

Judges 2 : 7-19—\*Memory Verses, 11, 12.

**Golden Text**—I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely.—Hosea 14 : 4.

7 And the people served the LORD all the days of Josh'ua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Josh'ua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD, that he did for Is'rael.

8 And Josh'ua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being an hundred and ten years old.

9 And they buried him in the border of his inheritance in Tim'nath-he'eres, in the mount of E'phraim, on the north side of the hill Ga'ash.

10 And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers : and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Is'rael.

11 And the children of Is'rael did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Ba'alim :

12 And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of E'gypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the LORD to anger.

13 And they forsook the LORD, and served Ba'al and Ash'taroth.

14 And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies.

15 Whithersoever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for evil, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn unto them : and they were greatly distressed.

16 Nevertheless the LORD raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them.

17 And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them : they turned quickly out of the way which their fathers walked in, obeying the commandments of the LORD : but they did not so.

18 And when the LORD raised them up judges, then the LORD was with the judge, and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge : for it repented the LORD because of their groanings by reason of them that oppressed them and vexed them.

19 And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they returned, and corrupted themselves more than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them, and to bow down unto them ; they ceased not from their own doings, nor from their stubborn way.

### THE LESSON RETOLD

One day long ago many people were hurrying toward Shechem. They went through rocky glens and over fields, up to the beautiful country around Shechem. The people were the Israelites. They had been called to Shechem by Joshua their leader.

Joshua stood under a great oak tree. He was an old man now. The host of people waited quietly for him to speak. He began : "God has been good to you. He brought your fathers safely from a far country. He has given you a happy home with olive yards and vineyards. For many years He has loved Israel."

Again he said : "To-day I bid you serve the true God. Will you worship the images of your neighbors, or your own God ?"

All the people answered : "We will serve the Lord. We will not forsake Him to bow

down and worship other gods."

Then Joshua said, "If you do bow down to other gods, He will punish you." With a mighty shout the people cried, "We will serve the Lord ; for He is our God." So Joshua wrote down their promise. Then he took a great stone and set it up under the oak tree. Again he said, "When I am gone, this stone will help you to remember to serve the true God." Then Joshua let the people go home.

Not long after, Joshua left his people and went to the heavenly home. He had lived to be a hundred and ten years old, and for many, many years he had been the brave and strong leader of God's people.

Soon, too, all the people who had been led by Joshua over the Jordan and had seen many wonderful things which God had done, died also.

\*The Scripture Memory Passages of the Supplemental Leaflets are recommended as a substitute for those here given Sabbath by Sabbath. Their recitation leads to the obtaining of a beautiful Certificate or Diploma.