

it may be God shall strike your name out of the book of His remembrance.

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KING SAUL.

SECOND PAPER.

In our former paper it was shown that in order to be a king of God's people, it is God's plan that the king should have the Spirit of the Lord upon him in an eminent degree. Also, that when Saul received the Spirit, he was personally changed or transformed, he prophesied, and he was endowed with Divine liberty. And, again, that this wondrous change in Saul's condition rendered him a centre of attraction to those whose hearts God had touched. It was shown also that in all these particulars his case agrees with the condition of those who, in later ages, have been filled with the Spirit. The facts which were commented on are those which took place apparently on the day of his coronation.

We shall find in the subsequent developments of his character that which agrees with and confirms the lessons of the beginning. The eleventh chapter tells of the insolent and cruel proposals of Nahash the Ammonite to the men of Jabesh-Gilead, a town of the Israelites. When Saul heard of the matter, it is told us, "And the Spirit of God came mightily upon Saul and his anger was kindled greatly." A plan immediately occurs to him whereby the men of Israel might be gathered together for the succor of the men of Jabesh-Gilead. That plan proved a complete and triumphant success, for "the dread of the Lord fell on the people and they came out as one man." Saul marches at their head, as their God-appointed leader, and by his infallible generalship, so arranges his forces that Nahash was overwhelmingly defeated, and, as far as appears, with no loss on Israel's side whatever. And when the people, elated with so grand a victory, wished to wreak vengeance on such sons of Belial as had spoken slightingly of

their king, Saul, still under the benign power of the Spirit, declares, "There shall not a man be put to death this day; for to-day the Lord hath wrought deliverance in Israel" (ver. 13). Saul did "as occasion served him" in this patriotic enterprise, made no mistake, but in his plans, in the execution of them, and in the result, was gloriously successful. No wonder then that immediately "all the people went to Gilgal; and there they sacrificed sacrifices of peace offerings before the Lord; and they made Saul king before the Lord in Gilgal, and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly," for everything was just as it ought to be because everything had been done by Divine inspiration.

Just like the complete successes of the Apostles and their followers in the first days of the history of the Christian Church.

In the thirteenth, circumstances are narrated which show how and when he took the first step out of God's leading. "The Philistines gathered themselves together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which is on the sea shore in multitude," and the people of Israel were terribly cowed and disheartened. It appears that there had been an understanding between Saul and Samuel, which is explained by what follows: "And Saul tarried seven days according to the set time that Samuel had appointed, but Samuel came not to Gilgal, and the people were scattered from him. And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offering. And he offered the burnt offering. And it came to pass that, as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering that Samuel came. And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that thou camest not within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash. Therefore, said I, the Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the Lord; I forced myself, therefore, and offered the burnt offering. And Samuel said to Saul,