

# MARCH 23

## Read 1 Samuel 11-12

### CHAPTER 11

**T**HEN Nahash the Ammonite came up, and encamped against Jabeshgilead: and all the men of Jabesh said unto Nahash, Make a covenant with us, and we will serve thee.

2 And Nahash the Ammonite answered them, On this *condition* will I make *a covenant* with you, that I may thrust out all your right eyes, and lay it *for* a reproach upon all Israel.

3 And the elders of Jabesh said unto him, Give us seven days' respite, that we may send messengers unto all the coasts of Israel: and then, if *there be* no man to save us, we will come out to thee.

4 ¶ Then came the messengers to Gibeah of Saul, and told the tidings in the ears of the people: and all the people lifted up their voices, and wept.

5. And, behold, Saul came after the herd out of the field; and Saul said, What *aieth* the people that they weep? And they told him the tidings of the men of Jabesh.

6 And the Spirit of God came upon Saul when he heard those tidings, and his anger was kindled greatly.

7 And he took a yoke of oxen, and hewed them in pieces, and sent *them* throughout all the coasts of Israel by the hands of messengers, saying, Whosoever cometh not forth after Saul and after Samuel, so shall it be done unto his oxen. And the fear of the LORD fell on the people, and they came out with one consent.

8 And when he numbered them in Bezek, the children of Israel were three hundred thousand, and the men of Judah thirty thousand.

9 And they said unto the messengers that came, Thus shall ye say unto the men of Jabeshgilead, To morrow, by *that time* the sun be hot, ye shall have help. And the messengers came and shewed *it* to the men of Jabesh; and they were glad.

10 Therefore the men of Jabesh said, To morrow we will come out unto you, and ye shall do with us

all that seemeth good unto you.

11 And it was so on the morrow, that Saul put the people in three companies; and they came into the midst of the host in the morning watch, and slew the Ammonites until the heat of the day: and it came to pass, that they which remained were scattered, so that two of them were not left together.

12 ¶ And the people said unto Samuel, Who *is* he that said, Shall Saul reign over us? bring the men, that we may put them to death.

13 And Saul said, There shall not a man be put to death this day: for to day the LORD hath wrought salvation in Israel.

14 Then said Samuel to the people, Come, and let us go to Gilgal, and renew the kingdom there.

15 And all the people went to Gilgal; and there they made Saul king before the LORD in Gilgal; and there they sacrificed sacrifices of peace offerings before the LORD; and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly.

## CHAPTER 12

**A**ND Samuel said unto all Israel, Behold, I have hearkened unto your voice in all that ye said unto me, and have made a king over you.

2 And now, behold, the king walketh before you: and I am old and grayheaded; and, behold, my sons *are* with you: and I have walked before you from my childhood unto this day.

3 Behold, here I *am*: witness against me before the LORD, and before his anointed: whose ox have I taken? or whose ass have I taken? or whom have I defrauded? whom have I oppressed? or of whose hand have I received *any* bribe to blind mine eyes therewith? and I will restore it you.

4 And they said, Thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, neither hast thou taken ought of any man's hand.

5 And he said unto them, The LORD *is* witness against you, and his anointed *is* witness this day, that ye have not found ought in my hand. And they answered, *He is* witness.

6 ¶ And Samuel said unto the people, *It is* the LORD that advanced Moses and Aaron, and that brought your fathers up out of the land of Egypt.

7 Now therefore stand still, that I may reason with you before the LORD of all the righteous acts of the LORD, which he did to you and to your fathers.

8 When Jacob was come into Egypt, and your fathers cried unto the LORD, then the LORD sent Moses and Aaron, which brought forth your fathers out of Egypt, and made them dwell in this place.

9 And when they forgat the LORD their God, he sold them into the hand of Sisera, captain of the host of Hazor, and into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the king of Moab, and they fought against them.

10 And they cried unto the LORD, and said, We have sinned, because we have forsaken the LORD, and have served Baalim and Ashtaroth: but now deliver us out of the hand of our enemies, and we will serve thee.

11 And the LORD sent Jerubbaal, and Bedan, and Jephthah, and Samuel, and delivered you out of the hand of your enemies on every side, and ye dwelled safe.

