

What were the names of the hostile peoples round about to whom they were delivered? chap. 3. 1, 3.

Was there any relief found for them? Give the names of the judges whom God raised up. Chaps. 3. 9, 15, 31; 4. 4; 6. 11, 12; 9. 22; 10. 1, 3; 11. 6; 12. 8, 11, 13; 16. 30, 31.

What was the general history of the people for three hundred years? Judg. 21. 25.

Do men to-day suffer the penalty of their misdeeds? What was the great lesson that God was teaching the world by these punishments.

What was the warning which the apostles in their teaching constantly gave? Heb. 3. 12.

#### Practical Teachings.

Forgetfulness is a great cause of sin. Israel forgot their own history.

Forgetting God, they forsook him.

As they forgot, so we do many times.

As they forsook him, so we do.

We forget him when we disobey our parents, when we give up church-going, when we love the follies of the world, when we break the Sabbath, when we desire to be rich more than to be right, when we are at all dishonest.

God will as surely forsake us as he did them unless we repent.

#### Hints for Home Study.

1. These verses are an epitome of the history of these people for three hundred years. The next three lessons are only incidents in the story of the years. Each teacher and scholar should read the whole book of Judges carefully.

2. Study and carefully learn all that you can find about the worship of Baal and Ashtarte. Any Bible dictionary will help you.

3. See from the Bible how many times the people began to worship Baal. Search Num. 22. 41; Judg. 8. 33; 1 Kings 16. 32; 18. 26; 2 Kings 17. 16; 19. 18; 21. 3; Jer. 2. 8; 7. 9; 13. 16; 19. 5; 23. 13; Hos. 2. 8, etc.

4. Write a practical lesson about God's long-suffering and forbearance.

#### QUESTIONS FOR INTERMEDIATE SCHOLARS.

##### I. Forsaking God.

In what wicked service did Israel engage?

What friend did they forsake?

What choice did they make instead?

What was the feeling of the Lord against Israel?

What evidence of his anger did they have?

Who was against them continually?

What promise was thus fulfilled? Deut. 28. 25.

What act of mercy relieved this judgment?

How did the people treat their judges?

To what wickedness did they turn?

What good example of their fathers did they spurn?

What benefit were the judges to the people?

Why did God show them this mercy?

What conduct followed after the death of a judge?

##### 2. Forsaken by God.

Why was the Lord angry with Israel?

What would he not do for them?

How would he thus prove Israel?

What nations were thus left in Canaan? Chap. 3. 3.

What warning does Israel's history enforce? (Golden Text.)

#### Teachings of the Lesson.

Where in this lesson are we taught—

1. That God is angry with the wicked?

2. That God is patient with the wayward?

3. That God is merciful even in his judgments?

#### Hints for Home Study.

Learn how many captivities, and of how long duration, Israel had during the period of the judges.

#### QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER SCHOLARS.

What did the Lord command the Israelites to do? To drive all the heathen out of Canaan.

Did they obey him? No; they allowed some to stay.

What did they soon begin to do? To be on friendly terms with the heathen.

What did the heathen teach them to do? To worship idols.

Whom did they forsake? The God of their fathers.

To what was the Lord provoked? To anger.

What did he allow? Their enemies to conquer them.

What is our great enemy? Sin.

If we obey God, what will he do? Conquer sin for us.

If we disobey, what may we expect? That sin will conquer us.

What did the Israelites ask of God? Help.

Whom did he send to help them? Judges.

For whose sake would the Lord help the people? For the sake of the judge.

What would the people then do? Go on sinning again.

How long did this continue? More than three hundred years.

What must grieve our heavenly Father? To have his children sin against his love.

#### Words with Little People.

SATAN makes slaves: GOD sets free.

SATAN makes weak: GOD makes strong.

SATAN destroys life: GOD gives life.

Which will you obey, GOD or SATAN?

#### THE LESSON CATECHISM.

[For the entire school.]

1. After Joshua's death how did the people of Israel act? They forgot God and did evil.

2. How did they do evil? They worshiped heathen gods.

3. What was the result of their evil? They were bitterly punished by the Lord.

4. How did God even then show his mercy and love for them? He raised up deliverers for them.

5. What warning did the apostle give the Church many centuries afterward? "Take heed, brethren," etc.

#### CATECHISM QUESTION.

11. But are all mankind, being born in sin, born without hope?

No; for a Saviour was provided from the beginning, and all that come into the world receive of His grace and His Spirit.

Genesis iii. 15. And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel.

#### ANALYTICAL AND BIBLICAL OUTLINE.

##### The Steps of a Backslider.

##### I. FORGETFULNESS OF GOD.

Another generation....knew not the Lord. v. 10.

"Profess....works deny him." Titus 1. 16.

"Vengeance....that knows not God." 2 Thess.

1. 8.

##### II. FELLOWSHIP WITH THE WORLD.

The people....round about them. v. 12.

"Friendship of the world....enmity." Jas. 4. 4.

"Love not the world." 1 John 2. 15.

##### III. FORSAKING GOD.

Forsook the Lord. v. 13.

"Forsake....my covenant." Deut. 31. 16.

"Beware lest thou forget." Deut. 6. 12.

##### IV. FOLLOWING IDOLS.

Served Baal and Ashteroth. v. 13.

"Mingled among the heathen." Psal. 106. 35.

"Sacrifice to devils." 1 Cor. 10. 20.

##### V. WEAKNESS FROM SIN.

Could not....stand before their enemies. v. 14.

"Thou....goest not forth." Psal. 44. 9. 10.

"Without me ye can do nothing." John 15. 5.

##### VI. SUFFERING FROM SIN.

They were greatly distressed. v. 15.

"Iniquities have separated." Isa. 59. 2.

"Refuse and rebel....devoured." Isa. 1. 19. 30.

##### VII. GROWTH IN SIN.

Corrupted....more than their fathers. v. 19.

"Evil men....shall wax worse and worse." 2 Tim.

3. 13.

"Like the chaff." Psal. 1. 4.