

formation at Mizpeh, a city in the region just north and west of Jerusalem, and marched thence to his great victory over the Philistines.

LESSON PLAN

I. False Gods Forsaken, 2-4.
By the people, under the influence of Samuel.

II. The True God Worshipped, 5-9.

With sincere and penitent hearts.

III. A Great Victory Won, 10-13.

By the Israelites over the Philistines.

LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise, 219, 23 (Ps. Sel.); 207: 211; 524; 202.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Juniors—2 Who were the enemies of the Israelites? How long did the ark remain among the Philistines? (ch. 6: 1.) To what three places was it carried? (ch. 5: 1, 8, 10.) Where was it placed on its return? (ch. 7: 1.) What took place at the end twenty years?

3, 4 What exhortation and promise did Samuel give? Did they listen? What did they destroy?

5-8 Where did Samuel gather them? What did he do? Who is our Intercessor? What ceremony was performed? What confession made? What did the Philistines do? To whom did Israel look?

9-13 By what miracle was the enemy overcome? What was done to commemorate the event? What does Eben-ezer mean? Who is our help in time of trouble? (Ps. 46: 1.)

Seniors and the Home Department—2 Who became judge on the death of Eli? Tell of Eli's death.

Describe the wanderings of the ark.

3, 4 What was the first step towards reformation? What was the second? Who were their chief idols? Whom were they to serve?

5, 6 Where was a public religious service to be held? From whom was their help to come? Who set an example of intercessory prayer? (Luke 22: 32; John 17: 8-24.) What should accompany prayer? (1 Kings 8: 33; Col. 4: 2; 1 John 3: 22.) What symbols were used?

7-11 Give the steps in the deliverance granted to the Israelites.

12, 13 What memorial of gratitude was erected? When should thanksgiving be made? (Eph. 5: 20.) Why should it be made? (Ps. 75: 1; 2 Cor. 9: 15.) To whom? (Ps. 50: 14; 1 Tim. 1: 12.) Who is ever the refuge for his people? (Ps. 48: 3; Heb. 6: 18.)

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. Into what sin had the Israelites fallen?.....

2. What does Samuel do to restore them?.....

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

[May be used as an alternative lesson]

Luke 2: 8-20. Commit to memory vs. 11, 11. Read Isa. 9: 1-7; Heb. 1.

GOLDEN TEXT—Luke 2: 11. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Jesus was born in the stable of an inn or khan at Bethlehem, his parents having just arrived from Nazareth, their home, and the place being crowded with the people who had come from all quarters to be enrolled, ch. 2: 1-4. The new-born child was laid in a manger, the only available cradle, v. 7.

8, 9. Shepherds . . in the field. Keeping watch over their flocks, as David, the ancestor of Jesus, had done generations before on the same hills. Thieves and wild beasts abounded, and there were dangerous precipices. **An angel of the Lord** (Rev. Ver.) one of God's messengers. **The glory of the Lord shone.** Peloubet aptly quotes, "the light that never was on sea or land." Light is the symbol of God's presence. "God is light," 1 John 1: 5. **Sore afraid**; as who would not have been, in their shoes? When we feel God to be near our sins smite us.

10-12. Fear not. How quick was the angel to discern and to have compassion on their condition! **Good tidings of great joy**; the best news the world has ever heard. **In the city of David**; Bethlehem, according to the prophecy of Micah 5: 2. **A Saviour.** The name Jesus (Joshua, in the Old

Testament) means "Jehovah is salvation" (See Matt. 1: 21). **Christ**; the Messiah or Anointed One. **The Lord**; the King of kings and Lord of lords. How richly named is our Redeemer; but none of His titles are empty titles. **A sign.** "You will find the babe in the manger at Bethlehem. Then you will know that what was told you was true."

13, 14. A multitude. All heaven is in sympathy. The angel's song or chant consists of two strains of three members each. Examine carefully the relation of the parts to one another.

Glory —to God—in the highest

Peace, good will—to men—on earth.

15-17. Let us now go. Wise men, they. They would do as they were told. Seekers, they would become finders. **They . . found**; as had been promised. **Made known abroad**; in the spirit of Hymn 457, Book of Praise, and of Matt. 28: 19, 20.

18-20. All . . wondered; and no wonder.

Mary . . pondered them in her heart; comparing them with the words of the angel, Luke 1: 32, 33. **Glorifying** refers to the greatness of the event; **Praising**, to the goodness displayed in it.