

In making up a statement of the success of Methodism, we must not forget the Methodist Church of the South, with its membership of 500,000, and its colleges and schools. Other branches of Methodism here numbered about 500,000 members, bringing the total membership of all Methodist Churches in the United States up to 2,500,000." J. T.

The Sabbath School.

LESSONS FOR JANUARY.

FIRST SABBATH.

SUBJECT:—*Joshua encouraged*—Joshua i. 1-9. Golden Text—ii. Tim. ii. 1.

Joshua's original name was Oshea or Hoshea, meaning—*salvation*. Moses changed the name to Jehoshua or Joshua, (Num. xiii. 16,) meaning, *whose salvation is Jehovah*. It is the same as the Greek name Jesus, and twice in the New Testament, (Acts vii. 45 and Heb. iv., 8,) the word Jesus is used where Joshua is meant. Joshua, the great captain of the Israelites, in the conquest and occupation of the Promised Land, is an eminent type of Jesus, the great Captain of our salvation, and in the study of his future history, we should always keep this in view very prominently.

He is first mentioned as the victorious commander of the Israelites in their battle against the Amalekites at Rephidim, (Ex. xvii. 8-16.) He is called the *minister of Moses*, (Ex. xxiv. 13,) in the sense, probably, of aide-de-camp. In prospect of the death of Moses he was set apart to succeed him as leader of the people. (Num. xxvii. 16-18; Deut. xxxi. 7-14; xxxiv. 9) And now he receives his commission to go in and possess the land.

Notice first, Joshua's qualifications for the office. He was a man of faith and courage. This was shown by his conduct as one of the twelve who were sent by Moses to explore the land of Canaan forty years before. While the ten were struck with terror by the number of the inhabitants, and the strength of their fenced cities, he and Caleb were not daunted, but urged the people to march forward and take possession in the name of the Lord. (See Num. xiii. and xiv.) He had also been under Moses' instructions and training for many years, and was well acquainted with the duties of government and discipline. Moreover, he was a man "in whom was the spirit." (Num. xxvii. 18,) the best qualification for any undertaking.

Secondly, consider the commission itself. "Arise, go over this Jordan, &c." This, indeed, was no easy task. The river was swollen, and the banks were overflowed, (Ch. iii. 15,) and here was a mighty host to be ferried across without boats or any other

means of transport. Cities were to be taken and whole nations were to be subdued. A large country, the extent of which is given in the 4th verse, is to be taken possession of, and divided among the people. Truly a mighty task! Yet Joshua does not flinch; he at once assumes the duties, and issues his orders to his officers accordingly.

Thirdly, his instructions, vv. 7, 8. The book of the law, prepared by Moses, was to be his guide-book. He was to study it, meditate upon it day and night, and act in everything according to the spirit of it. He was to have the warrant of the law-book for everything he did, and on every occasion to appeal to it as his standard of duty. His success was to depend upon his strict observance of the law, for courage would not avail if his book of instructions was unheeded. Though Joshua was a talented and experienced man, he was yet liable to err, if left to himself, so God kindly gives him an infallible guide, which, if faithfully studied and erred, will always lead to success. To us, in this day, he has given the clearer light of his gospel to be a light to our feet, and a lamp to our path, to lead us to the heavenly land.

Lastly, his encouragements. God encourages him with a promise of success, vv. 3, 5, 6. It was to be a complete and constant success. Another source of encouragement was that God promised to stand by him as he did by Moses, v. 5, 9. What need he fear, if God was at his side! "If God be for us, who can be against us?" Well might he tremble, if he were left to himself to lead the people who had given Moses so much trouble by their unbelief and rebellion. Again, it was sufficient encouragement that he had the command of God to go forward. God never gives a command without the necessary strength to perform. Notice the words of cheer God speaks to him. "Be strong and very courageous; be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed. Though God was with him, and though he promised to assist him, yet it was necessary for him to exert himself to the utmost.

Learn; 1. God is never at a loss for an agent to carry on His work. Moses was dead, but Joshua was raised up to continue his work. 2. No work is too great for us to undertake, if we have God's approval and help. 3. Though Jesus has done all things necessary for our salvation, we must use all diligence to make our calling and election sure. 4. We must take God's word for a guide in every thing we undertake to do. Js. viii. 20.

SECOND SABBATH.

SUBJECT:—*Crossing the Jordan*,—Joshua 3: 14-19.

The time had now arrived to which the Israelites had so long looked forward—they were about to enter upon the possession of the promised land. They had encamped at Shittim, a place supposed to be about seven miles