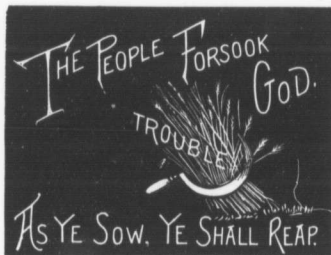


printing them as they are named. Teach that these foes may become our masters, and will, unless we bring them to God.

3. Print Lesson Thought, and teach that when the Israelites got into trouble they began to call upon the One God. Ask if idols can hear, and why not? Then ask why they think God can hear, and get, if possible, some texts on prayer. Ask children if they have ever been heard and answered, and encourage belief in God as a Father, who is always ready to help his penitent children. Print "We will forsake," ask who the Israelites forsake, and contrast forsaking the Lord and forsaking sin.

Blackboard.

BY J. B. PHIPPS, ESQ.



This lesson is to teach us that whatsoever we sow, that shall we also reap. The Israelites forsake God, sowed the seeds of sin, and reaped trouble.

B.C. 1249.

LESSON IX.—GIDEON'S ARMY.

Judges 7. 1-8.

August 26.



valley.

^a Chap. 6. 32.—^b Josh. 3. 1; 6. 12; Eccl. 9. 10.—^c That is, Trembling.—^d Gen. 12. 6.

¹ 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.

^d Deut. 8. 17; 9. 4; 1 Sam. 27. 47; Psa. 33. 16, 17, 18; 44. 6, 7; Prov. 25. 6; Eccl. 9. 11; Isa. 10. 13; Jer. 9. 23, 24; Zech. 4. 6; 1 Cor. 1. 29; 4. 7; 2 Cor. 4. 7; 10. 17.

² Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever is fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead. And there returned of the people

SOWING.

THE PEOPLE

Did evil.

Forsook God.

Followed other Gods. Was against them.

Provoked the Lord.

Served Baal.

REAPING.

THE LORD

Delivered them to the spoilers.

Sold them to their enemies.

Was against them.

And they were greatly distressed.

Lesson Word-Pictures.

Did a long, dark funeral-train, bearing the body of Joshua to its resting place, go by the tabernacle, the sharp wail of the mourners cutting the air? Then the great stone under the oak witnessed that scene. As the years went on, Joshua was forgotten. The promise of Israel to its God was forgotten. Were there few that went to the tabernacle with offerings? Did the fires on the altar burn low? Did few come to solemn fast or glad festival, and the tabernacle seem more and more lonely, more and more neglected? All this the great stone under the oak witnessed. Not far from the deserted tabernacle, Israelites may have been bowing before a hideous idol, kissing it in adoration. They danced before the idol, capering as if mad, yelling, and slashing themselves with knives. All this the great stone witnessed. Past the tabernacle, may have filed columns of Israel's warriors. Noisy, boastful, perhaps with a sneer at the tabernacle, they went out to fight the Canaanites. They came back in shame and tears, with thinned ranks, broken arms, and a defeated cause. All this, the great stone witnessed. What wonder if it had found a voice and cried aloud to God!

twenty and two thousand: and there remained ten thousand.

^c Deut. 20. 8.

4 And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people are yet too many; bring them down unto the water, and I will try them for thee there: and it shall be, that of whom I say unto thee, This shall go with thee, the same shall go with thee: and of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go.

^b Separate, or, purify: 1 Sam. 16. 6, 7; Mal. 3. 2, 3. 5 So he brought down the people unto the water: and the LORD said unto Gideon, Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink.

6 And the number of them that lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men: but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water.

7 And the LORD said unto Gideon, f By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you,

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