

LESSON II. ISRAEL ENTERS THE LAND OF PROMISE October 13, 1907

Joshua 3 : 5-17. Commit to Memory v. 17. Read Joshua, chs. 2 to 4.

GOLDEN TEXT—And he led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city of habitation.—
Psalm 107 : 7.

5 And Josh'ua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves : for to-morrow the LORD will do wonders among you.

6 And Josh'ua spake unto the priests, saying, Take up the ark of the covenant, and pass over before the people. And they took up the ark of the covenant, and went before the people.

7 And the LORD said unto Josh'ua, This day will I begin to magnify thee in the sight of all Is'rael, that they may know that, as I was with Mo'ses, so I will be with thee.

8 And thou shalt command the priests that bear the ark of the covenant, saying, When ye are come to the brink of the water of Jor'dan, ye shall stand still in Jor'dan.

9 And Josh'ua said unto the children of Is'rael, Come hither, and hear the words of the LORD your God.

10 And Josh'ua said, Hereby ye shall know that the living God is among you, and that he will without fail drive out from before you the ²Ca'naanites, and the Hit'tites, and the Hi'vites, and the Periz'zites, and the Gir'gashites, and the Am'orites, and the Jeb'usites.

11 Behold, the ark of the covenant of the LORD of all the earth passeth over before you into Jor'dan.

Revised Version—waters : ² This and following names, singular instead of plural ; ³ for ; ⁴ when ; ⁵ even the waters ; ⁶ in one heap ; ⁷ Omit and ; ⁸ that bare ; ⁹ being ; ¹⁰ brink ; ¹¹ its ; ¹² in one heap, a great way off, at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan ; ¹³ went ; ¹⁴ Arabah, even the Salt Sea, were wholly ; ¹⁵ Israel ; ¹⁶ nation.

LESSON PLAN

- I. Promises, 5-7.
- II. Preparation, 8-13.
- III. Fulfilment, 14-17.

DAILY READINGS

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

M.—Isreal enters the land of promise, Joshua 3 : 5-17. T.—The memorials, Joshua 4 : 1-11. W.—The waters return, Joshua 4 : 12-24. Th.—The God of Elijah, 2 Kings 2 : 1-14. F.—The presence of the Lord, Psalm 114. S.—Tell the children ! Psalm 78 : 1-8. S.—The great Helper, Isaiah 43 : 1-13.

12 Now therefore take you twelve men out of the tribes of Is'rael, ³out of every tribe a man.

13 And it shall come to pass, ⁴as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests that bear the ark of the LORD, the LORD of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of Jor'dan, that the waters of Jor'dan shall be cut off ⁵from the waters that come down from above ; and they shall stand ⁶upon an heap.

14 And it came to pass, when the people removed from their tents, to pass over Jor'dan, ⁷and the priests ⁸bearing the ark of the covenant ⁹before the people ;

15 And ⁴as they that bare the ark were come unto Jor'dan, and the feet of the priests that bare the ark were dipped in the ¹⁰brim of the water, (for Jor'dan overfloweth all ¹¹his banks all the time of harvest,)

16 That the waters which came down from above stood *and* rose up ¹²upon an heap very far from the city Ad'am, that is beside Zarethan ; and those that ¹³came down toward the sea of the ¹⁴plain, even the salt sea, failed, and were cut off : and the people passed over right against Jericho.

17 And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jor'dan, and all ¹⁵the Is'raelites passed over on dry ground, until all the ¹⁶people were passed clean over Jor'dan.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 74. What is required in the eighth commandment ? A. The eighth commandment requireth the lawful procuring and furthering the wealth and outward estate of ourselves and others.

The Question on Missions—2. What of the religion and character of the Indian ? He is a heathen, worshipping the Great Spirit or the North Wind, and kept in fear of "bad spirits" by the medicine man. He is brave and hardy, but cruel, superstitious, and often treacherous.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, Ps. Sel. 80 (Supplemental Lesson) ; 297 ; 301 ; 34 (Ps. Sel.) ; 534 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY) ; 293.

EXPOSITION

Time and Place—B.C. 1451 ; at the river Jordan opposite Jericho.

Connecting Links—The last Lesson contained the LORD's command for Israel's advance across the Jordan into the Promised Land, and Joshua's response to it. The Lesson for to-day gives an account of the actual crossing of the river. Joshua had sent spies, who visited Jericho ; these were befriended by Rahab, ch. 2. To three of the twelve tribes, Reuben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh, Moses had assigned their territory east of the Jordan, on condition that they should help their brethren to conquer the territory west of the river, before settling down in their own districts. Joshua reminds them of this condition, and they agree to fulfil it.

I. Promises, 5-7.

V. 5. Joshua said, Sanctify yourselves.

This would consist partly in a ceremonial cleansing of their persons and garments, but, more important than this, turning to the Lord in a spirit of repentance for all sin and of expectant faith in His power and grace. (Compare Ex. 19 : 10, 11 and Heb. 10 : 22.) It was fitting that God's intervention on His people's behalf should be preceded by an act of consecration on their part. It was like a renewing of the covenant. *To-morrow . . . wonders.* It was the "tenth day of the first month" (ch. 4 : 9), the anniversary (Ex. 12 : 3) of the day when their fathers in Egypt had been bidden to choose out of the flocks the Passover Lamb. Now they were to see "wonders" as great as the crossing of the Red Sea, Ex., ch. 14.

Vs. 6, 7. *Unto the priests ;* the duly appointed authorities in charge of the tabernacle and all its furniture. *The ark of the*

The lesson tells of the actual crossing of the river.

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