

# INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. SELLERS, Acting Director of Sunday School Course Moody Bible Institute Chicago.)

LESSON FOR FEBRUARY 14

SAMUEL CALLED TO BE A PROPHET.

LESSON TEXT—1 Samuel 3:1-13, 19, 20. GOLDEN TEXT—Speak, Jehovah; for thy servant heareth.—1 Samuel 3:9, R. V.

Samuel was the last judge and the first of the order of prophets. His name means "asked of God," and he was dedicated to God (1:11) as a Nazirite. In fulfillment of his mother's vow he was brought to the temple when he was a young child (1:24). Josephus says, at twelve years of age, Hannah's song of rejoicing (2:1-10) is the expression of a great soul and a choice piece of literature. Samuel had the advantage of being well born, but after studying Eli's household we are not so confident as to the environment amid which he was placed.

I, Samuel's vision, vv. 1-10. The young child entered heartily into the temple worship and duties as directed by the aged priest, Eli. This man was not faithful in giving the people the word of God. "It was rare" (margin) and the result was that "there was no frequent vision" (R. V.). The word is also "precious" (v. 1; Ps. 19:9, 10), though when it is as common as it is in this land men frequently set but little store by it. God will judge men for such laxity even as he judged Israel (Amos 8:4-6, 11, 12). A vision is a knowledge of a need and of the resources at our command. Eli and his sons had no vision and a people lacking in this direction perish (Prov. 29:18). Jehovah is about to make known to Israel his will and in so doing he passes over this indulgent father and chooses the child Samuel. Teachableness and obedience are the chief characteristics of childhood and these traits count for more with God than does age or experience (Matt. 11:25; 1 Tim. 4:12, Matt. 21:6). Samuel had not acquired the conceit of youth, he was faithful to his duties, respectful to his elders and did not boast of his accomplishments nor of the special revelation which came to him. Samuel slept in the holy place of the "sacred tent" near Eli. For the great temple was not yet built. As such he is a type for the Christian (Ps. 27:4). It was there that the Lord revealed himself to him (John 1:14 R. V. margin). One of Samuel's duties as the special attendant of Eli was to open the house of God every morning, also to tend the sacred lamp which burned from evening to morning (Ex. 27:20, 21). As he attended to these duties God made himself known to Samuel (v. 4). God frequently calls men and they are not at home but have gone into the far country. Samuel knew God as every devout worshiper knew him, but had not yet received a direct revelation, hence he "did not yet know Jehovah." Thinking at once of the priest, Samuel ran to receive orders or to render service. Had he disregarded the voice he would not in the end have received his clear revelation. To have closed his ears, turned over for further sleep or to have risen hesitatingly would, in all probability, have prevented any further calls (Prov. 1:24, 25, 28). God wants, for special services, those who make glad response to his first call (Isa. 6:8; Luke 9:59-62; Acts 9:6). Three times the call comes and three times Samuel makes reply.

The teacher needs to be ever alert to take advantage of these opportunities to unfold and enforce the claims of Christ and to challenge an immediate decision of the soul. Happy are they who like Samuel hear and recognize, even though it be a progressive revelation, the voice of Jehovah, and hearing, obey it. There is little need at present for the audible voice, for we have the word and the still small voice of the Holy Spirit. The voice Samuel heard became a vision (v. 15).

II. Jehovah's Verdict, vv. 11-13, 19, 20. The chapter following tells of the defeat of Israel, the capture of the ark and the death of Eli and his sons. These were the things "at which both the ears of everyone that heareth it shall tingle." The word of Jehovah stands fast, and what he speaks that he performs "from the beginning even unto the end" (Luke 21:32, Numbers 23:19). The word of Jehovah to Samuel about the house of Eli was one calculated to strike terror and silence into the lad's heart. Eli was not ignorant of the wickedness of his sons (2:27-36). Eli learns from Samuel Jehovah's message. Eli was a great and good man, submissive to God's will, but he was a weak man, rather than just piously resigned. He might better have prayed for mercy and strength to deal with his wicked sons. However, it was too late to change their lives.

"And Samuel grew and Jehovah was with him" (vv. 19, 20; see also Luke 2:52). Jesus also grew normally (Luke 1:80). "When God calls he qualifies; when he qualifies he calls" (Matthew Henry). Samuel was trained in the house of God to be a great prophet (1) by the dedication of his parents and the prayers of his mother; (2) by the teaching of Eli, the priest of God; (3) by the routine of service in the duties assigned him; (4) by the testing of temptation in his contact with the sons of Eli.

