

Lesson XII.

SAMUEL THE UPRIGHT JUDGE

December, 22, 1907

1 Samuel 7: 1-13. Commit to memory vs. 12, 13. Read 1 Samuel, chs. 5 to 7.

GOLDEN TEXT—Prepare your hearts unto the Lord, and serve him only.—1 Samuel 7: 3.

1 And the men of Kir'jath-je'arim came, and fetched up the ark of the Lord, and brought it into the house of Abin'adab in the hill, and sanctified Elea'zar his son to keep the ark of the Lord.

2 And it came to pass, ¹ while the ark abode in Kir'jath-je'arim, that the time was long; for it was twenty years: and all the house of Is'rael lamented after the Lord.

3 And Sam'uel spake unto all the house of Is'rael, saying, If ye do return unto the Lord with all your ² hearts, then put away the strange gods and ³ Ash'taroath from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the Lord, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Phil'istines.

4 Then the children of Is'rael did put away ³ Ba'alim and ⁴ Ash'taroath, and served the Lord only.

5 And Sam'uel said, Gather all Is'rael to ⁴ Miz'peh, and I will pray for you unto the Lord.

6 And they gathered together to ⁴ Miz'peh, and drew water, and poured it out before the Lord, and fasted on that day, and said there, We have sinned against the Lord. And Sam'uel judged the children of Is'rael in ⁴ Miz'peh.

7 And when the Phil'istines heard that the children of Is'rael were gathered together to ⁴ Miz'peh, the

Revised Version—¹ from the day that; ² heart; ⁷ down; ⁸ within the border.

lords of the Phil'istines went up against Is'rael. And when the children of Is'rael heard it, they were afraid of the Phil'istines.

8 And the children of Is'rael said to Sam'uel, Cease not to cry unto the Lord our God for us, that he will save us out of the hand of the Phil'istines.

9 And Sam'uel took a sucking lamb, and offered it for a ⁵ burnt offering wholly unto the Lord: and Sam'uel cried unto the Lord for Is'rael; and the Lord ⁶ heard him.

10 And as Sam'uel was offering up the burnt offering, the Phil'istines drew near to battle against Is'rael: but the Lord thundered with a great thunder on that day upon the Phil'istines, and discomfited them; and they were smitten ⁷ before Is'rael.

11 And the men of Is'rael went out of ⁴ Miz'peh, and pursued the Phil'istines, and smote them, until they came under Beth'-ear.

12 Then Sam'uel took a stone, and set it between ⁴ Miz'peh and Shen, and called the name of it Eb'e'zer, saying, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.

13 So the Phil'istines were subdued, and they came no more ⁸ into the coast of Is'rael: and the hand of the Lord was against the Phil'istines all the days of Sam'uel.

³ the; ⁴ Mizpah; ⁵ whole burnt offering; ⁶ answered;

2: 12-19. S.—Returning, Luke 15: 11-24. S.—"Save, Lord!" Psalm 20.

Shorter Catechism—Review Questions 79-81.

The Question on Missions—12. What are the Chinese in Canada doing for missions among their own countrymen? They contribute about \$3,000 a year in support of the mission in Macao, China. This amount comes from about 1,000 Chinese in 50 Sunday Schools.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, Ps. Sel. 80 (Supplemental Lesson); 216; 232; 17 (Ps. Sel.); 31 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 248.

LESSON PLAN

I. The People's Repentance, 1-4.

II. Samuel's Prayer, 5-9.

III. Israel's Victory 10-13.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association)

M.—Samuel, the upright judge, 1 Sam. 7: 1-13. T.—Samuel's integrity, 1 Sam. 12: 1-5. W.—Intercession of Moses, Num. 14: 11-21. Th.—Godly sorrow, 2 Cor. 7: 1-11. F.—Heart repentance, Joel

EXPOSITION

Time and Place—About B.C. 1120; Miz'peh.

Connecting Links—The judgment on Eli and his house came, when Hophni and Phinehas, Eli's sons, were slain in battle with the Philistines, who captured the ark, and the shock of the news caused Eli's death, ch. 4: 10-18. The ark, however, proved anything but a valuable trophy for the Philistines (see chs. 5, 6). They decided at last to send it back to Israel, with an offering to appease God's wrath. It was taken to Beth-shemesh, apparently the first Israelite town on the border between Philistia and Israel, and finally to Kirjath-jearim, chs. 5, 6.

I. The People's Repentance, 1-4.

V. 1. *Men of Kirjath-jearim.* See Geography Lesson. *Fetched up the ark*; giving it a place amongst them, thus proving their faith and loyalty to God, of whose presence in Israel it was a symbol. *House of Abinadab in the hill*; some elevation near Kirjath-jearim. *Sanctified Eleazar*, etc.; set him

apart to care for the ark. The people of Kirjath-jearim thus did all they could to fulfil the requirements of the law as to the sacred symbol.

V. 2. *The time was long.* The period was twenty years, and sore oppression by the Philistines caused the days to pass slowly and drearily. *Israel lamented after the Lord.* Their sufferings awakened in them grief for the sins that had driven Him away from them, and a heartfelt yearning for His return. Weary of their sin, for which they had smarted so long under the scourge of their foes, they longed for God to come and save them and rule over them.

Vs. 3, 4. *Samuel*; who during the twenty years had been working to bring Israel back to God, and whose influence had been steadily growing. *Spake.* He now steps forward as a leader of the people, and urges them to prove their repentance by some practical steps to put away their sins. *Ashtaroath*; the plural of Ashtoreth, the female deity