

confusion, the three companies blew their trumpets, probably more loudly than before, to give the impression of a hot pursuit being at hand." (Hervey). The Lord set—In the confusion it was not possible to distinguish friend from foe, and the Midianites, supposing the enemy to be in their midst, turned their swords against one another. The Lord was amongst them fighting for his people. Beth-Shet-tah—(*House of Acacias*). Its site is not known. Zere-rath—Same as Zarthan (*Coolin*) near Succoth, mentioned in Josh. 3: 16; 1 Kings 4: 12; 7: 46. A'bel-meho'lah—(*The meadow of the dance*). Birthplace of Elisha (1 Kings 19: 16), about 10 miles below Bethshan. Tabbath—Its site is not known.

23. The men of Israel—These were the men who had been sent home in the reduction of the army. They were ready for battle and could be quickly summoned. The tribes men-

tioned bordered on the plains of Jezreel. It is noticed that Issachar is not referred to in the whole narrative. Pursued after the Midianites—No pause or rest is observed until the task is completed. So the conflict with sin and the world is to be conducted. Evil habits, unholy practices, false principles have to be tracked out to their last refuges and finally disposed of. It is harder work to live out christianity, than to be converted to it; harder work to follow out in detail, and into practice and life of every day, the great doctrines of righteousness than to understand and explain them intellectually. There is a loud call for vigor, thoroughness, patient continuance in well-doing. (Muir). The overthrow was complete. The leaders were captured and slain, and grateful Israel would have made Gideon king.

LESSONS. 1. God is ready to deliver us from all our enemies. 2. However wisely and prudently, and bravely we may act, we must rely upon God's blessing for success. 3. We need fear nothing if we are on God's side. 4. The enemies of God will be overthrown.

THE BLACKBOARD.

FAITH ENCOURAGED.

FAITH OBEDIENT.

FAITH REWARDED.

BY PAST MERCIES.

ITS WISE PRUDENCE.

WITH SAFETY.

BY DIVINE INSTRUCTIONS. ITS DEVOUT GRATITUDE.

WITH VICTORY.

BY SPECIAL SIGNS.

ITS CONFIDENT ASSURANCE. WITH SPOILS.

"This is your victory—even faith."

LESSON III—October 20th, 1895.

Ruth's Choice. RUTH 1: 14-22.

(Commit to memory verses 16, 17).

GOLDEN TEXT: "Thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God" Ruth 1: 16.

PROVE THAT—We should make a good choice. Luke 10: 22.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Review Ques. 7-10.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 39, 84, 92, 138.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Ruth's choice. Ruth 1: 14-22. *Tuesday.* Preceding events. Ruth 1: 1-10. *Wednesday.* Finding favor. Ruth 2: 1-12. *Thursday.* Kindness of Boaz. Ruth 2: 13-23. *Friday.* Christ's Friends. John 15: 12-19. *Saturday.* The greatest Love. Eph. 3: 14-21. *Sabbath.* Inseparable Love. Rom. 8: 33-39. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

NOTES AND EXPLANATIONS.

INTRODUCTORY. During the time of the Judges, probably in that of Gideon, there was a famine in Canaan. On account of this Elimelech and his wife Naomi, with their two sons, emigrated from Bethlehem to the land of Moab. There Elimelech died, and his sons married Moabite women, Orpah and Ruth. After ten years the sons also died, and Naomi resolved to return to her old home. Her daughters-in-law accompanied her a part of the way, but when the time came to say a final farewell, Ruth refused to leave her.

LESSON PLAN. I. Naomi and Ruth. vs. 1-18. II. Naomi and Bethlehem. vs. 19-22. (192)