

At Set of Sun.

If we sit down at set of sun
And count the things that we have done,
And counting find
One self-denying act, one word
That eased the heart of him who heard,

But if through all the live long day
We've eased no heart by yea or nay;
If through it all
We've done no thing, that we can trace,
That brought the sunshine to a face;

-Ella Wheeler.

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

B.C. 1222.] LESSON IX. [Aug. 26.

GIDEON'S ARMY.

Judges 7. 1-8. Commit to memory vs. 2, 3.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon.—
Judges 7. 20.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

God can give the victory to the fewest
numbers and the feeblest instrumentalities.

TIME.—About B.C. 1222. Two hundred
years after our last lesson. Gideon was judge
from B.C. 1222-1182.

PLACE.—Gideon's home was in Ophrah, in
Manasseh. The battle was fought in the
valley at the foot of Mt. Gilboa, 15 or 20
miles south-west of the sea of Galilee.

INTERVENING EVENTS.—

- 1. The oppression of Chushan-Rishathaim during the last days of Joshua 8 years.
2. First Judge, Othniel 40 years.
3. Oppression by Moabites 18 years.
4. Deliverance by Ehud, rest for 80 years.
5. Oppression by Jabin and Sisera 20 years.
6. Deliverance by Deborah and Barak, rest for 40 years.
7. Oppression by Midianites 7 years.
8. Deliverance by Gideon, and rest for 40 years.

INTRODUCTION.—Two hundred years have
passed since the death of Joshua. The
northern tribes have now been suffering for
seven years under the depredations of the
Midianites, who have carried away their
cattle and destroyed their harvests. To-day's
lesson gives an account of the deliverance
God sent them when they repented.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—1. Jerubbaal
—i.e., One with whom Baal contends.
Gideon was so named from his casting down
Baal's altar. See Judges 6. 24-32. Harod
. Moreh—A fountain and a hill in the
valley of Jezreel, at the base of Mt. Gilboa.
3. Whosoever afraid.—At the sight of the
multitude of the Midianites. 5. Lappeth—
Brought the water to his mouth in his hand,
showing quickness and prudence, as not put-
ting himself in the power of the enemy by
lying down. 8. Trumpets—Each of the
three hundred had a torch, which he hid in
a pitcher as a dark lantern, and a trumpet
which was usually in the hands only of
leaders. So that there seemed to be 300
chieftains. The blare of the trumpets and
the crash of the pitchers confused the Midian-
ites. See the rest of the chapter.

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—Gideon's
first exploit—How he was prepared for his
greater work—The Midianites—God's aids to
Gideon's faith—Lapping—Lamps, pitchers,
and trumpets—The victory.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—How much time inter-
venes between this lesson and the last? Give
some of the events of that interval? How
much of the time were the Israelites pros-
perous, and how much in subjection to their
enemies?

SUBJECT: THE SOLDIERS OF THE LORD.

1. GIDEON'S PREPARATION (v. 1).—What
two names had Gideon? Why was he called
Jerubbaal? (Judg. 6. 24-32.) How was this
transaction a preparation of Gideon for his
future work? What other preparation had
he? (Judg. 6. 11-14.) What kind of a man
was he before he was called? (Judg. 6. 12.)

Was this a reason why he had further aid?
How did the Lord strengthen his faith?
(Judg. 6. 36-40.) Are we all called to be
soldiers of Christ? (Eph. 6. 11.) In what
ways? How are we prepared for our future
work?

2. GIDEON'S ARMY (v. 1-8).—What enemy
was now oppressing the Israelites? For how
long? (Judg. 6. 1.) How had they treated
Israel? (Judg. 6. 2-6.) Where were the
enemy now encamped? What great enemies
have we to fight? (Eph. 6. 12.) Is their
oppression of us as evil as that of the Midian-
ites? How large was Gideon's army? Why
were these too many? What test was ap-
plied to see who should remain? Why is
courage necessary in the Christian soldier?
How many were now left? What other test
was applied? What is meant by "lapping"?
Did this act show any moral qualities? Is
our character shown in our smallest acts?
What qualities are needed in the Lord's
soldiers? How were the 300 armed? (Judg.
7. 16.) What was the object of the trumpets?
of the lamps? of the pitchers?

3. GIDEON'S VICTORY.—How did God en-
courage Gideon's faith? (Judg. 7. 10-15.)
How did Gideon arrange his little band?
Give an account of the battle? Has God
often gained his victories in this world with
as feeble means? What should we learn
from this?

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

- 1. God raises up great heroes and leaders
from the most obscure families.
2. By doing the duties near at hand we are
prepared for our future work.
3. God's army needs courage, quickness,
and prudence.
4. Our character is revealed in our most
trivial actions.
5. Never be discouraged because our num-
bers are small and our means feeble.
6. God aids and strengthens the faith of
his soldiers.

REVIEW EXERCISE. (For the whole School
in Concert.)

1. Who was Gideon? Ans. The son of
Joash, of the city of Ophrah, of the tribe of
Manasseh. 2. To what work did God call
him? Ans. To deliver Israel from the
Midianites. 3. How was he prepared? Ans.
By overthrowing the altar of Baal in his own
city. 4. How large was his army? Ans.
Three hundred men. 5. How were they
armed? Ans. With lamps, pitchers, and
trumpets. 6. What was the result? Ans.
They gained a great victory.

