

The Sunday School

BIBLE LESSON.

Abridged from Peloubets' Notes.

Fourth Quarter, 1902.

OCTOBER TO DECEMBER.

LESSON IX. November 30. Judges 7: 1-8.

GIDEON AND THE THREE HUNDRED.

GOLDEN TEXT.

It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man. Psa. 118: 8.

EXPLANATORY.

GIDEON'S SCHOOLS AND SCHOOLMASTERS.—One proof that a man is called to a great work is his willingness to undergo the necessary preparation.

1. A prophet was sent to warn and prepare the people. Not till they repented could there be safety. Otherwise God would have rewarded disobedience and encouraged it.

2. All Gideon's previous faithfulness in daily life, his unselfishness, his piety, had been preparing him unconsciously for the great work of his life. By daily duties done from worthy motives we are prepared for our life's work. Life is ennobled by doing even the smallest actions with the noblest motives.

3. He was prepared by religious worship. In the house of God, in pure religious devotion, is found the atmosphere which inspires the soul, corrects the judgment, clears the vision, leads to right decision. The house of God is not only the gate of heaven, but the gate to the best deeds and the largest usefulness.

THE ASSEMBLING OF GIDEON'S ARMY.—V. 1. Gideon blew his trumpet and first gathered his own clan into the nucleus of an army. Then he sent messengers through his own tribe of Manasseh, in the region of Samaria, and omitting Issachar who dwelt in Esdraelon, then held by the Midianites, summoned the three northern tribes of Zebulun, Asher, and Naphtali who occupied what later was called northern Galilee.

The Situation. 1. JERUBBAAL, WHO IS GIDEON. Jerubbaal means "Let Baal plead" his own cause, "the antagonist of Baal," and was given to Gideon because he destroyed the altar of Baal in his own town of Ophrah. PITCHED their camp BESIDE THE WELL (or "spring") OF HAROD, at the eastern end of the plain of Esdraelon. Here is a broad, green valley sloping to the Jordan. Its southern boundary is the Mountain of Gilboa. At the foot of the mountain as it slopes into the valley there bursts forth the living spring of Harod, forming a stream 15 feet broad and 2 feet deep.)

The Battles fought in Esdraelon. "The plain of Esdraelon has, in all ages, been the battlefield of Palestine."

THE FAMOUS THREE HUNDRED.—Vs. 2-7. 2. AND THE LORD SAID UNTO GIDEON (in what way we do not know), THE PEOPLE ARE TOO MANY, etc. Since he object of this deliverance was not chiefly to save the people's farms and crops from the Midianites, but to save them from their sins and to teach them to trust and obey God, the method of gaining the victory must be such as to produce this effect. For the victory would amount to very little unless it taught the people that all their hope was in God and in obeying him, and thus led them to trust in the power and goodness of God, and to cleave to him as their only Saviour.

The First Test. 3. PROCLAIM WHOSOEVER IS FEARFUL. It would not

MADE A TURN OVER.

Any One Can Do It.

A principal in a public school in Ohio had a food experience that will be familiar to many school teachers.

"The hard work of the school room was so wearing that I was completely worn out and could barely walk home at night and at other times I was so nervous that it was with much difficulty I ate or slept. I attributed my failing health to improper food, and felt that it would be necessary to quit my profession or get some food that would sustain my nerves.

Fortunately enough at this juncture I discovered Grape-Nuts and am very grateful that I did. After using the food for a month I felt decidedly better and like a new man resurrected from the grave. The sluggish feeling, headache and nervous spells have all left me and I feel young and active.

I can better concentrate my mind upon my work because my nerves have been strengthened and my health and energy has returned and I take interest in my work, which before seemed a burden.

I use Grape-Nuts every day because it is the best food for my system, has restored my health, and I am correspondingly grateful." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

be strange that the comparatively peaceful people, without special army organization, should be afraid to meet in battle such wild and warlike hordes, four times their own number. LET HIM . . . DEPART. "In a situation like that the only hope of victory is by stratagem, and stratagem does not need quantity of soldiers, it needs quality. Every man must have his wits about him and be no coward."

"Second Test. 4. THE PEOPLE ARE YET TOO MANY. To produce the desired moral effect; and also "far too many for stratagem. They are all plucky fellows, but they may not all be clever fellows. He wants both courageous and capable men." I WILL TRY THEM. Separate them, "remove the inferior elements which are not fit for the high enterprise."

5. EVERY ONE THAT LAPPETH OF THE WATER WITH HIS TONGUE, AS A DOG LAPPETH . . . PUTTING THEIR HAND TO THEIR MOUTH (vs. 6.) using their hands as a dog uses his tongue.

6. ALL THE REST OF THE PEOPLE BOWED DOWN UPON THEIR KNEES TO DRINK. "The majority of them unbuckled their swords and eased their armor, and knelt down to drink."

7. BY THE THREE HUNDRED MEN . . . WILL I SAVE YOU. God did it, through these fitting instruments thus selected.

How did this test show their fitness? Several reasons have been given, for God's tests are not arbitrary:—

1. George Adam Smith, in his Historical Geography, shows one reason from the natural surroundings. Gideon's army were on one side of the stream, and the enemy on the other, and how near some scouting parties might be, was unknown. For the reeds and shrubs along the banks afforded ample cover for hostile ambushes. Those who bowed down, drinking headlong did not appreciate their position or the foe; while the others, who merely crouched, lapping up the water with one hand, while they held their weapons in the other, were aware of their danger, and ready against surprise.

