

Lesson VII.

THE TIME OF THE JUDGES

November 16, 1902

Judges 2 : 7-16. Study Judges 2 : 7-19—Memory Verses, 18, 19.

Golden Text—They cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he saveth them out of their distresses.—Ps. 107 : 19.



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'res in the mount of Eph'raim, 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 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 Is'rael, 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.

THE LESSON RETOLD

As soon as the great meeting at Shechem was over the Israelites returned to their homes, and soon afterwards Joshua, who was now one hundred and ten years old, died and was buried with great honor beside a hill in Ephraim.

One by one all the older men in Israel died also, until there were none left at all who could remember the crossing of the wilderness and the first coming of the people into Canaan.

While Joshua and the older men were among them to remind the people of the days when God had saved His people from the Egyptians and of His miracles at the Jordan and the Red Sea, most of the Israelites remained faithful to God. But as soon as there was no one to speak of the great wonders God had done for their fathers and grandfathers,

they forgot the covenant which had been made in the days of Joshua and fell into great sin. They said, "We are strong enough now to do without the Lord's help ; we may as well make friends with the heathen about us and join with them in the worship of their gods."

So the Israelites went to the heathen feasts and took part in the evil worship of Baal and Ashtaroth, which were the names of the chief god and goddess of the Canaanites. And they behaved so wickedly that they soon forgot the Lord and all that He had commanded their fathers, and they bowed themselves before the heathen images, teaching their children to worship gods of wood and stone.

Then the Lord was very angry with His people, and sent them a hard punishment such as He had warned them of in the days