

Lesson VII.

GIDEON AND HIS THREE HUNDRED November 17, 1907

Judges 7: 9-23. Commit to Memory, vs. 17, 18. Read Judges chs. 6 to 8,

GOLDEN TEXT—Ye shall not fear them; for the Lord your God he shall fight for you.—Deuteronomy 3: 22.

9 And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Arise, get thee down ¹ unto the host; for I have delivered it into thine hand.

10 But if thou fear to go down, go thou with ² Phu'rah thy servant down to the ³ host:

11 And thou shalt hear what they say; and afterward shall thine hands be strengthened to go down ¹ unto the host. Then went he down with ² Phu'rah his servant unto the ⁴ outside of the armed men that were in the ³ host.

12 And the Mid'ianites and the Amal'ekites and all the children of the east lay along in the valley like ⁵ grasshoppers for multitude; and their camels were without number, as the sand ⁶ by the sea side for multitude.

13 And when Gid'eon was come, behold, there was a man that told a dream unto his fellow, and said, Behold, I dreamed a dream, and lo, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the ⁷ host of Mid'ian, and came unto ⁷ a tent, and smote it that it fell, and ⁸ overturned it, that the tent lay along.

14 And his fellow answered and said, This is nothing else save the sword of Gid'eon the son of Jo'ash, a man of Is'rael: ⁹ for into his hand ¹⁰ hath God delivered Mid'ian, and all the host.

15 And it was so, when Gid'eon heard the telling of the dream, and the interpretation thereof, that he worshipped, and ¹¹ returned into the ³ host of Is'rael, and said, Arise; for the LORD hath delivered into your hand the host of Mid'ian.

16 And he divided the three hundred men into

Revised Version—into the camp: ² Purah: ³ camp: ⁴ outermost part; ⁵ locusts; ⁶ which is upon the sea shore; ⁷ the; ⁸ turned it upside down; ⁹ Omit for; ¹⁰ God hath; ¹¹ he; ¹² into the hands of all of them trumpets, and; ¹³ with torches; ¹⁴ For the LORD, and for Gideon, and for Gideon; ¹⁵ when; ¹⁶ in pieces; ¹⁷ torches; ¹⁸ and they shouted, and put them to flight; ¹⁹ they blew the three hundred trumpets; ²⁰ and against all; ²¹ as far as; ²² toward Zererah, as far as; ²³ by; ²⁴ were gathered together; ²⁵ Midian.

LESSON PLAN

- I. Midian's Camp, 9-14.
- II. Midian's Conqueror, 15-21a.
- III. Midian's Flight, 21b-23.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of B. I. R. Association)

M.—Sin and its consequences, Judges 6: 1-10. T.—Gideon's call, Judges 6: 11-24. W.—Gideon encouraged, Judges 6: 25-40. Th.—Gideon and his three hundred, Judges 7: 1-14. F.—Gideon and his three hundred, Judges 7: 15-23. S.—"Not by might," Zech. 4: 1-10. S.—Power in weakness, 1

EXPOSITION

Time and Place—About B. C. 1249; the valley of Jezreel.

Connecting Links—The Book of Judges consists of a number of episodes in the history of Israel, covering a considerable period; but the story is not continuous, nor are the incidents given in chronological order. Again and again, as the result of defection from Jehovah and of disunion among themselves, they became subject to various foreign enemies. Amongst these last were Midianites from the Arabian desert, who, along with other tribes from the same region, swept across the Jordan and laid waste the fertile valleys which the Israelites were seeking to cultivate. God raised up a deliverer in

three companies, and he put ¹² a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers, ¹³ and lamps within the pitchers.

17 And he said unto them, Look on me, and do likewise: and, behold, when I come to the ⁴ outside of the camp, it shall be *that*, as I do, so shall ye do.

18 When I blow ⁷ with a trumpet, I and all that are with me, then blow ye the trumpets also on every side of all the camp, and say, ¹⁴ *The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon.*

19 So Gid'eon, and the hundred men that were with him, came unto the ⁴ outside of the camp in the beginning of the middle watch; ¹⁵ and they had but newly set the watch: and they blew the trumpets, and brake ¹⁶ the pitchers that were in their hands.

20 And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the ¹⁷ lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow *withal*; and they cried, The sword of the LORD, and of Gid'eon.

21 And they stood every man in his place round about the camp: and all the host ran, ¹⁸ and cried, and fled.

22 And ¹⁹ the three hundred blew the trumpets, and the LORD set every man's sword against his fellow, ²⁰ even throughout all the host: and the host fled ²¹ to Bethshit'tah ²² in Zer'erath, and to the border of A'bel-meho'lah, ²³ unto Tab'ath.

23 And the men of Is'rael ²⁴ gathered themselves together out of Naph'tali, and out of Ash'er, and out of all Manas'seh, and pursued after ²⁵ the Mid'ianites.

Cor. 1: 20-31.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 78. *What is forbidden in the ninth commandment?* A. The ninth commandment forbiddeth whatsoever is prejudicial to truth, or injurious to our own or our neighbour's good name.

The Question on Missions—7. What do the boys and girls do after they leave school? Most of them go back to the reserves, and make a living as farmers; and some of these are bright examples of success as civilized and Christian leaders amongst their own people.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, Ps. Sel., 80 (Supplemental Lesson); 255; 260; 62 (Ps. Sel.); 252 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 256.

Gideon of Ophrah in the tribe of Manasseh, who raised his standard in the name of Jehovah. An army of 32,000 men rallied around him for a time, but two-thirds of them melted away in presence of the enemy. The remaining 10,000 were ultimately reduced to 300. By a clever ruse, these proved sufficient to put the invading tribes to flight. (See chs. 6: 1 to 7: 8.)

I. Midian's Camp, 9-14.

Vs. 9, 10. *The same night*; immediately following the reduction of Gideon's army to three hundred men, as described in vs. 4-8. *Arise, get thee down unto the host*; a command from God to make an attack upon the invading Midianites, who were encamped in