## Song and Story.....

The War of Peace.

I am for war. The war that drives Injustice from the haunts of men; The war that makes for happier lives, That helps the fallen up again. The strife to make a better way To build a land where children play Than ever men have trod before. And neither guns nor cannon roar.

I am for war. The war that frees The baby slaves of Monster Greed; The war that battles with disease, And has real service for a creed. The war of science and of art Against the battlements of wrong, The war of brain and brawn and heart To equalize the weak and strong.

I am for war. The war to make This earth a joyous place for all; To have men rather give than take, To have them rise and never fall. I'm for the war that betters life, That seeks all human wrongs to cease The bloodless and constructive strife That is the crowning joy of peace.

I seek no thorns, and I catch the small joys. If the door is low I stoop down. If I can remove the stone out of the way I do so. If it be too heavy, I go round it. And thus every day I find something which gladdens me—Goethe

In Doubt.

Ethel—Oh, dear me! I don't know what to think! Algy asked me last night if I wouldn't like to have something around the house that I could love and would love me. Edith—Well, Ethel—Well, I don't whether he means himself or whether he is thinking of buying me a dog!

This little incident has been told of Thomas Bone, "the sailor missionary." Seeing him approach one day, one of a group of sailors announced his intention of having some fun. He stepped forward and removed his hat, revealing a perfectly smooth crown, and asked:

"Can you tell why my head is so bald, while all of my companions have plenty of hair?"

"I don't know," was the smiling reply, "unless the reason given me by a farmer the other day would apply, that an empty barn is not worth shingling."

To His Mother.

In France the relation between a son and his mother is very sweet and tender. Even the boys of the least cultivated class show an almost invariable courtesy and unselfishness to their mothers.

I was in Paris the first two months of the present war, writes Mrs. Lillian Hayden Hieston to The Youths Companion, and a woman who worked for me, spoke often of her only child, a boy, who was in one of the very first regiments, ordered to the front. I have never seen anything so sweet as the letters he wrote to her to allay her fears. I am sending you the last one he wrote; I borrowed it of her that I might copy it. In translating it literally, I have kept much of the charm of the original.

"Little Mother, So Dearly Beloved. Thy boy is gay and joyous as the birds that sing. Dost thou hear that, little one! Thou must not worry in the very least, my mother. Indeed thou canst not imagine how happy we have been nor what delicious things we have to eat. We caught a rabbit to put in our stew and we found potatoes in a field. Thy boy grows fat, my mother! Why shouldst thou worry? Thou must not mourn when we are laughing. Give to all the friends my loving greeting, and thou, dear heart, look not for letters. It is so seldom that we can write. Remember that I am safe and that I love thee.

"I send a thousand kisses and I am thy son."

This letter sent to the mother by a comrade of her son, had been written on a scrap of paper with a pencil while he was in the trenches, before the engagement in which he lost his life. He said nothing of the horror of the bloodshed, nothing of his own weariness and dread, nothing of the agony and cruelty and death that he had seen. He wrote only what he knew would comfort and reassure her.

The letter did strangely comfort the lonely, sorrowing mother. It made her forget the war and think of her boy as a gay and laughing child again. There had been no funeral. She had not seen him dead. His joyous written words were far more real to her than what she knew of his death. His loving thought had lifted her into the realm of the spirit in which there is no death.

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BERLIN.

A son was born recently to Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Lyons; a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Bracken, and a son to Mr. and Mrs. Abert Ohler.

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Snyder, Mrs. Jesse Wood, Misses Ella and Emeline Snyder, and W. K. Taylor, sleighed to Somerset recently to attend the second annual banquet of the Eastern Stars.

Mrs. R. B. Colvin and mother, Mrs. Grazier, of Somerset are Berlin visitors for a few days, Mrs. Colvin stopping at the J. P. McCabe home and Mrs. Grazier at the C. O. Hay home.

Miss May Fogle returned home on Thursday night after visiting for a month with her sister, Mrs. Harry Zeig, of Pittsburgh.

Mrs. U. B. Fuller, of Meyersdale, visited over Wednesday and Thursday with Mrs. Joe Vonmoose, of Pine Hill. Mrs. B. A. McDonnell has been suffering the past few days from injuries caused by a fall down the attic steps at her home.

