

Supt. How was this illustrated in this lesson?

Ans. The two and a half tribes who had settled on the east of Jordan sent their soldiers to assist their brethren in taking possession of Canaan.

Supt. What advice was given them when they returned to their homes?

Ans. "But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the Lord charged you, to love the Lord your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul."

Supt. How does the Golden Text enforce the title of this lesson?

School. "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

LESSON VIII.

Supt. The eighth lesson is about a certain covenant. What is a covenant?

Ans. An agreement between two parties.

Supt. The Lord and Israel had made a covenant. What was it?

Ans. On God's part—protection, victory, and the whole land. On Israel's part—obedience and fidelity.

Supt. This lesson is about renewing a covenant. What does that mean?

Ans. The people had broken the covenant.

Supt. Is God ready to forgive those who forget him?

Ans. Yes, if we confess and forsake our sins.

Supt. Will the whole school enter with me now into a holy covenant with God, by repeating the Golden Text?

School. "The Lord our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey."

LESSON IX.

Supt. The ninth lesson shows the terrible consequences of backsliding. Read what the Bible says about this mournful story.

Ans. "And they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the Lord to anger."

Supt. What happened to them for all this?

Ans. "And the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies."

Supt. Did the Lord afterward show mercy?

Ans. "Nevertheless the Lord raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hands of those that spoiled them."

Supt. Thus will God deal with us. Let us all repeat the Golden Text.

School. "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in you of an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God."

LESSON X.

Supt. The tenth lesson sounds military. What is its title?

Ans. "Gideon's Army."

Supt. The Midianites were oppressing the Israelites, and Gideon was commanded to destroy them. He thought it was necessary to take a large army, but the Lord wanted the people to know that his own arm must bring them deliverance. What did he say to Gideon?

Ans. "And the Lord said unto Gideon, The people

that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me."

Supt. What was done after this?

Ans. The army was reduced from thirty-two thousand to three hundred chosen men, and by these God delivered the Midianites into their hand.

Supt. We learn from this that however great our resources, and perfect our plans, "without me," said Jesus, "ye can do nothing." The Golden Text beautifully expresses this same truth.

School. "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts."

LESSON XI.

Supt. The eleventh lesson gives an account of the death of one of the most celebrated characters of Old Testament history, that of Samson. For what was he noted?

Ans. His great physical strength.

Supt. For what purpose was this given him?

Ans. To destroy the enemies of Israel.

Supt. Was he a good man in his personal character?

Ans. The latter part of his life proves the contrary.

Supt. What brought him to an untimely death?

Ans. He told the secret of his strength to a wicked woman, was bound by his enemies, had his eyes put out, and was put to hard work in a prison.

Supt. Give the Bible account of his death.

Ans. "And Samson called unto the Lord, and said, O Lord God, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes. And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it was borne up, of the one with his right hand, and of the other with his left. And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein: so the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life."

Supt. From this lesson the danger of keeping bad company, and that God hears the prayer of the penitent. Repeat the Golden Text.

School. "Great men are not always wise."

LESSON XII.

Supt. We have now come to the last lesson of the quarter, and of the year. What is its title?

Ans. Ruth's Choice.

Supt. When Naomi, Ruth's mother-in-law, returned from Moab to her old home in Canaan, after the death of her husband and sons, Ruth chose to leave her own home and country and go with her. What did Ruth say?

Ans. "And Ruth said, Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if I ought but death part thee and me."

Supt. To whom was she afterward married?

Ans. To Boaz, a man of great wealth, and an ancestor of King David.

Supt. Thus we find that Ruth became the ancestress of our Lord, and was highly honored by her undying devotion to God's people. This beautiful story is a true picture of the Christian life. And now, after having reviewed these interesting lessons, and marked God's wonderful power and mercy, let us all with one voice, and with bowed heads and sincere hearts, repeat the Golden Text.

School. "Thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God."