

# THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson XI.—Fourth Quarter, For Dec. 15, 1907.

## THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES.

Text of the Lesson, I Sam. iii, 1-21. Memory Verses, 8-10—Golden Text, I Sam. iii, 9—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

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We have come to the last and the best of all the Judges. The record in Acts xiii, 20, is, "He gave unto them judges about the space of 450 years, until Samuel the prophet." He is one of the men of faith of Heb. xi and in Jer. xv, 1, is associated with Moses as a prevailing intercessor. In Ps. xcix, 6, he is also mentioned as one who obtained answers to prayer. He was himself an answer to prayer, firstborn of Hannah, to whom the Lord afterward gave three sons and two daughters because she gave Samuel up to Him (II, 20, 21), an abundant recompense. The condition of affairs in Hannah's home is suggestive of many a home and many a life in the matter of an adversary to provoke and make to fret (II, 6). If there is no such adversary visible, the great adversary seems to have a thousand ways of producing fretfulness, and not many seem to know Hannah's way of taking the trouble to the Lord in prayer. Notwithstanding the threefold command in Ps. xxxvii, 1, 7, 8, to "fret not," it is a most common sin. How beautiful the saying of Hannah in I, 28, "As long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord." Have we said it about ourselves or any one or anything belonging to us? Then the prayer or song in II, 1-10, in which the Messiah is first mentioned and the throne of glory, one cannot but wonder if Mary was affected by it when she uttered her "magnificat" (Luke II, 46-55). Our lesson chapter opens with "and the child Samuel ministered to the Lord before Eli" (see also II, 18). A fine opportunity for the teachers to explain how even a child may minister unto the Lord, referring also to Jesus, who, at the age of twelve, said, "I must be about My Father's business." If a special lesson for girls is needed, let the little maid of Israel of II Kings v be used, who ministered to the Lord by telling of His prophet in Israel.

One night or very early morning Samuel heard some one call him by name, and, running to Eli, he said, "Here am I, for thou hast called me." Eli assured him that he had not called and bade him lie down again. Not until this happened three times and Samuel for the third time ran to Eli did Eli seem to understand that the Lord was calling the child. Then he told him to lie down again and if called to say, "Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth" (verses 2-9). Eli was not in touch with God as he might have been, for he was honoring his sons (who were both bad men, although officiating as priests) above the Lord, inasmuch as they made themselves vile, and he restrained them not (II, 12, 20; III, 13). The veriest mite in one's eye affects our vision, and the least sin may affect our hearing. The priests of the Lord should, of all men, be holy. All believers are priests, and it becomes us as such to resolve ourselves as wholly the Lord's for His service, giving Him pre-eminence over all people and in all things (Matt. x, 37).

The Lord called for the fourth time, "Samuel, Samuel!" and then the boy answered, "Speak, for thy servant heareth." This was Samuel's first experience of direct communication with God (verse 7), and yet we do not infer that he seemed at all startled or overcome. From this time on Samuel had an ear for God, and God could tell him in his ear (chapter ix, 15), while many Christians would need a shaking to make them hear the voice of God. Let us trust Him for anointed eyes and ears that we may quickly see and hear all He would like to show or tell us. May He be able to say to us, "Blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear" (Matt. xiii, 16).

The message concerning Eli is found in verses 11-14, and the judgments which were to overtake him and his house were because of iniquity which he knew and did not restrain. Sometimes we are powerless to do aught but sigh and cry to God, but in that case He puts a mark of approval upon us (Ezek. ix, 4). Eli had the power to put a stop to the iniquity of his house if he had only the heart to do it, but according to the law it might have meant the putting to death of his sons (Num. xv, 30, 31; Ex. xxi, 17). If we ever find little comfort in God or His word, we may be sure that there is some secret sin or desire or something that our eyes wink at (Job. xv, 11, 12). Let us pray God to search us (Ps. cxxxix, 23).

In the morning Eli, who probably had not slept much after Samuel's night call upon him, insisted on knowing what the Lord had said, and Samuel told him all and hid nothing from him (verses 15-18). Eli accepted it as just, saying, "It is the Lord; let Him do what seemeth Him good." Compare Job I, 21; Ps. xxxix, 9. It soon became known in all Israel that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the Lord, the Lord's spokesman, and that the Lord was with him (verses 19, 20). Compare Ex. iv, 16; vii, 1, for the definition of a prophet. Although Eli seemed wholly submissive, yet when tidings came that not only had his two sons been slain, but the ark of God taken, he was so overcome that he fell off his seat and died, being ninety-eight years old and having judged Israel forty years (chapter iv, 15-18; II, 34).

