

## Well Done!

Not what you say,  
Or wish, or hope,  
While through the darkness  
Here you grope;  
But what you do—  
And what you are  
In heart, and thought,  
And character—  
This only makes you great;  
And this,  
If clothed in Jesus' righteousness,  
Will open Heaven's gate.

Sell all, and buy  
This precious gem,  
And wear it as  
A diadem.  
A heart that's clean,  
A mind that's pure  
Will prompt to deeds  
Which shall endure.  
So God will own you as his son,  
And say  
To you, when ends life's little day:  
"Well done!" my child, "Well done!"

## LESSON NOTES.

## THIRD QUARTER.

## STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

B.C. 1426.] LESSON VII. [Aug. 12.

## THE LAST DAYS OF JOSHUA.

Josh. 24: 14-29. Commit to memory vs. 14-16.

## GOLDEN TEXT.

Choose you this day whom ye will serve.—  
Josh. 24: 15.

## CENTRAL TRUTH.

There is every reason why we should choose  
to love and serve God.TIME.—B.C. 1426. Eighteen years after  
the last lesson.PLACE.—Shechem, between Mt. Ebal and  
Gerizim.Joshua was nearly 110 years old, living at  
Timnath-herah, not far from Shechem. Here  
he lived 18 years after the conquest.INTERVENING EVENTS.—(1.) Forty-eight  
cities were given to the Levites. (2.) The  
two and a half tribes return to the other side  
of Jordan. (3.) Eighteen years of peace and  
prosperity. (4.) Toward the close of his life  
Joshua delivers a solemn address to the  
leaders. (5.) Finally he assembles the whole  
people by their representatives, and renews  
their covenant with God. To-day's lesson is  
a part of this transaction.HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—14. *Fear the  
Lord*—With reverential, not cowardly, fear.  
*Other side of the flood*, i.e.—The Euphrates,  
whence came Abraham. 17. *For the Lord*,  
etc.—Here are given the reasons for serving  
the Lord: 1. Gratitude to him as the author  
of their nation; 2. His great power above all  
gods; 3. His preserving care; 4. His giving  
them possession of Canaan; 5. His hatred of  
sin. 19. *A jealous God*—The people were  
regarded as married to God, and he would  
allow no unfaithfulness, and brook no rival.  
*He will not forgive*—Not referring to those  
who repent, but to the fact, that if they  
sinned, they must suffer, and this infallibly.  
22. *Ye are witnesses*—By acknowledging openly  
your duty. Our professions, our conscience,  
our dealings with others, our principles of  
daily life will be witnesses against us if we  
sin against God. 25. *Set them a statute*—Made  
this covenant a part of their national law.SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—The  
intervening history.—Choosing whom we will  
serve.—Reasons why the Israelites should  
choose to serve God.—Reasons why we should  
serve God.—A jealous God.—Witnesses  
against ourselves.

## QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—What was the subject of  
the last lesson? How many years intervene  
between that lesson and this? Give some of  
the events which occurred during these years?  
How old was Joshua at this time? Where  
was his home?

## SUBJECT: PROMISING TO SERVE GOD.

1. THE CHOICE (vs. 14, 15).—What great  
meeting did Joshua assemble? (v. 1.) At  
what place? What special stress in this  
place? Of what did he next remind the peo-  
ple? (vs. 2-18.) In view of this history what  
did he exhort them to do? What is it to  
fear the Lord? What is it to serve God in  
sincerity and truth? Between what thingswould he have them choose? Have we a  
like choice? Between what? Can we help  
making a choice? How did Joshua enforce  
his advice?2. THE REASONS FOR CHOOSING THE SER-  
VICE OF GOD (vs. 18-20).—What did the  
people reply to Joshua's exhortation? How  
many reasons are given for this resolve? How  
would gratitude lead them to serve God? What  
reason would be found in God's great power in  
overcoming those who trusted in other gods?  
What in God's preserving care? What in his  
giving them possession of Canaan? What in  
God's character as a sin-hating God? What  
is meant by God's being jealous? What by  
not forgiving their transgressions? Do all  
these reasons hold why we should serve God?3. THE PROMISE MADE (vs. 21-28).—What  
promise did the Israelites make? How many  
times did they repeat it? How were they  
witnesses against themselves? Will all sin-  
ners be witnesses against themselves? How  
did Joshua confirm this covenant? What  
two memorials did he make of it? (vs. 26, 27.)4. THE LAST DAYS OF JOSHUA (vs. 29).—  
How old was Joshua when he died? Give a  
brief account of his history. What were the  
chief traits in his character? What lessons  
can you learn from his life? How does his  
life show the wisdom of covenanting to serve  
God?

## PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

1. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of  
wisdom.2. True religion is of necessity a matter of  
free choice.3. But every reason is in favour of serving  
God.4. We should cast our personal influence  
and example on the side of God.

5. We should choose to-day.

6. God's goodness, care, power, providence,  
and holiness are all arguments why we should  
serve him.7. Every sinner will be a witness against  
himself.REVIEW EXERCISE. (For the whole School  
in Concert.)11. What did Joshua do just before he  
died? ANS. He assembled the people at  
Shechem. 12. What did he exhort them to  
do? ANS. To choose whom they would  
serve. 13. What did the people promise to  
do? ANS. To serve the Lord. 14. For what  
reasons? ANS. Because of his goodness and  
care and power and holiness.

B.C. 1426.] LESSON VIII. [Aug. 19.

## ISRAEL FORSAKING GOD.

Judges 2: 6-16. Commit to memory vs. 14-16.

