

"Do not many say even of the Lord Jesus Christ, 'How shall this man save us?' Some rob Him of His saving power by looking on Him merely as a teacher, denying that He shed His blood to take away sin. Others refuse to do Him homage because they have never, like the publican, been convinced of their sin, but are disposed to boast, with the Pharisee, of their goodness."

"The phrase, found only in this passage, 'men of valour, whose hearts God had touched,' describes those who were well disposed, who revered the law, and wished to build up the state. To-day we need the same trust in God, the same loyalty, to really great leaders, and the same determination that the few reckless, lawless men shall not spoil the life of the community and hinder noble enterprise. We have a God given king in whose service we can work for church and country."

"Has the Lord touched your heart? Hearts can be quickened only by the living Spirit of God. In vain shall we try to serve Him until our hearts are touched by His Spirit."

"Is there a call for a loving servant,
A messenger swift for Thee,
A bearer of glad, good tidings?
Here am I, Lord; send me."

TEACHING HINTS AND HELPS

This section embraces teaching material for the various grades in the school.

For Bible Class Teachers

AN ANALYSIS

Ch. 9: 1 to ch. 10: 16 describes the dramatic events which preceded the public choice of Saul as king. We have in the lesson of to-day:

1. *The election of the king.* (a) It was preceded by the delivery to the people of a message from God, a very plain and manifestly alarming message, exposing the sinful conduct that led to the business which had brought them together. The Lord charged them with ingratitude for His deliverance of them from the oppression of Egypt and "of all kingdoms," v. 18. The climax of their wickedness was rejecting God as their king and preferring a man in His stead, v. 19.

Light from the East

SAUL'S STATURE—Primitive people, like the more undeveloped races of to-day, were much impressed by striking personal qualities, such as gigantic stature, great strength, a lion-like appearance and a stentorian voice. Many of the most noted of modern Arab leaders gained their ascendancy by physical peculiarities, and the bishops of some of the Eastern churches are chosen largely on account of their commanding appearance, because such personal endowments are still considered special marks of the favor of heaven. In this instance the Supreme Being accommodated Himself to the opinions of the time, and gave Israel a leader after its own ideal.

THE LOT—The use of the lot by which Saul was chosen was a direct appeal to God, free from all bias of passion or personal influence. The method was probably similar to that used in Rome, where tablets of wood, with the names on them, were shaken in a vessel and one drawn by a blindfolded person. Office-bearers in the Christian church were often chosen by lot down to the seventh century, and among the Moravians until recently the same method of selection was employed to fill vacancies.

How many to-day reject Christ as their King and Saviour! (b) The choice was made by lot. The lot was miraculous. "The whole disposing thereof is of the Lord," Prov. 16: 33. The practice of casting lots was common among the Jews. For example, the land of Canaan was divided by lot, Num. 26: 55; Josh. chs. 15, 16, 17. Achan was detected by lot, Josh. 7: 16-18. Matthias was chosen by lot, Acts. 1: 26. The way in which this was done is not certainly known. The usual mode appears to have been by inscribing the names of the persons on pebbles or pieces of wood, placing these in an urn along with others without names, and then drawing them. (c) Saul hid himself. He was sufficiently informed by previous events, to induce serious thought. He is now overcome by nervous excitement or innate diffidence. The situation was one of