

Lesson .IX. **GIDEON AND THE THREE HUNDRED** November 30, 1902

Judges 7 : 1-8. Study Judges 7 : 1-8, 16-21—Memory Verses, 19-21.

Golden Text:—It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.—
—Ps. 118 : 8.

1 Then Jerubba'al, who is Gid'eon, and all the people that were with him, rose up early, and pitched beside the well of Ha'rod: so that the host of the Mid'ianites were on the north side of them, by the hill of Mo'reh, in the valley.

2 And the LORD said unto Gid'eon, The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Mid'ianites into their hands, lest Is'rael vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me.

3 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 Gil'ead. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand.

4 And the LORD said unto Gid'eon, 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.

5 So he brought down the people unto the water: and the LORD said unto Gid'eon, 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 Gid'eon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Mid'ianites into thine hand: and let all the other people go every man unto his place.

8 So the people took victuals in their hand, and their trumpets: and he sent all the rest of Is'rael every man unto his tent, and retained those three hundred men: and the host of Mid'ian was beneath him in the valley.

THE LESSON RETOLD

One of the worst enemies into whose hands the Israelites had fallen because of their sin in worshipping idols were the Midianites, who in the time of the Judges came swarming over the country like grasshoppers, bringing their tents with them and setting their camels to feed in the rich corn-fields of Canaan.

From these people the Israelites were forced to take shelter in the dens and caves of the mountains, where they cried out day and night to God to deliver them.

Now there lived in a little town on the west of Jordan a young man named Gideon, famous for his strength and courage. One day when he was secretly threshing wheat in a corner of the rocks because of the Mid-

ianites, he heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Go forth and save Israel out of the hands of their enemies! Do not I send thee?"

Then the spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon, and taking a trumpet he blew on it a call to the men of Israel to come out to battle. And he chose for his camp a place beside a well on the side of Mount Gilboa, from which he could see all the hosts of the Midianites encamped in the valley below.

Now the number of soldiers who came to fight under Gideon were more than thirty thousand, while the army of the Midianites was four times as large. But the Lord said to Gideon, "You have far too many men. If they win this battle they might boast that it was because of their own