

## THE VICTORY OF GIDEON'S BAND

Judges, chapter 7

As time went on, the people of Israel began to forget God again, and at last they even began to worship an idol called Baal. Every year at harvest time the Midianites (a heathen people) came over in great numbers and carried away the grain that the Israelites had worked so hard to raise. This



was only one of the many things they did, and unless the Israelites could in some way be free of these cruel foes, the nation would soon be destroyed.

God loved his people in spite of their forgetting him, so one day he sent an angel to Gideon, a brave young man, and told him that he would help him to save his people from the Midianites. When Gideon called for soldiers they came quickly from every city and town.

But God wanted only a small army this time, for Israel must learn that it was God's power and not their soldiers who won. So he sent back many of the soldiers. Still the army was too large. Then God gave Gideon this way to choose his little band of helpers. When they reached the river and stopped to drink, Gideon was to choose the soldiers who quickly lapped up water, putting their hands to their mouth, who did not take time to kneel down. There were three hundred of these men, so they went on with Gideon, and the rest went home. But first some of the trumpeters