



LESSON.—SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1907.

Israel Enters the Land of Promise.

Josh. iii., 5-17. Memory verse 17. Read Josh. ii-iv.

Golden Text.

And he led them forth by the right way that they might go to a city of habitation.—Psa. cvii., 7.

Home Readings.

- Monday, October 7.—Josh. ii., 1-24.
- Tuesday, October 8.—Josh. iii., 1-17.
- Wednesday, October 9.—Josh. iv., 1-13.
- Thursday, October 10.—Josh. iv., 14-v., 1.
- Friday, October 11.—Ex. xiv., 15-31.
- Saturday, October 12.—Ps. xlv., 1-26.
- Sunday, October 13.—Isa. xliii., 1-21.

FOR THE JUNIOR CLASSES.

Most of you boys, I expect, belong to some kind of a team, don't you? Perhaps it is a baseball, or football, or some other game. And even if you don't, you will know that all the members of a team must be ready to obey their captain if they expect to win in any game. In the same way with soldiers; even if they think that an order seems very silly, they must obey when their general gives it. Do you remember who was appointed the new leader over the Israelites in our last Sunday's lesson? Yes, it was Joshua, and in our lesson to-day we learn about some of the first orders he gives. When our lesson starts the Israelites are all encamped on one side of the river Jordan, and over on the other side was the land towards which they had been journeying. There was no bridge for them to cross, they had no boats, and the river was even broader than it ordinarily was because it was flooded. Yet Joshua told the people to get ready to cross this big river. What if the people had just laughed at him and said, 'How absurd! Do you think we can walk on the water?' Do you suppose they would ever have reached Canaan? But there was something that happened long ago when they left Egypt that the Israelites remembered, and so now they were willing to trust God and obey their leader.

Recall the crossing of the Red Sea and compare the stopping of the waters of Jordan to the building of a dam such as all children love to make. Conclude the lesson by speaking of the monument built to commemorate the crossing, just as we build monuments to great and good men, or in memory of some great event. It is not right to forget God's mercies.

FOR THE SENIORS.

Joshua is not slow to take up the duties of his new position. The command to go forward is received from God and is passed on unhesitatingly to the people. It must have been with a reverent awe that Joshua awaited God's action. It was to be a revelation of God that demanded the people's special sanctification, and would also place the divine seal upon Joshua's leadership. The event itself is one of the favorite stories of Old Testament history for children, and one of the special points of attack of certain critics. The revised version of the Scriptures renders the account a little clearer, making it evident that the Israelites were given ample ground for a rapid crossing, the waters of the down-flowing Jordan being cut off 'in one heap, a great way off, at Adam, etc.' God's hand here controlled the forces of nature in a peculiar manner, whether he blocked the course of the Jordan by a landslide, as it is generally be-

lieved, or whatever means he may have used. The impossibility of fording the flooded Jordan, and the absence of any boats to convey the invading army across must have caused the Canaanites to look upon their preparations with derision, and it is evident that they deemed it quite unnecessary to provide a defending force. The obstacles that must have loomed so large in the eyes of Israel were thus turned to their advantage by God.

(SELECTIONS FROM TARBELL'S 'GUIDE')

Verse 16.—Most interesting in this connection is the incident recounted in the history of Sultan Bibars, which occurred in 1257 A.D. 'It was found necessary to repair the foundations of the bridge Jisr Damieh in anticipation of the retreat of the Moslem army. The task seemed impossible, but on arriving at the bridge the workmen found the river bed empty. Thus it remained for a few hours, until the work was nearly completed, then the waters came again rushing down. The cause was a landslide higher up the river.'

Samuel Rutherford says: 'In Heaven we will thank God more for the dark days than for the bright days, for in the bright days we were ready to forget our God, but the dark days were helpful to a closer walk with Him.' If we are on our way to Heaven, when we reach that happy place, looking back upon our days, dark or bright, we shall know how to thank Him for them all. As we review them all we shall say, 'He led us by the right way to the city of habitation.' Let us take encouragement from this, and learn to be patient on dark days, and to be thankful for them even as the bright. Things do not merely happen to us. They are for a purpose.—John Irwin Blackburn.

