

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 show them the manner of the king that shall reign over them.

10 And Sam'u-el told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him a king.

11 And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and some shall run before his chariots.

12 And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and will set them to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots.

13 And he will take your daughters to be confectionaries, and to be cooks, and to be bakers.

14 And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your olive yards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants.

15 And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants.

16 And he will take your men-servants, and your maid servants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put them to his work.

17 He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants.

18 And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day.

19 Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Sam'u-el; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us;

20 That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.

8 that I should not be king over them. According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, in that they have forsaken me, and served other

9 gods, so do they also unto thee. Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit thou shalt protest solemnly unto them, and shalt show them the manner of the king that shall reign over them.

10 And Sam'u-el told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him a king. And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: he will take your sons, and appoint them unto him for his chariots, and to be his horsemen;

12 and they shall run before his chariots; and he will appoint them unto him for captains of thousands, and captains of fifties; and he will set some to plow his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and the instruments of his char-

13 iots. And he will take your daughters to be confectionaries, and to be cooks, and to be bakers.

14 And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants.

15 And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants.

16 And he will take your men-servants, and your maid-servants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put them to his work.

17 He will take the tenth of your flocks; and ye shall be his servants. And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not answer you in that day.

19 But the people refused to hearken unto the voice of Sam'u-el; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us; that we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.

EXPOSITORY NOTES.

For many years after the events of the last lesson Samuel was recognized as the judge in Israel, and in fact he never ceased to be such all his days. He had his annual circuit through Bethel, Gilgal, Mizpah, and back to Ramah, in all which places he performed the work of his office. But as he advanced in years he sent his sons to act as judges in the more remote cities. They received bribes and perverted justice. Great dissatisfaction arose, and after a while the leaders of the nation began to feel that their interests would be better served if they were governed and guided by a king.

The asking for a king was in itself no wrong. According to Deut. 17, 14-20 the law of Moses had contemplated the election of a king in Israel. Balaam had also prophesied of a scepter to arise among this people (Num. 24, 17), and Abraham had been assured that kings should come out of his loins (Gen. 17, 6). We are not then to suppose that it was God's purpose or desire to have Israel perpetually governed by judges like those of whom we read in the Book of Judges. A peaceful change in the form of government may have had many reasons in its favor, but it was a turning-point, a crisis in the history of the Israelitish nation. Samuel faithfully warned the people of the oppressions likely to come from a monarchical form of government, and later history shows us that his admonitions were eminently wise.

Verse 4. All the elders. These were the leaders and representatives of the people. **Gathered themselves.** Such a gathering as is here implied could not have been without much previous consultation. The corrupt administration of Samuel's sons mentioned in vers. 1-3 of this chapter aroused the indignation of the people, and became a matter of general complaint. **Came to Samuel unto Ramah.** The situation of

Ramah, the residence of Samuel, is one of the most disputed topics of biblical geography. See one of the large Bible dictionaries or encyclopedias on the name. It is evidently the same as Ramathaim-zophim in chap. 1, 1, as a comparison of vers. 3 and 19 of the same chapter shows. The most probable location is at the modern er Ram, five miles north of Jerusalem, and situated on the top of a conical hill.

5. Thou art old. They expressed what Samuel probably fully realized, and perhaps has himself put forward as a reason for appointing his sons judges in Beersheba. **Thy sons walk not in thy ways.** A delicate and difficult matter to state to the venerable prophet, but a fact which could no longer be passed over in silence. It is notable that the children of Samuel as well as those of the priest Eli walked not in the ways of their father's piety. **Make us a king.** Or, "appoint for us a king." They would follow the law and seek to secure the king whom the Lord would be pleased to choose (Deut. 17, 15), and who so likely to make the right selection as this venerable prophet of Israel! **To judge us like...the nations.** Here and in ver. 20 we discover what was particularly offensive and censurable in their demand. Their thought was more upon the pomp and prowess of the heathen nations than upon the exceptional glory which God had given to them as a peculiar people.

6. Displeased Samuel. Literally, "The matter was evil in the eyes of Samuel." His superior insight into the tendencies of men of the world, his lofty view of trust in Jehovah, and the necessity of Israel's keeping themselves free from the ways of the heathen, enabled him at once to perceive that this new movement among the elders foreboded many evils to the chosen people. **Samuel prayed.** Here again we note the manner of