

ISRAEL ASKS FOR A KING

July 5, 1908

1 Samuel 8 : 10-22. Study 1 Samuel, ch. 8—Memory Verses, 19, 20.

Golden Text—By me kings reign, and princes decree justice.—Proverbs 8 : 15.

10 And Sam'uel 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 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 menservants, and your maidservants, 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'uel ; 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. 21 And Sam'uel heard all the words of the people, and he rehearsed them in the ears of the LORD. 22 And the LORD said to Sam'uel, Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king. And Sam'uel said unto the men of Is'rael, Go ye every man unto his city.

THE LESSON RETOLD

When Samuel, the good man and the wise judge, grew old, he made his sons also judges, to help him in the care of the people. They did not rule justly, as their father had done; but allowed any one to do wrong who paid them money. So the elders, or chief men, went to Samuel at his home in Ramah, and said to him, "You are growing old, and your sons do not rule as well as you have ruled. All the countries around us have kings; let us have a king also, and do you choose our king for us".

Samuel was displeased when the elders asked him to choose a king for Israel, and he prayed to the Lord to tell him what he should do. The Lord said to him, "Listen to the people in what they ask, for they have not turned away from you, they have turned from Me, in asking for a king. Let them

have a king; but tell them of the wrong that they are doing, and show them what troubles their king will bring upon them".

Then Samuel called the people together, and said to them, "If you have a king like other nations, he will take your sons away from you to wait on him, to be his soldiers, to work in his fields, and to make his chariots and weapons of war. Your king will take the best of your fields and your farms, and will give them to the men of his court who are around him.

"He will take your daughters to cook for him, and to serve him in his palace. He will take a part of your sheep and your oxen and your asses. You will find that he will be your master, and you will be his servants. Then the time will come when you will cry out to the Lord in your trouble,

*The Scripture Memory Passages of the Supplemental Leaflets are recommended as a substitute for those here given Sabbath by Sabbath. Their recitation leads to the securing of a beautiful Certificate or Diploma.