12 And when ye saw that Nahash the king of the children of Ammon came against you, ye said unto me, Nay; but a king shall reign over us: when the LORD your God *was* your king.

13 Now therefore behold the king whom ye have chosen, *and* whom ye have desired! and, behold,

the LORD hath set a king over you.

14 If ye will fear the LORD, and serve him, and obey his voice, and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall both ye and also the king that reigneth over you continue following the LORD your God:

15 But if ye will not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall the hand of the LORD be against you, as *it was* against your fathers.

16 ¶ Now therefore stand and see this great thing, which the LORD will do before your eyes.

17 *Is it* not wheat harvest to day? I will call unto the LORD, and he shall send thunder and rain; that ye may perceive and see that your wickedness *is* great, which ye have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking you a king.

18 So Samuel called unto the LORD; and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day: and all the people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel.

19 And all the people said unto Samuel, Pray for thy servants unto the LORD thy God, that we die not: for we have added unto all our sins *this* evil, to ask us a king.

20 ¶ And Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart;

21 And turn ye not aside: for *then should ye go after vain things*, which cannot profit nor deliver; for they *are* vain.

22 For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people.

23 Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way:

24 Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great *things* he hath done for you.

25 But if ye shall still do wickedly, ye shall be consumed, both ye and your king.

---

## DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

Today's reading covers the renewal of the kingdom. Saul returned home and was actually hesitant to talk about his great experience. Keep in mind that this was at the beginning of the kingdom, when everything was new, Samuel was still the spiritual ruler of the land, and he and Saul were waiting for God's leading concerning the future of the nation. The nation did not have modern means of transportation or communication, and it would take months for Saul and Samuel to unite and rally the people. Saul's first opportunity came when Nahash threatened the nation. The Spirit of God came on him mightily and he utterly defeated the enemy. Certainly this national victory put Saul before the people and established his power. Some of his associates wanted Saul to kill those Israelites who had opposed his reign, but Saul showed humility and restraint by giving the glory to the Lord and refusing to take vengeance on others.

This victory was the occasion for a renewal of the kingdom and a rededication of the nation. Samuel reviewed his own ministry and reminded the people that he had been faithful to them and to the Lord. He then reviewed the history of the nation and led the people to see that they had greatly sinned against the Lord by asking for a king. He called for rain to show the people his own faith and the power of God, and the sudden storm in harvest (an unusual thing at that time of the year) brought fear to the people. They admitted their sin and Samuel reassured them of God's grace.

## PROVERB FOR TODAY

"Remove not the old landmark; and enter not into the fields of the fatherless" (Proverbs 23:10).

## TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

**ASSIGNMENT 12:** For today's memory verses, follow instructions on page 7.

## HYMN FOR TODAY

### THERE SHALL BE SHOWERS OF BLESSING by Daniel W. Whittle, 1840-1901

How disheartening it is to see a once fertile field that has been rendered hardened and useless by a drought. Land that was intended to produce a rich harvest for its owner lies barren and lifeless. As Christians, God desires that our lives bear much fruit for Him. But the soil of our hearts must be right if we want the seeds of righteousness to grow. The parable of the sower in Matthew 13 teaches that it is possible to have four different kinds of soil in our lives: an unconcerned soil, a shallow soil, a polluted soil, and a good soil—one that responds and produces a bountiful harvest.

At times many Christians feel as though they are in a spiritual drought. God seems removed. Spiritual activities are just routine business. Prayer and Bible reading become monotonous. Christian friends seem critical and irritating. We feel that life is really a valley of dry bones (Ezekiel 37:1-4). Then we cry out to God for a fresh outpouring of His grace, not just drops of mercy but showers of blessing. And soon the

answer comes—perhaps in the form of a Scripture passage, a sermon, a song, an encouraging remark, a new insight. Our souls revive and we are once again able to “raise a harvest of righteousness” (James 3:18).

“There Shall Be Showers of Blessing” was the product of one of the outstanding gospel duos of the past century, Major Daniel Whittle, the evangelist, and musician James McGranahan. Together these two travelled extensively for a number of years in a very successful evangelism ministry. They also collaborated on a number of popular gospel songs still widely used today. This hymn first appeared in *Gospel Hymns* No. 4, 1883.

