
8. According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee.
9. Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit, yet protest solemnly unto them, and shew them the manner of the king that shall reign over them.
10. And Samuel told all the words of the Lord unto the people that asked of him a king.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes."—Ps. 118:9.

TOPIC.—A Nation's Ingratitude.

LESSON PLAN.—1. THE PEOPLE'S REQUEST, vs. 1-5. 2. THE MATTER CARRIED TO GOD, v. 6. 3. THE LORD'S ANSWER, vs. 7-10.

Time.—B.C. 1035. Place.—Ramah, a town of Judah, the birthplace, residence and burial-place of Samuel.

LESSON NOTES.

V. WHEN SAMUEL WAS OLD—by the common chronology, he was not far from sixty years of age. MADE HIS SONS JUDGES—as his temporary assistants. He probably did not intend them to be his successors. V. 2. BEERSHEBA—at the southern extremity of Palestine. V. 3. WALKED NOT IN HIS WAYS—failed to imitate his example. But Samuel is not, like Eli, charged with the blame of his sons' misconduct. LUCRE—gain. PERVERSED JUDGMENT—their decisions were influenced by bribes. V. 4. THE MANNER OF THE KING—the legal representatives of the people. MAKE US A KING—this request expressed the desire of the people. Hitherto God had been their king. Now they desire to have a king around them (v. 20). They desired to be like all the nations. V. 5. HEARKEN—listen. PROTEST SOLEMNLY—warn them of their sin and folly. They would be punished by letting them have their own way, and through the king whom they so much desired. THE MANNER OF THE KING—his exactions and oppressions—what he might and would require, according to the way in which kings ruled, all of whom in those days were despotic. Samuel did this, but the people were fixed in their purpose (v. 10.)

TEACHINGS:

1. Great services are often forgotten or treated with ingratitude.
2. A right thing may be asked for at a wrong time and in a wrong way.
3. It is not safe to trust a multitude: the voice of the people is not always the voice of God.
4. God sometimes punishes by giving men what they wish.
5. Those who lightly esteem God's favors will lose them.

TOO CHEAP.

A preacher of the Gospel had gone down into a coal mine, during the noon hour, to tell the miners of that grace and truth which came by Jesus Christ. After telling them the simple story of God's love to lost sinners—man's state and God's remedy, a full and free salvation offered—the time came for the men to resume work, and the preacher came back to the shaft to ascend to the world again. Meeting the foreman, he asked him what he thought of God's way of salvation.

The man replied, "Oh, it is too cheap; I cannot believe in such a religion as that!"

Without an immediate answer to his remark, the preacher asked, "How do you get out of this place?"

"Simply by getting into the cage" was the reply.

"And does it take long to get to the top?"

"Oh no; only a few seconds."

"Well, that is very easy and simple. But do you not need to help to raise yourself?" said the preacher.

"Of course not," replied the miner. "As I have said, you have nothing to do but get into the cage."

"But what about the people who sunk the shaft, and perfected all this arrangement? Was there much labor or expense about it?"

"Indeed, yes; that was a laborious and expensive work. The shaft is eighteen hundred feet deep, and it was sunk at great cost to the proprietors; but it is our only way out, and without it we should never be able to get to the surface."

"Just so. And when God's Word tells you that whosoever believeth on the Son of

God hath everlasting life, you at once say, 'too cheap, too cheap;' forgetting that God's work to bring you and others out of the pit of destruction and death was accomplished at a vast cost, the price being the death of His own Son."—Michigan Christian Advocate.

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PEACE! BE STILL!

Miss M. A. BAKER.

H. R. PALMER.

CHORUS.

2. Master, with anguish of spirit,  
I bow in my grief to-day;  
The depths of my sad heart are troubled;  
Oh, waken and save, I pray;  
Torrents of sin and of anguish  
Sweep o'er my sinking soul;  
And I perish, I perish, dear Master;  
Oh hasten, and take control.

3. Master, the terror is over,  
The elements sweetly rest;  
Earth's sun in the calm lake is mirrored,  
And heaven's within my breast;  
Linger, O blessed Redeemer,  
Leave me alone no more;  
And with joy I shall make the blest harbour,  
And rest on the blissful shore.

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