

Lesson IV.

SAUL REJECTED BY THE LORD

July 26, 1908

1 Samuel 15 : 13-28. Commit to memory v. 22. Study 1 Samuel, ch. 15. Read 1 Samuel, chs. 13, 14.

GOLDEN TEXT—The Lord our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.—Joshua 24 : 24.

13 And Sam'uel came to Saul : and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the LORD : I have performed the commandment of the LORD.

14 And Sam'uel said, What *meaneth* then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear ?

15 And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amal'ekites : for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God ; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.

16 Then Sam'uel said unto Saul, Stay, and I will tell thee what the LORD hath said to me this night. And he said unto him, Say on.

17 And Sam'uel said, When thou *wast* little in thine own sight, *wast* thou not *made* the head of the tribes of Is'rael, and the LORD anointed thee king over Is'rael ?

18 And the LORD sent thee on a journey, and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amal'ekites, and fight against them until they be consumed.

19 Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst ²evil in the sight of the LORD ?

20 And Saul said unto Sam'uel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought A'gag the king of Am'alek, and have utterly destroyed the Amal'ekites.

Revised Version—¹ Though thou ; ² that which was evil ; ³ devoted things, to sacrifice ; ⁴ idolatry and teraphim ; ⁵ robe.

LESSON PLAN

- I. Saul's Disobedience, 13, 14.
- II. Saul's Excuses, 15-21.
- III. Saul's Sentence, 22-28.

DAILY READINGS

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

M.—Samuel's reproof, 1 Sam. 13 : 1-14. T.—Saul rejected of the Lord, 1 Sam. 15 : 1-15. W.—Saul rejected of the Lord, 1 Sam. 15 : 16-31. Th.—Vain sacrifices, Isaiah 1 : 10-20. F.—Obedience required, Micah 6 : 1-8. S.—Safety in obedience, Luke 6 : 43-49. S.—Knowing and doing, 1 John 2 : 7-17.

21 But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the ³ things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gil'gal.

22 And Sam'uel said, Hath the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD ? Behold, to obey *is* better than sacrifice, *and* to hearken than the fat of rams.

23 For rebellion *is* as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness *is* as ⁴iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from *being* king.

24 And Saul said unto Sam'uel, I have sinned : for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words : because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.

25 Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD.

26 And Sam'uel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee : for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Is'rael.

27 And as Sam'uel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his ⁵ mantle, and it rent.

28 And Sam'uel said unto him, The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Is'rael from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, *that is* better than thou.

Shorter Catechism—Review Questions 94-96.

The Question on Missions—4. How does the missionary do his work ? Nearly every missionary has at least three places at which to preach. These he reaches by horseback, buggy or cutter, over what are often very bad roads. Neighbors are few, and people expect much in the way of visiting, and in the way of social leadership.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise. Ps. Sel. 46 (Supplemental Lesson) ; 262 ; 250 ; 100 (Ps. Sel.) ; 578 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY) ; 251.

Special Scripture Reading—Ps. 37 : 25-40. (To be read responsively or in concert by the whole School.)

EXPOSITION

Time and Place—Probably several years after B.C. 1020, the date of the previous Lesson (Ussher, B.C. 1094) ; Gilgal.

Connecting Links—The tribes of Israel had been under the power of the Philistines since the disastrous day of Aphek, 1 Sam. 4. Chs. 13, 14 narrate the overthrow of the Philistine garrisons at Gibeah and Michmash. This campaign was marked by two famous exploits of Jonathan, and Saul's disobedience in preparing for battle without waiting for the presence and counsel of Samuel (ch. 13 : 8-14) ; and resulted in the expulsion, for a time, of the Philistines from Israel.

After this, Saul received a commission through Samuel from Jehovah to exterminate the Amalekites, on the ground of what they did to Israel in the desert, Ex.

17 : 8-16. (See also Num. 14 : 45 ; Judg. 3 : 13 ; 6 : 13.) Amalek was to be utterly destroyed. That was the method to be followed in dealing also with the heathen tribes in Canaan. A whole city was placed under the "ban", that is, the city, people and possessions, became Jehovah's. All that had life must be put to death, Deut. 20 : 16. Valuables went to the gold-chest of the sanctuary, Josh. 6 : 19. Saul gathered an army, and made the expedition. Saul's expedition was a Gihad, as the Arabs call it, a holy war, a war for Jehovah. But Saul succumbed to the temptation of the booty : he spared the king, and let the men of his army spoil for themselves. Saul came back to Gilgal, probably to present thank offerings. There he encountered Samuel, who had come to meet him, in obedience to a