

HOME READINGS ON REVIEW.

M.	Ex. 20: 1-17; 32: 1-35	.....	Lessons I., II.
T.	Lev. 19: 1-11; Num. 10: 29-36	.....	Lessons III., IV.
W.	Num. 13: 17-33; 21: 4-9	.....	Lessons V., VI.
Th.	Deut. 6: 3-15; Josh. 3: 1-17	.....	Lessons VII., VIII.
F.	Josh. 6: 1-20	.....	Lessons IX.
S.	Josh. 11: 1-14; 20: 1-9	.....	Lessons X., XI.
S.	Josh. 24: 1-33	.....	Lessons XII.

THE TIME OF THE JUDGES.

6 Oct.

Les. Judges 2: 1-12, 16. Gol. Text, Judge 2, 16.
Mem. vs. 11, 12, 16. Catechism Q. 1-3.

This lesson begins the fourth quarter, and is a continuation of "Studies in Jewish History."

HOME READINGS.

M.	Deut. 6: 1-25	.....	Exhortation to Obedience
T.	Deut. 7: 1-11	.....	Communion with Idolaters Forbidden
W.	Lev. 26: 1-13	.....	A Blessing upon the Obedient
Th.	Lev. 16: 14-33	.....	A Curse upon the Disobedient
F.	Judg. 2: 1-25	.....	The Time of the Judges
S.	Isa. 1: 10-31	.....	Repentance Required
S.	Isa. 40: 18-31	.....	The Folly of Idolatry

Time—The period of the Judges was from the death of Joshua, B. C. 1426, to the inauguration of Saul as King, B. C. 1075.

Place The site of Bochim was probably near Shiloh, between Bethel and Shechem, where the tabernacle was set up and solemn assemblies were held.

BETWEEN THE LESSONS.

The book of Judges continues the history of Israel from the death of Joshua to the death of Samson. It takes its name from the special class of rulers whose acts it records. This lesson gives a general view of the condition of Israel during the period of the judges.

LESSON PLAN.

- I. Weeping at Bochim, vs. 1-5.
- II. Death of Joshua, vs. 6-10.
- III. Raising up Judges, vs. 11, 12, 16.

HELPS IN STUDYING.

1. "An angel of the Lord" the angel of the Lord, whose message is delivered, as if the Lord himself were speaking. "And I said" see Gen. 17: 7. God's promises stand sure. 2. "No League" literally, "covenant." Ex. 23: 32; Deut. 7: 2, 3; Josh. 9: 7, 23; 12, 13. "Ye have not obeyed" see vs. 11, 12. 3. "As thorns" a constant source of disquiet. 4. "Wept" the angel's reproof and threats brought them to repentance. 5. "Bochim" (*weepers*)—nothing more is recorded of this place. "Sacrificed there unto the Lord"—seeking pardon for sin, and a return of protracting favor. 6. "When Joshua had let the people go" verses 6-9 are nearly the same as Joshua 24: 28-31. They connect the history given in the books of Joshua and Judges, and contrast the condition of Israel in the two periods. 7. "All the days of the elders" under the influence of their example and teaching. "The great works" wrought in bringing them into Canaan. 10. "Knew not the Lord"—did not serve and obey him, had no thankful sense of his mercies. 11. "Baalim" the plural of Baal, used to include all false gods. 10. "Nevertheless"—though they deserved only wrath. "Judges"—leaders and governors. So he is still gracious and long suffering.

LIFE TEACHINGS.

1. The influence of good people lives after them.
2. God punishes sin by the evil it produces.
3. We easily forget the God of our fathers.
4. If we forsake him we must expect his wrath.
5. He is ever ready to help the penitent.
6. He is merciful even in the midst of wrath not willing that any should perish.

THE TRIUMPH OF GIDEON.

13 Oct.

Les. Judg. 7: 13-23. Gol. Text, Ps. 27: 3.
Mem. vs. 19, 20. Catechism Q. 4-6.

HOME READINGS.

M.	Judg. 6: 1-10	.....	The Midianite Oppression
T.	Judg. 6: 11-24	.....	The Call of Gideon
W.	Judg. 6: 25-30	.....	The Signs of the Fleece
Th.	Judg. 7: 1-8	.....	The Army of Gideon
F.	Judg. 7: 9-25	.....	The Triumph of Gideon
S.	Psaln 20: 1-9	.....	The Lord Saves His Anointed
S.	1 Cor. 1: 21-31	.....	The Weak to Confound the Mighty

Time—About B. C. 1222. Gideon was Judge B. C. 1222-1182. The chronology is quite uncertain until we reach David's time.

Place—The gathering of Gideon's army was at the well of Harod, near the Hill of Moreh, at the foot of Mount Gilboa.

BETWEEN THE LESSONS.

Chapters 3-6 give a condensed history of the period of about two hundred years, between the last lesson and this, during which the Israelites suffered repeated oppressions on account of their idolatry. On their repentance judges were raised up to be their deliverers, as follows: First servitude, to Moab: *Ehud, Shamgar*. Third servitude, to Jabin and Sisera; *Deborah and Barak*. Fourth servitude, to Midian; *Gideon*. Our Home Readings give the entire account of the last named. Study them carefully.

LESSON PLAN.

- I. Gideon's Encouragement, vs. 13-15.
- II. Gideon's Three Hundred vs. 16-18.
- III. Gideon's Victory, 19-23.

HELPS IN STUDYING.

13. "When Gideon was come"—to the camp of the Midianites, whither the Lord had sent him, vs. 9-12. "A cake"—the coarsest kind of bread, indicating the humble origin and station of Gideon. 14. "This is nothing else"—showing the terror Gideon's name had caused among the Midianites. Compare Ex. 23: 27; Josh. 2: 9-11. 15. "He worshipped" (his further evidence that God was with him) filled him with adoring gladness. 16. "Lamps"—torches hidden within the pitchers. When the pitchers were broken the torches would flare suddenly. 18. "The sword of the Lord"—the Lord's name has the first place. The battle and the victory were to be his. 19. "The middle watch" from ten o'clock P. M. to three A. M. 21. "They stood"—each of the three companies (v. 16) had a place assigned to it, on a different side of the camp. The effect was to awaken all at the same time, and thus make general panic and confusion. 22. "The host fled" unable in the dark to distinguish friend from foe, slaying one another. 23. "The men of Israel" Gideon's disbanded army, vs. 4-8.

LIFE TEACHINGS.

1. The Lord is our Defence and Deliverer.
2. His soldiers need courage, prudence, and promptness.
3. He can give victory by few as well as by many.
4. We are strong when we trust in God's strength.
5. He will never fail those who put their trust in Him.

Every day is a little life, and our whole life is but a day repeated. Those, therefore, that dare lose a day, are dangerously prodigal; those that dare misspend it, desperate.