## GOLDEN TEXT.

And they forsook the Lord God of their  
fathers.—Judges 2: 12.

## CENTRAL TRUTH.

Forsaking God is the way to ruin.

TIME.—Joshua died about B.C. 1426. The  
rest of the lesson is a general description of  
the whole period of the Judges.PLACE.—Joshua died at Timnath-Herah  
(or Serah), a few miles south of Shechem.THE BOOK OF JUDGES.—(1) So named be-  
cause it is a record of the doings of the  
Judges. (2) Its author was probably Samuel.  
At least it was written under his supervision.  
(3) It was written probably during the reign  
of Saul, or first seven years of David's reign,  
B.C. 1075-1048. (4) It extends over about  
332 years, B.C. 1426-1094.CIRCUMSTANCES.—This lesson is a picture  
giving a bird's-eye view of the whole period  
of the Judges for 330 years, the details of  
which are given in the rest of the book.HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—6. *Joshua  
let the people go*: from the great assembly at  
Shechem (see last lesson). 9. *Timnath-Herah*:  
called also *Serah*. Here means "the sun."  
See *place*. *Mount*: Mountainous region.  
*Joshua* was (1) a man of faith; (2) courageous;  
(3) disinterested; (4) faithful to every trust;  
(5) a great statesman; (6) a great warrior;  
(7) with all the qualities of skill, wisdom,  
foresight, prudence, power to plan and to  
control, which belongs to great statesmen  
and generals. 11. *Baalim*: the plural of  
Baal, i.e., lord or master. Baal was the God  
of the sun. The plural form is used either  
from the number of his images, or, more  
probably, from his different offices, as Baal-  
Zebub, protector from flies; Baal-Beer, etc.  
12. *Anger*: indignation at their sin and folly,and the disposition to punish. 13. *Asherah*  
plural of *Ashtoreth*, the female divinity cor-  
responding to Baal. The goddess of the moon.  
Both Baal and Ashtoreth were worshipped  
with vile and licentious rites. 15. *As the  
Lord had said*. Lev. 26: 15-17. Deut. 28:  
25. 16. *Judges*, leaders raised up in an  
emergency, who, thus brought into promi-  
nence, continued to exercise influence and  
authority. There were 15 judges.SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—History  
of Joshua.—Character of Joshua.—Baal and  
Ashtoreth.—God's anger.—The results of sin  
to Israel.—Why sin was so punished.—For-  
giveness.—Judges.

## QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—Who was the author of  
the Book of Judges? When was it written?  
Over how much time does its history extend?  
What is the general character of to-day's  
lesson?

## SUBJECT: FORSAKING GOD.

1. THE GOD OF OUR FATHERS (vs. 6-10).—  
Where had the people been assembled? For  
what purpose? What is the need of such re-  
peated admonitions? How long did the  
people continue to serve God? What reason  
is given for this? Give some account of  
Joshua. What had his father's God done for  
him? What was his character? What lessons  
can we learn from his life and character?  
Where was he buried?2. FORSAKING GOD (vs. 11-13).—Why  
should what God has done for our fathers  
prevent us from forsaking him? Whom did  
the Israelites serve instead of God? Give  
some account of Baal and Ashtoreth?  
What could induce the Israelites to leave  
Jehovah and worship such gods? Do people  
do such things in these days? Why is the  
fact mentioned that God brought them out of  
Egypt?3. THE RESULTS OF FORSAKING GOD (vs.  
14, 15).—What is meant by the anger of the  
Lord? How were the Israelites punished?  
Was the punishment a natural effect of their  
sin? How could destruction from their enemies  
be said to be from God? Where had these  
results of sin been foretold? (Lev. 26: 15-17.  
Deut. 28: 15-25.) What is it to forsake God?  
What evil results follow to those who now  
forsake God? Does the punishment come  
through natural causes?6. HOPE FOR THE PENITENT (v. 16).—Did  
the Lord leave the Israelites in their distress?  
When did he interfere to help them?  
(Psalms 107: 6.) Who were the judges?  
How many are named? How long were the  
Israelites under the judges? Does God ever  
give up sinners now? (Ezek. 18: 32.) What  
does he do to save us? Can we be saved from  
our distresses unless we leave our sins?

## PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

1. A good man's influence lives after he is  
dead.2. It is as foolish to forsake God, and serve  
the world, or money, or pleasure, as it was  
for the Israelites to serve Baal.3. The temporary pleasure of sin leads to  
lasting sorrow and ruin.4. To forsake God is to walk in the way of  
destruction.5. God's providence and nature are against  
the sinner.6. God is ever ready to help those who  
repent.REVIEW EXERCISE. (For the whole School  
in Concert.)15. How old was Joshua when he died?  
ANS. An hundred and ten years. 16. What  
did the Israelites do after his death? ANS.  
They forsook God and served idols. 17.  
What was the result? ANS. They were severely  
punished. 18. In what way? ANS. They  
were destroyed and taken captive by their  
enemies. 19. When did they find help?  
ANS. When they repented and returned to  
God.A GOOD teacher needs to know three  
things:—his Saviour; his lesson; his  
scholars. Lacking knowledge of either,  
he is not likely to have success in his  
work. He must know whom he has  
believed—in whose name and strength  
he stands as a teacher. He must be fully  
persuaded in his own mind as to what  
the Holy Spirit teaches in the Bible les-  
son of the day. He must understand the  
personal peculiarities and wants of  
those to whom he ministers. Such  
knowledge can come only by study and  
prayer, in faith. "Who is sufficient  
for these things?"

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