

Lesson II.

CROSSING THE JORDAN

October 12, 1902

Joshua 3 : 9-17. Study Joshua 3 : 9 to 4 : 7—Memory Verses, 15-17.

Golden Text—When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee.—Isa. 43 : 2.



9 And Josh'ua said unto the children of Is'ra-el, 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 Ca'naanites, and the Hit'tites, and the Hiv'ites, and the Per'izzites, 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.

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

13 And it shall come to pass, as 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 from the waters that come down from above; and they shall stand upon an heap.

14 And it came to pass, when the people removed from their tents, to pass over Jor'dan,

and the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people;

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

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

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 the Is'raelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jor'dan.

THE LESSON RETOLD

The Israelites now found themselves on the bank of the Jordan, at a spot almost opposite the heathen city of Jericho. It was at the season of the barley harvest, and a time when the river was much swollen by floods, so that it was very deep and dangerous.

The people were much troubled as to how they should cross the wild and rushing torrent, for they had no boats and it was too far to swim.

While everyone was waiting and wondering what should be done, Joshua quieted the people, saying, "Fear not; for the God of heaven and earth is among you and will prove to all the world this day that He is on your side. He will not only find a way for

you to cross the river, but will drive out from before you all the fierce people of the land of Canaan."

Then Joshua commanded the Israelites to fold up their tents and to form a procession in order as for marching.

And Joshua said, "Here is God's plan: The priests of the tabernacle shall take the holy ark and shall walk with it into the water of the river. And it shall be that, as soon as their feet shall touch the water, the rushing waves of the Jordan shall be held back by the hand of God. Then all of you shall pass over on dry land."

And the people believed the words of the Lord and of Joshua and made ready to obey.

Now as soon as the priests stepped into