2. Experience. The three hundred showed more of the spirit of soldiers eager for the battle. They had, doubtless, experience in the soldier's life, or in labors that required strength, courage and endurance.

3. Physical strength. "The service required lightness of foot, strength and suppleness of muscle, keenness of the senses, unbounded nerve, self-control, and a habit of wariness that should never for an instant be off-guard. Without such qualities, how could these men get to their proper places around the camp of Midian without being observed? How could they hold themselves to their proper duties, after the action began, and continue to wave their torches and blow their trumpets, instead of either fighting somebody, or else running away? The test by which they had been selected was very simple, and yet admirably adapted to secure just such men.

THE GREAT VICTORY.—Vs. 8. So THE PEOPLE TOOK VICTUALS, etc. "This verse is rather obscure. A better sense is got by following the punctuation of the Septuagint and Chaldee versions: 'And they (the three hundred) took the victuals and trumpets of the people (all the people of v. 7) into their hands.' i. e., as Jerome expresses by adding pronouns, as many of them as they required so that each of the three hundred should have a trumpet and a pitcher. This explains how the three hundred came to have each a trumpet and a pitcher and a lamp. Gideon took them from the whole army of nine thousand and seven hundred men before he dismissed them"—Cook. THEIR TRUMPETS. Trumpets were not usually in the hands of common soldiers, nor were lamp, or rather, torches. These belonged only to leaders, so that each of the three hundred would appear to the Midianites as a leader of a large band. The pitchers were to cover the torches from being seen, making as it were, a dark lantern. They also aided confusion by the noise of their breaking. ALL THE REST OF THE ten thousand remained in their tents, ready to help when the time came.

An American syndicate have been negotiating with Messrs. E. D. Davison & Sons, of Bridgewater, to buy out their business, property and timber lands. It is said the syndicate have offered \$1,250,000 but Messrs. Davison ask \$1,500,000.

The annual report of trade and navigation which has just been issued shows that the number of vessels built in Canada for the year ending June 30 last was 28,288, an increase of 6,332 over the previous year. The number of steam vessels is 269, an increase of 20. During the year 27 vessels were sold to other countries with a tonnage of 11,460 and a value of \$235,865.

RECOMPENSE.

There is no pay but has its share of light, And somewhere in the dark there shines a star at night.

There is no cloud, however black and grim, That does not touch the sunlight with its outmost rim.

There is no sorrow borne without its gain, No perfect joy that was not ushered in with pain.

There is no woe that can outlast the years, No smile so sweet in life as that which follows tears.

We learn to do without our own because there is some recompense in all of nature's laws;

No sun can rise until the sun has set; No life be lived that has not somewhere known regret.

This thought, my friend, take with thee for the days: God were not God if man could fathom all his ways.

And as thy day goes down its western slope, Know, next to faith, his greatest gift to thee is hope.

—Marion Manville.

RECIPE FOR A HAPPY DAY.

A heart full of thankfulness,
A thimble full of care,
A soul of simple hopefulness,
An early morning prayer,
A smile to greet the morning with,
A kind word as the key,
To open the door and greet the day,
What e'er it bring to thee,
A patient trust in Providence,
To sweeten all the day,
All these combined with cheerfulness
Will make a happy day.

—Ex.

WOMAN'S WORK

OFTEN LEADS TO A BREAKDOWN IN HEALTH.

Severe Headaches, Loss of Appetite, Dizziness, Palpitation of the Heart and Other Distressing Symptoms Follow.

Woman's cares about the household are many and often worrying, and it is no wonder that the health of so many give way under the strain. To weak, tired-out, depressed women everywhere, the story of Mrs. Geo. L. Horton, the wife of a well known farmer living near Fenwick, Ont., will come as a message of hope. To a reporter who interviewed her on the subject, Mrs. Fenwick, said:—"Yes, I am quite willing to give my testimony to the great good Dr. Williams' Pink Pills have done me, as my experience may help some other sufferer. A couple of years ago my health began to give way, and I suffered from anaemia, with most of the depressing symptoms of this trouble. I became much emaciated, had distressing headaches, and a very poor appetite. At first I thought the trouble would pass away, but in this I was mistaken, as I continued to grow worse. My heart began to palpitate violently at the least exertion; my rest at night was broken and finally a bad cough set in, and I was scarcely able to do a bit of work about the house. An aunt in England who had been ill had written me that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills had restored her to health, and I determined to give the pills a trial. After the use of a few boxes I noticed a distinct improvement in my condition, and after using the pills for a few weeks more the trouble had completely left me. I could sleep well at night, the cough left me; the headaches that had made me so miserable vanished, my appetite returned, and I could again perform my household work with ease. I shall always feel grateful for what Dr. Williams' Pink Pills have done for me, and strongly recommend them to other ailing women."

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills have accomplished just such good results in thousands of other cases among ailing men and women, and sufferers from any of the numerous ailments resulting from poor, watery blood who will give these pills a fair trial will soon be on the high road to health and strength. Imitations are sometimes offered by unscrupulous dealers, who care more for their own profit than for customers' health. Be sure that the full name, "Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People," is found on the wrapper around every box you buy. If your dealer does not keep these pills send to the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont., and they will be mailed post paid at 50c. per box or six boxes for \$2.50.



A WARNING TO BACKACHE SUFFERERS.

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