*“There shall be showers of blessing”—this is the promise of love;  
there shall be seasons refreshing, sent from the Saviour above.*

*“There shall be showers of blessing”—precious reviving again;  
over the hills and the valleys sound of abundance of rain.*

*“There shall be showers of blessing”—send them upon us, O Lord;  
grant to us now a refreshing; come and now honor Thy word.*

*“There shall be showers of blessing”—O that today they might fall,  
now as to God we’re confessing, now as on Jesus we call!*

**Chorus:**

*Showers of blessing, showers of blessing we need;  
mercy drops round us are falling,  
but for the showers we plead.*

**ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY**

**1858**

**THE FIRST CABLE CAR WAS PATENTED.**

**1775**

**THE DATE OF PATRICK HENRY’S ORATION.**

The famous words of Patrick Henry, “Give me liberty or give me death,” will go through the corridors of American history. He tells us he would rather die than be a slave. He would rather be dead than not be free. To him security was not the main thing, but freedom. To him socialism was not the main thing, but freedom. He did not think the government owed him a living, but rather owed him the right to have a chance to make a living. Such slogans as “I’d rather be red than dead” have done great damage in our day. Where is American patriotism? Where is the tingling when “The Star-Spangled Banner” is played? God give us liberty or give us death!

**1912**

**THE BIRTHDAY OF THE FAMOUS ATOMIC SCIENTIST VON BRAUN.**

This great scientist has said many times that he believes in God and that science itself leads him to this belief. He has said that no matter can be destroyed. Consequently, the soul will live somewhere forever. This is certainly good reasoning. Let the atheist and agnostic take note and accept the fact of the existence of God and the certainty of life after death.

Now let us pause and pray for him and other scientists who lead our nation toward further advancements in this field. Let us pray for God to lead us to advance the field of human relationships and human wisdom, so we will know how to handle the power we have discovered.

**ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY**

**1968**

**STATE TROOPERS MOBILIZED** to put down student rebellion on campus of Cheyney State College.

**REV. WALTER FAUNTROY, A FORMER AIDE OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.,** became the first non-voting congressional delegate from the District of Columbia since the Reconstruction period.

# A Christian Life:

## CHRISTMAS EVANS

### 1766-1838

**Welsh Baptist minister.** Christmas Evans was born near the village of Llandyssul, Cardiganshire, on Christmas day, 1766. His father, a shoemaker, died soon after, and Christmas grew up as an illiterate farm laborer in the care of a godless, cruel uncle. At the age of 17, he became a servant to a Presbyterian minister, in whose church he was converted during a revival meeting. He began to learn to read and to write and to take an interest in spiritual things, which caused his former companions in sin to beat him severely and to put out one of his eyes.

The Baptists of Llandyssul influenced him greatly, and he joined the Baptist church there in 1790, at the age of 24. He was ordained and began to travel the entire country of Wales, preaching in churches, in the coal mines, and in the fields. A remarkable manifestation of the Holy Spirit accompanied his ministry, and revival like a prairie fire swept the country. Thousands of Christians began to openly witness for Christ and to sing hymns publicly as testimony of their salvation. This resulted in the Welsh Revival.

In spite of his early disadvantages and personal disfigurement, Christmas Evans was a remarkably powerful preacher. To a natural aptitude for this calling, he united a nimble mind and an inquiring spirit. His character was simple, his piety genuine, and his faith fervently evangelical. His chief characteristic was a vivid and a fluent imagination, which, under the control of the Holy Spirit, earned for him the name of "The Bunyan of Wales."



# The Treasure Path to Soul Winning

## MEMORY VERSE TOPIC FOR THIS WEEK:

### SINNER'S RESPONSIBILITY

(Assignment 12)

Please recite all three components of each of these five verses aloud, five times each morning, and five times each evening, for seven days. The three components of each verse are: Subject, Scripture Reference, and Scripture Text. (For more details, see "The Treasure Path to Soul Winning" link back on the DailyKJV page.)

#### **To Repent.**

( ) Acts 17:30 (Luke 13:3, 5) (Acts 20:21)

And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent:

#### **To Receive.**

( ) John 1:12

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

#### **To Believe.**

( ) John 3:36

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

#### **To Confess.**

( ) Romans 10:9 (Matt. 10:32) (Luke 23:42)

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

#### **To Call.**

( ) Romans 10:13

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.