## MONEY WITH SHEEP.

Drops of Plump, Sound Lambs That Bring Long Prices.

This is how we have made the most money with sheep on Woodland Farm: The ewes have been selected for their milking properties and have been bred early to good mutton rams of the short legged, early maturing type. They have had the run of the pasture all winter and a good warm shed or barn basement to run in at night. They have been watched, so that when their lambs came, if it happened to be cold, they have been given attention. Small pens have been provided them in which lamb and mother might be placed for a day or two while they have been getting acquainted with each other, especially if we happened to be busy. Their mothers have been well fed and not overfed. They have been fed on the right kind of food. That means something cheap and home raised and full of milk. That means alfalfa hay, of course. Well, these ewes, eating alfalfa hay, with a very little grain, are full of milk, and the lambs thrive from the start. The surplus of milk is taken away by hand right at first, so that they will not suffer from engorgement.

**Starting the Lambs.**  
Soon they are plump, playful little rascals and wishing something to nibble with their own teeth. Then they are inducted into their own special apartment, where, right close to their mothers, they find troughs filled with grain—with oats and corn and clean, fresh bran, and with little racks of fresh alfalfa or red clover hay. These troughs are cleaned out every day and the surplus is given to the mothers. Thus they thrive like weeds until grass comes in the spring. When grass first comes they are kept shut away from it until after it gets strong and sweet. Then they are turned out and the grain is fed out of doors. Sometimes we have made the fattest lambs on grass, throw a ear corn out on it as we would to the pigs. Of course, we have to fence a corner where the lambs can get the grain and the ewes cannot. We like to put out rollers in the creeps, so that the lambs may squeeze through and not hurt themselves, and pretty soon the shorn ewes are nearly as small as their lambs.

**Selling the Lambs.**  
Managed in this way, we have sold our crop of lambs in three lots. One in April, and they averaged eighty pounds and brought a long price; the younger ones going again in May, and weighed above eighty pounds, and the very latest and the culs went in June, and they also averaged above eighty pounds and also brought a good price.—W. E. Wing in Farm and Fireside.

## THE SHEPHERD.

When fed in large flocks the sheep should be driven from the feed yard during the time the racks are being filled; this will overcome the tendency to overcrowding and prevent injury to the sheep from the wagon and team. The quantity of silage to be fed should be governed largely by the appetite of the flock, but it is not usually advisable to feed over three pounds per head daily. For sheep weighing 125 pounds about 2.5 pounds of silage and 1.5 pounds of hay will be ample; and if one-half pound of grain or bran be fed slightly less hay will suffice. If grain is fed it is not a proper plan to mix it with coarse feed, as the sheep are inclined to root out and waste this feed in their efforts to get the grain.

**In Western Oregon.**  
Sheep husbandry in western Oregon is conducted on lines that would be a revelation to many farmers. In the matter of pasture, land is plowed and sown to wheat about Oct. 1, and, in a normal season, by the following February a luxuriant pasture will be furnished for the ewes and lambs or for fattening sheep.

**It Gives Vital Tone.**  
The effect of salt on the health of the sheep is not generally understood. Its effect is to give tone to the organism. The ash of the blood of a healthy sheep contains about 60 per cent salt, and the ash of urine 33 per cent.

The scarcity of such an important constituent in the blood means a relaxation of vital energy.

**Lambs For Early Market.**  
Corn meal is an excellent feed for young lambs that are to be fattened quickly. After this comes bran. Linseed meal may be fed in small quantities.

**The Sheep's Foot.**  
Don't neglect to trim off any overgrowth of the horny part of the foot. Manure and filth will accumulate and trouble likely follow later. While examining the feet don't fail to have sharp shears at hand to trim off the tag locks that are an annoyance to the sheep and mean a loss of wool.

**Hog Cholera.**  
So far as I am able to learn, the farmers in our state as well as the farmers in other states have not as yet secured any remedy which will cure hog cholera, says Professor W. J. Kennedy of Iowa in Rural New Yorker. Personally I do not think that such a thing exists as a remedy which will cure without fail all cases of hog cholera. We have had a little experience on the College farm with hog cholera, and we always used preventive measures to overcome the same. I think that when hog cholera is in the neighborhood it is a very wise policy for every farmer who owns hogs to use disinfectants very freely. He should divide up his hogs into small lots and feed them on rations of a thin, sloppy order. Skim milk is very good at this time or a thin slop made of water and wheat shorts. By all means avoid the heavy feeding of corn.

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