

The little coffin held the beautiful body.— Friends had put white flowers in the waxen hands as they folded on its bosom. The whole-house was in deep mourning, for the sunbeam had been quenched. The mother sobbed and kissed the cold face of her child, and called it dead. And she thought of it as dead. She could not realize that Christ could love her child more than she did; or that any body could take care of it as she could; or that any other world would be as good a place to educate and train it as this; or that any bosom could shield it as could hers: or that it was far better off than to be here. Will she know it among the angels of day when she next sees it? Will it have anything about it by which any one would know that it was earth-born? Will it be her child to fondle and love? Who can tell?— Ah! mother, if you are a Christian, when you come to see as you are seen, and to know as you are known, you will see and feel that this removal of your child was all right, and just as you are glad to have it. Dry up your tears then, and trust all to the wisdom and goodness of your blessed Redeemer.—S. S. Times.

Sabbath School Lessons.

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OTHNIEL.

Judges, chapter III. 1-11.

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Verse 1st. The children of Israel had so frequently provoked God to anger by worshipping false gods, and intermarrying with the heathen that (see chap. 2, v. 20-23) He had resolved he should hastily drive out no more of the nations which Joshua had left, but suffer them to remain for the *proving* of Israel whether they would keep his way like their fathers, or not. The word translated "the Lord," in this verse, is in the original language "Jehovah." It seems an unhappy thing that this great name of God should be so often kept out of sight in the English Bible. Jehovah left certain nations to prove Israel by them. God never tempts, but he proves his people. He suffers evil spirits to prove them, too, and those evil persons from whom they will not separate themselves. He led Israel forty years in the wilderness to humble them and prove them, and to know what was in their hearts, whether they would serve him or not (Deut. 8. 2.); and even his own Son Jesus Christ was led by the Spirit

into the wilderness to be *proved* of the devil. When men are *tempted* they are led away by their own lusts, not by God. God *tries* but does not *tempt*. When it is written God did *tempt* Abraham, it is merely meant and should have been written, that God *tried* Abraham. God did not ask Abraham to sin, but led him to make a most remarkable manifestation of his faith in Him. The Devil tempted our first parents to shew a want of confidence in God. God tries by giving men an opportunity of doing the very opposite.

Verse 2d teaches us that another object of Jehovah in leaving certain of the heathen nations among the Israelites, was to teach the art of war to those of them that were born too late to have been in all the wars with the Canaanites, and still more for the instruction of those who had known none of these wars. It was of importance that Israel should be skilled in war, for there still remained much land to be possessed, and the Lord had purposed to exalt them even temporarily above all the nations that were around them. God's spiritual Israel on earth are a militant church, and their young should be so taught from the first, as to be able earnestly to contend for the faith once delivered to the saints.

Verse 3d. The Philistines dwelt to the south-west of Israel. They were exceedingly often at war with them. Their country is now almost wholly desert and occupied by the Bedouin Arabs. "Howl, O gate: cry, O city: Thou, whole Palestina, art dissolved," Isaiah xiv. 31.

The Canaanites were the descendants of Canaan, that son of Ham who was cursed on account of his father's impiety. Driven by Joshua out of the land of Canaan, it is believed that many of them went south into Africa; where, under the influence of the burning sun, they acquired the features that characterise the Negro race. The curse on Canaan has been remarkably fulfilled. In America, which some ages ago were peopled with Indians (the descendants of Shem) the Anglo-Saxon race (descended of Japhet) now dwells, and rules; and the black man or Canaanite, is their slave. "God shall enlarge Japhet, and he shall dwell in the tents of of Shem, and Canaan shall be his servants," Gen. ix. 27. Yea, and inasmuch as many of the present masters of slaves were themselves servants, before coming to America, Canaan is actually still "a servant of servants." The "Sidonians" dwelt to the north-west of Israel. The town of Sidon was once a great city (see Joshua xi: 8.); it is still a town although many nations have served themselves of it, and its present name is Saide.— Christ once said, It will be more tolerable for