William Koontz is still quite seriously ill.

Miss Hulda Barclay, who underwent an operation recently at the West Penn Hospital, Pittsburgh, for appendicitis, has returned to her home in Allegheny township.

The banquet tendered the officers and directors of the First National Bank and their wives and friends on the evening of Feb. 2, by Dr. G. B. Masters and John M. Gambert, vice president and director, respectively, was a great success in every respect. Landlord Falkner and his wife served a delicious feast.

VIM.

(Held over from last week.) Henry Wetmiller, of Berlin, was a visitor here in these parts a few days ago.

Oscar Tressler, of Detroit, Mich., is a guest at the C. W. Tresler home. Mrs. Ada Kieffer, of Finzel, Md., was a visitor for a few days recently at the W. W. Nicholson home.

Mr. Wilson Walker, one of Summit township's school directors, was inspecting our school not long since.

Milton Fike and family and Miss Edna Tressler spent last Sunday at the Wilson Vought home in Elk Lick township.

George Stein and family, of Meyersdale were visitors here a few days ago at the home of Mrs. Mary Seggie.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Shuck spent a day recently visiting at the home of their son, Milton in Larimer township.

Mrs. John Pyle, of Coal Run, spent Tuesday night of one week ago with his daughter, Mrs. Eugene Weller.

R. S. Nicholson, of Pleasant Hill was a recent Vim caller.

Miss Margaret Knepp, of Larimer township is staying at the home of Henry Suder.

Ed. Holl, of West Salisbury, spent Wednesday at Vim.

RULE ON CREDITORS ET AL

In re assigned estate of S. D. Livengood—

January 12, 1915, a petition was presented to the Court of Common Pleas of Somerset County, by Chas. H. Ealy, Assignee of the said S. D. Livengood, praying the court for leave to grant an option upon all the right, title, interest, claim and demand of the said S. D. Livengood, in and to the coal and firelay underlying certain tracts of land situate in Somerset and Stonycreek townships, Somerset County, Pennsylvania, containing (1100) acres, more or less, and known as the "Adams Mines" property. Said option being to purchase the interest of the said S. D. Livengood, of, in and to the said described property at and for the sum of Twenty Thousand (\$20,000) Dollars, less charges and expenses, as set forth in said petition in the sum of \$1,000 and to extend for a period of sixty (60) days. Whereupon the Court made the following order:

"January 12, 1915, presented and rule awarded to show cause why the option should not be given as prayed for,—the rule to be served by publication in two newspapers in the county, Returnable Jan. 25, 1915 at 10 a. m.

BY THE COURT, W. H. Ruppel, P. J. Extracts from the records, SEAL Certified this 12th day of January, 1915.

A. J. Heiple, Prothonotary.

ERNEST O. KOOSER, Administrator.

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ONE-HALF DOZEN ROGER'S SILVER TABLE SPOONS and one DUE BILL FOR \$335.00 on the purchase of one Claxton Player Piano when accompanied by the balance in cash.

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AUDITOR'S NOTICE.

In Re Assigned Estate of S. D. Livengood—

The undersigned having been duly appointed Auditor by the Court of Common Pleas of Somerset County, Pennsylvania, to make distribution of the funds in the hands of Chas. H. Ealy, Assignee of S. D. Livengood as shown by account filed to and among those legally entitled thereto, hereby gives notice that he will sit to perform the duties of his appointment on Friday, the 19th day of February, 1915, between the hours of 9 a. m. and 3 p. m. at the Court house in the Borough of Somerset, Pennsylvania, and among where those interested may appear. All persons having claims against the said assigned estate are hereby notified to present the same to the Auditor on or before the above date or thereafter be forever barred from participating in the fund for distribution. J. C. LOWRY, Auditor.

IN THE ORPHAN'S COURT OF SOMERSET COUNTY PA.

In the Estate of Louisa Clark, Deceased, Late of Rockwood Borough, Somerset County, Pa.

Letters of Administration having been granted the undersigned administrator for the Estate of Louisa Clark, deceased, late of Rockwood, of the County of Somerset, State of Pennsylvania, notifies all persons having claims against the said estate to present the same and those being indebted are requested to make settlement on or before Saturday, March, 13th at one o'clock in the Borough of Somerset, Pennsylvania.

ERNEST O. KOOSER, Administrator.

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