B.C. 1096.] LESSON X. [Sept. 2.

THE DEATH OF SAMSON.

Judg. 16. 21-31. Commit to mem. vs. 28-30.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The God of Israel is he that giveth strength
and power unto his people.—Psa. 68. 35.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver
us from evil.

TIME.—Samson was judge from B.C. 1116-
1096. His death was about 1096. 126 years
after our last lesson.

PLACE.—Gaza, a large Philistine city 50
miles south-west of Jerusalem, and three
miles from the sea-coast.

Table with 2 columns: Event, B.C.
Rest under Gideon... 40 years... 1222-1182.
Rule of Abimelech... 3 years... 1182-1179.
Tolah, judge... 28 years... 1179-1150.
Jair, judge... 22 years... 1156-1134.

Table with 2 columns: Region, B.C.
EAST ISRAEL.
Oppression of Ammonites... 18 years... 1184.
Jephthah... 6 years.
Jozan... 7 years.
Elon (in part) 9 years.

Table with 2 columns: Region, B.C.
WEST ISRAEL.
Oppression of Philistines... 40 years... 1184.

During this time Eli was
judge. It includes 20
years of Samuel, and the
20 years of Samson.

SAMSON (sunlike).—Born at Zorah; of
the tribe of Dan; father was Manoah. He
was a Nazarite, i.e., one consecrated to God,
and forbidden to drink wine or shave his

hair. He was raised up to defend his people
from the Philistines, whose country was on
the border of Dan.

INTRODUCTION.—After many adventures
for almost 20 years in various contests with
the Philistines, Samson fell before the tempta-
tions of Delilah, a Philistine woman. He
revealed the secret of his strength, his hair
was cut off by her, and the Philistines took
him captive.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—21. Philis-
tines—A warlike nation, south-west of Pales-
tine, and from Palestine receives its name.
Grind—Turn a huge millstone placed upon
another for grinding grain. It was regarded
as disgraceful work. 23. Dagon—An idol
with the body of a fish, but head and arms
of a man. 26. Feet the pillars—The two
central pillars upon which one side of the
roof rested. 28. Remember me—It was to
avenge Samson. It was also to honour
Jehovah, for the Philistines attributed to
their god what was due to God's punishment
of Samson's sin.

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—Samson's
life—His character—His work—His fall—
The Philistines—Samson's death—Lessons
from his life.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—Give some of the events
that took place between the last lesson and
this. Over how long a time does the interval
extend? What kind of a government had
the Israelites at this time? What great
prophets lived at the same time with Samson?

SUBJECT: LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF
SAMSON.

1. SAMSON'S LIFE.—Where was Samson
born? When? Who were his parents? To
what was he consecrated? (Judg. 13. 5.)
What is a Nazarite? What is it for us to be
consecrated? Relate some of the events in
Samson's life? What would you say about
his character? How could God's Spirit come
upon such a man? What was the source of
his great strength? Was he doing God's
work? Does God still use imperfect instru-
ments? How long did Samson judge Israel?
(Judg. 16. 31.)

2. SAMSON'S FALL.—Who tempted Sam-
son? How did he put her off at first? How
was he finally induced to tell the secret of
his strength? Did his strength really lie in
his hair, or was this only a sign or symbol?
How far was Samson to blame for his fall?
Does the punishment of our sins often grow
out of our sinful indulgences? How might
he have resisted the temptation? Are our
temptations ever greater than we can bear?
(Eph. 6. 14-18; Heb. 12. 1, 2.)

3. SAMSON'S PUNISHMENT AND REPENT-
ANCE (vs. 21-31).—Who were the Philistines?
How did they treat Samson? Why? To
whom did they attribute his fall? How
would this dishonour Jehovah? Why is it
mentioned that his hair grew again? Was
it a sign of his repentance? How did the
Philistines celebrate their victory? What
was Dagon? How many people were in the
temple? What was Samson's prayer? Was
his feeling right? How were the Philistines
destroyed? Did Samson wish to die, or was
this an act of heroism? How would this
event honour Jehovah among the heathen?
What lessons do you learn from Samson's
career?

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

- 1. Great gifts are often joined with great
imperfections.
2. All persons should be consecrated to
God.
3. We see the danger of going into bad
company.
4. Only in obedience and consecration is
safety.
5. The sins of God's people dishonour God.
6. The punishment of sin often grows out
of the sin.
7. Trouble often leads men to repentance.
8. God ever hears the penitent's prayer.

REVIEW EXERCISE. (For the whole School
in Concert.)

7. Who was Samson? Ans. A very strong
man who lived 1100 years before Christ. 8.
How was he set apart? Ans. He was con-
secrated to God by the Nazarites' vow. 9.
What did he do? Ans. He delivered Israel
from the Philistines. 10. How did he fall?
Ans. By yielding to the temptations of
Delilah. 11. How was he punished? Ans.
His eyes were put out, and he was placed in
prison in fetters. 12. What was his last
act? Ans. He died in causing a terrible
destruction of Israel's enemies.

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