

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE LESSONS.

FOURTH QUARTER—STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

NOVEMBER, 1883.

NOTE.—The Scripture verses to be committed to memory are indicated by an index [887] at the side.

B.C. 1095.

Nov. 4.

LESSON V.—SAMUEL'S FAREWELL ADDRESS.

1 Sam. 12. 13-25.



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

a Hosea 13. 11.

14 If ye will *b* 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:

b Deut. 6. 13; 10. 12; 13. 4; 14. 23; 17. 19.

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.

c Lev. 26. 14; Deut. 23. 15; Josh. 24. 20.

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

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

d Prov. 26. 1.—*e* Josh. 10. 12.—*f* Chap. 8. 7.

18 So Samuel called unto the LORD; and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day: *g* and all the people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel.

g Ezra 10. 9.

19 And all the people said unto Samuel, *h* 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.

h Exod. 9. 28; 10. 17; James 5. 15; 1 John 5. 16.

20 And Samuel 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: *i* for then should ye go after vain things, which cannot profit nor deliver; for they are vain.)

i Jer. 16. 19; Hab. 2. 18; 1 Cor. 8. 4.

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

j Psa. 106. 8; Jer. 14. 21.—*k* Mal. 1. 2.

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

l 1 Cor. 9. 16.—*m* 1 Kings 8. 36; 2 Chron. 6. 27.

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, *o* ye shall be consumed, *p* both ye and your king.

n Ezra 9. 13.—*o* Josh. 24. 20.—*p* Deut. 28. 36.

GENERAL STATEMENT.

After his coronation at Mizpeh, the new king returned to his home at Gibeah until an opportunity should arise to assert his authority. Soon the news was borne to Saul that Jabesh-gilead, on the east of Jordan, was beleaguered by the cruel hordes of the Ammonites from the south. At once Saul rose to the occasion, quickly summoned all Israel, by a swift march rescued the city, and scattered its enemies. Then at Samuel's call the host marched from the heights of Gilead down into the Jordan valley, and at the ancient camp of Gilgal solemnly renewed the kingdom, and pledged allegiance to their king. The venerable prophet then rehearsed in the hearing of the people the acts of his own administration, and appealed to them to testify as to its justice and fidelity to their interests. They responded with one voice that as judge Samuel had ever been faithful to God and to Israel. Then he recited the familiar history of God's dealings, and showed their error and sin in the change of government. God had desired them to become a kingly nation, but they had been willing to sink down to the level of the nations around, and lose personal development under the shadow of a throne. Samuel placed before the people the two paths opening to the nation, one the way of loyalty to God on the part of king and people, the other the dark path of following the world in forsaking God. At the word of Samuel a storm with thunder and rain falls upon the terror-stricken host, attesting his message as from God. The prophet calms their fears, promises them his prayers with God, receives anew the pledges of faithfulness to God from the people, and then leaves the new government to work out its destiny.

EXPLANATORY AND PRACTICAL NOTES.

Verse 13. Now therefore. Samuel has been relating to the people God's mercies to them, and their own clamour for a king. **Behold the king.** Saul, who was now standing in their presence, a second time crowned and recognized as king. **Whom ye have chosen.** They had not selected the man to reign over them, but they had chosen the form of government, and they had expressed their satisfaction with the new monarch. **The LORD hath set a king.** The Lord was still their Supreme Ruler, and he would show that the appointment of Saul was *his* act, though by