

princess did not adopt him and neglect him. Gave him good education. Probably gave him tutors; but also evidently taught his own religion. Whom did Pharaoh worship? Bulls and other animals, the river Nile, etc. When Moses was grown up, what choice did he make? Could not stay where God not worshipped. So gave up luxuries, comforts, etc., of palace, chose rather to be a slave amongst his own people.

LESSONS. (1) *God orders all things well.* His persecution proved blessing—gave him good education—fitted him for future life as leader of Israelites. (2) *Make good use of opportunities.* He profited by his education. Became learned and useful. (3) *Decision for God.* Such a choice sooner or later comes to all—God or the world. What shall our choice be. TEXT. *We will serve the Lord.*

NO. 6. SAMSON.

I. THE CHILD PROMISED. (Read Jud. xiii. 1-7.) A story of the time of the Judges. Joshua dead, and the elders who outlived him. Israelites settled in Canaan, each family living on its own farm. But in time of prosperity fell away from God, learned idolatry from nations around them; were punished by being oppressed by enemies; amongst these Philistines most hostile. Lived in south of Palestine—subdued Israel forty years. Who should deliver them? Manoah and his wife no child. Who comes to her? What is his message? (Angel means messenger.) Children are God's gift (Ps. cxxvii. 3), and this child is to be specially given to God's service. What is he to be? (Word Nazarite means "separate.") Some took these vows for a time, and some for life. Samson's vow was to be the latter—whole life to be devoted to God's service. *What was he not to do?* Cut his hair, drink strong drink, touch anything unclean. (See Num. vi. 3-

6.) Long hair would be an outward sign to all—abstaining from strong drink would keep him sober. *What was he to do?* Fight against God's enemies—set example of holy life—lead people of Israel.

LESSON. All children of godly parents dedicated in similar way. By solemn prayers of parent—by training in temperance and soberness. What must they keep from? Excess in eating and drinking, amusements, etc.; also from all evil works, called dead works (Eph. ii. 1; Col. ii. 8); are called to be holy. (Rom. i. 7.)

II. THE CHILD BORN. (Read xiii. 24; xiv. 7.) In course of time the child born. Receives name, Samson, meaning "strength." What strength did he receive? *Bodily.* Have read story of killing the lion—did many other wonderful things—killing thirty men (xiv. 19.)—carrying off the gates of Gaza, etc. *Mental.* Powers of his mind developed—put riddles, etc.—was evidently looked up to as a leader. *Spiritual.* By whose power was he able to do these wonderful things? (See xiii. 25; xiv. 6.) God's Spirit gives strength to body as well as soul. (1 Cor. vi. 19.) Samson seems to have increased year by year in bodily strength—do not hear of his increasing in holiness. Afterward fell into sin and was punished. Still he—child of many prayers—was for many years under direct influence of God's Holy Spirit.

LESSONS. (1) *Blessing of early dedication.* How blessed to give a whole life to service of God—to fear and love Him at home—at school—in the world. Is He a Master worth serving? (2) *Need of growth.* Nothing can live without growth. No growth shows decay. Must cultivate bodily, mental, spiritual growth. Same Spirit ready to be given to us. Promised to all who seek Him. (Luke xi. 13.) Then may serve God and have His blessing all our lives.

TEXT. *Grow in Grace.*