There is an Eastern fable of a boy having challenged his teacher to prove the existence of God by working a miracle. The teacher procured a large vessel filled with earth, in which he deposited a kernel in the boy's presence, and bade him pay attention. In the place where the kernel was put a green shoot soon appeared. The shoot became a stem; the stem put forth leaves and branches, which soon spread over the whole apartment. It then budded with blossoms, which dropping off, left golden fruit in their place, and in the short space of an hour there appeared a noble tree in the place of the seed. The youth, overcome with amazement, exclaimed, 'Now I know there is a God, for I have seen His power!' The priest smiled at him, and said, 'Simple child! do you only now believe? Does not what you have just seen take place in innumerable instances, year after year, only by a slower process? Is it the less wonderful on that account? He is the Lord and changes not, His mercy and power are ever the same.'—The 'Quiver.'

Faith in a God who is not free to control natural forces is not the Christian faith.—T. H. Wright.

Heavenly power is never furnished for earthly parade.—'Ram's Horn.'

There is more chance for a cripple on the right road than for a racer on the wrong.—D. L. Moody.

Mysteries are merely truths which are not yet disclosed.—Alexander McKenzie.

(FROM PELOUBET'S 'NOTES')

'Our early information agrees with the book of Joshua in representing Palestine as divided up among a number of small city-states, each with its own king.'—'Polychrome Bible,' note, p. 47. 'This mixed population, in this small bit of territory, overrun and plundered by every crossing army for hundreds of years, was the problem which faced the invading Israelites. Separated into small clans, or centred in small cities, some of them well walled and fortified, without any central organization, or any common bond of unity, these people became an easy prey even to such an army as that with which Joshua crossed the Jordan.'—Prof. Ira M. Price, in 'The Monuments and the Old Testament.'

'The river at this place is about 100 feet wide, and the margin overflowed about 400 feet more, making about 500 feet in total width.'—'Land and Book,' new ed., I., 362, 363. Others represent the width as much

greater. The English expedition down the Jordan speaks of the flood in winter as extending for the width of half a mile.—'Journal of Geological Society,' XVIII., 116. President Bartlett, when travelling in Palestine, found, on the 22nd of March, the Jordan 'rushing along like a mill-race, and though it had fallen from its greatest height, the proper banks of the channel were invisible, and indicated only by lines of oleanders and other shrubs and trees.'—From 'Egypt to Palestine,' p. 451.

The cause of this great amount of water is found in the melting snows of Lebanon. At some other times the river can be easily forded.

BIBLE REFERENCES.

Isa. xliii., 1, 2; Matt. xxviii., 20; Psa. cvii., 4-9; lxxvii., 16; xlv., 3.

Junior C. E. Topic.

Sunday, Oct. 13.—Topic—Remember eternity! I. John ii., 15-17, 24, 25.

C. E. Topic.

SEEKING SALVATION.

Monday, Oct. 7.—Joel's lamentation. Joel i., 1-7.

Tuesday, Oct. 8.—Joel's call to prayer. Joel i., 14-15.

Wednesday, Oct. 9.—Joel's message of hope. Joel ii., 12, 13.

Thursday, Oct. 10.—God's call to Amos. Amos vii., 14, 15.

Friday, Oct. 11.—Amos's words of warning. Amos viii., 11, 12.

Saturday, Oct. 12.—God's promise. Amos ix., 9-15.

Sunday, Oct. 13.—Topic—Two prophets with one message. Joel ii., 32; Amos v., 14.

Only Girls.

The teacher of girls who thinks she has no problems because she has only girls may know her lesson pretty well, but she doesn't know girls. Pretty, rosy-cheeked Mary with the heavenly eyes, whom you have always thought had tiny angel wings growing out of her shoulder blades, was caught last Sunday cheating, and when faxed with it lied with the ease and grace of Ananias. You need to lay the foundation stones of character in the heart of a girl just as carefully as you would lay them in the heart of a boy. It may not be such hard work, but the foundation stones need to be laid all the same. Girls are naturally gentle and kind, but they are not naturally honest and truthful because they are girls.—Selected.

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