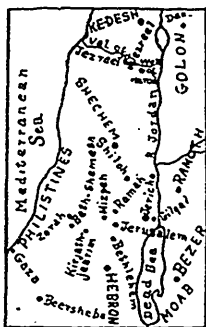


God's enemies, as well as his own, and he was right to be angry against them.

29-31. Let me die. Samson was content to lose his life, if he only might win one final victory for God and Israel. Bowed himself with all his might; pulling down the two pillars, one with each arm. House fell; under the weight of the "three thousand" on the roof. People... therein; those under the roof. So Samson died in the moment of victory over his foe, and v. 31 tells of his burial between Zorah and Eshtaol (see Geography Lesson).

## THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



The PHILISTINES occupied a strip of territory in the southwestern part of the Maritime Plain, 50 miles long by about 15 wide. In the days of the Judges, they were the most active and aggressive nation in Palestine, of a fierce and warlike spirit, with a strong military organization and a widely extended commerce. GAZA was one of the five cities of the Philistines. It still exists as a town of, it is said, about 18,000 inhabitants. Near it are immense olive groves, the finest in Palestine; and the chief industry of the town is the manufacture of soap from the olive oil. ZORAH is about 15 miles west from Jerusalem, and ESHTAOL is about 2 miles northeast of Zorah.

## AN ORIENTAL SIDELIGHT

"Here at Gaza, where we read of the 'grinding at the mill' in the ancient story of Samson, we still have the same operation ringing in our ears. The reason is, that this city has no mill-stream near it; there is neither wind nor steam mill, and hence the primitive apparatus is found in every house, and heard in every street."

## LESSON QUESTIONS

Over whom did Gideon gain a great victory? To what position did the people wish to raise him? How did he treat their offer? For how long did he reign as judge? Which of his sons became king? What was the length of his reign? What office was re-

established at his death? Name the most famous of the judges between Gideon and Samson. Who were the oppressors of Israel in Samson's time?

21, 22 Give the name of Samson's father. By whom was Samson's birth announced? Mention some of his feats of strength. How was he at last captured by the Philistines? Why did they put out his eyes? With what did they bind him? At what work was he set? What vow had he broken? How? What is said in Ecclesiastes about vowing and not paying? (Eccl. 5: 5.)

23-26 For what purpose did the Philistines gather together? What was the god Dagon like? For what did they praise him? For whom did they call? What did they compel him to do? Where did Samson rest?

27, 28 From whom did Samson seek strength? How did he overthrow the temple? With what result?

## FOR DISCUSSION

1. The weakening effect of sin.
2. When anger is right.

## A LESSON FOR LIFE

Sin always blinds and binds and grinds. The blinding comes first. Sin deceives with promises as false as they are fair. The binding quickly follows. Better a thousand times to have fetters of iron on hands and feet, than to be the bond slave of evil habit. And the sinner cannot escape the grinding. How sin crushes all that is fair and noble in human life! Let us see, with God's help, that sin does not blind us, and then we shall escape the binding and the grinding.

Prove from Scripture—That God hates sin.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 79. Which is the tenth commandment? A. The tenth commandment is, Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbour's.

The Question on Missions—9. What are some of the discouragements in Indian work? The Indian, like the white man, wants to please himself rather than to please God—and even more than in the case of the white man. The Indian's will is weak, and he is ready to follow the crowd, and so he readily yields to drinking and other bad habits.

## FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. By what means did the Philistines capture Samson?.....

2. How did they treat him?.....

3. What punishment did he bring upon them?.....