

## Lesson III.

## THE CALL OF GIDEON

January 17, 1915

Judges 6 : 11-16, 33-40. Study Judges 6 : 11-40—Memory Verses, 14-16.

**Golden Text**—Blessed is the man whom thou choosest.—Psalm 65 : 4.

11 And there came an angel of the Lord, and sat under an oak which *was* in Oph'rah, that *pertained* unto Jo'ash the A'bi-er'rite : and his son Gid'eon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Mid'ianites.

12 And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him, and said unto him, The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.

13 And Gid'eon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the Lord be with us, why then is all this befallen us ? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the Lord bring us up from E'gypt ? but now the Lord hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Mid'ianites.

14 And the Lord looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Is'rael from the hand of the Mid'ianites : have not I sent thee ?

15 And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Is'rael ? behold, my family is poor in Manas'seh, and I am the least in my father's house.

16 And the Lord said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Mid'ianites as one man.

33 Then all the Mid'ianites and the Amal'ekites and the children of the east were gathered together, and went over, and pitched in the valley of Jer'zeel.

34 But the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gid'eon, and he blew a trumpet ; and A'bi-ezer was gathered after him.

35 And he sent messengers throughout all Manas'seh ; who also was gathered after him : and he sent messengers unto Ash'er, and unto Zebu'lun, and unto Naph'tali ; and they came up to meet them.

36 And Gid'eon said unto God, If thou wilt save Is'rael by mine hand, as thou hast said,

37 Behold, I will put a fleece of wool in the floor ; and if the dew be on the fleece only, and it be dry upon all

the earth beside, then shall I know that thou wilt save Is'rael by mine hand, as thou hast said.

38 And it was so : for he rose up early on the morrow, and thrust the fleece together, and wringed the dew out of the fleece, a bowl full of water.

39 And Gid'eon said unto God, Let not thine anger be hot against me, and I will speak but this once : let me prove, I pray thee, but this once with the fleece ; let it now be dry only upon the fleece, and upon all the ground let there be dew.

40 And God did so that night : for it was dry upon the fleece only, and there was dew on all the ground.

## THE LESSON RETOLD

Pound ! Pound ! Gideon was threshing wheat with a flail in a wine press, that is, a place hewn out of the rock, shaped something like a large box. He was trying to hide the grain from the Philistines, who were powerful and cruel enemies of the Israelites. The Israelites were poor now. They had not even enough to eat, for the Philistines had taken their wheat and sheep and oxen. They had been driven away from their homes to live in caves in the mountains.

Suddenly an angel came to Gideon. He said, "The Lord is with thee, thou brave man." Gideon replied : "Hath not the Lord forgotten us ? We are in the hands of our enemies." It seemed to Gideon that, if the Lord had really been with His people, their enemies would not have been permitted to have such power over them.

Then the angel said, "Go in thy might and thou shalt save Israel from the enemy." "Oh, my Lord," said Gideon, "how shall I

save Israel ? My family is poor and I am the least in my father's family." The angel answered, "I will be with thee, and thou shalt overcome thine enemies."

Gideon said : "I beg thee, if thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said, then show me a sign. Do not go, I pray, until I bring my present."

Gideon went in and brought out the flesh of a goat in a basket, broth in a pot, and unleavened cakes. He gave them to the angel of the Lord.

The angel said, "Lay the flesh and the unleavened cakes upon this rock and pour out the broth." Gideon did so. The angel of the Lord touched the flesh and the cakes with his staff ; and there rose up fire out of the rock and burnt them up. Then the angel was gone. Gideon was frightened, but the Lord said to him, "Fear not ; I will take care of thee."