

The bed seems to have been temporarily upheaved eighteen miles up the river, at Adam, and beneath this dam the water then flowed away to the Dead Sea, leaving the whole course dry. See Psa. 114. 3. VER. 15. *Overfloweth*. The usual river-bed at Jericho is only thirty yards wide, but it passes through a channel a mile across and two hundred feet deep, thickly grown with jungle and haunted by wild beasts. The melting of Hermon's snows makes the river flood this channel in April, when the barley harvest is gathered in the hot Jordan valley. VER. 16. *At Adam*. A city not otherwise known, and apparently of little importance even in the author's time. It was perhaps at the ford Daniel, near the junction with the Jabbok. The valley was very narrow, and would be capable of holding the great heap of waters without flooding the country. The Jordan ("descender") gets its name from its extraordinarily swift current: only one river in the world has a greater fall. The waters once cut off would thus flow away very rapidly. *Zaretan*. Comp. 1 Kings 7. 46; 2 Chron. 4. 17. The name of a district as well as of the chief town. *Sea of Arabah*. See Deut. 1. 1, R. V. marg. Beside these names "the East Sea" occurs in the later prophets. "Dead Sea" is an exaggeration not found in Scripture. The intense saltness of the waters kills fish, but vegetation is luxuriant in some parts. The lake lies in a long cleft, 1,300 feet below sea-level, and the heat evaporates all the fresh water flowing in, while constant salt streams run from a hill on the south. VER. 17. The wide extent of the bed left dry would enable the people to go over very quickly. The ark remained in the midst as the visible sign of the power which had wrought this wonder.

Berean Methods.

Hints for the Teachers' Meeting and the Class.

Draw a sketch map of Palestine and show on it: 1.) The natural features of the country, sea-coast, plain, mountain region, Jordan valley, and eastern table-land. 2.) The location of each of the seven tribes named in verse 10. 3.) The probable location of Adam, Zaretan, Jericho, and the place of the crossing.... A word-picture of the scene by Jordan: Joshua, priests, ark, soldiers, people; river foaming before; walls of Jericho in the distance; procession; stoppage of current; marching across the dry bed.... Notice the purposes of this miracle (note on verse 5).... Why was such an event as this necessary at this time?... Show how this lesson exhibits God on one side and God's people on the other (see Analytical and Biblical Outline).... Thoughts for Young People give some suggestions about God's mighty works.... Duties of the lesson: 1.) Trust. 2.) Obedience. 3.) Courage. 4.) Confidence.... Warnings to God's enemies as drawn from this lesson.... Incidents, other crossings of the Jordan, 2 Kings 2. Crossing the Red Sea. Exod. 14.... Compare with Caesar's crossing the Rubicon.... Cortez burning his ships at the shore of Mexico, that there might be no retreat.

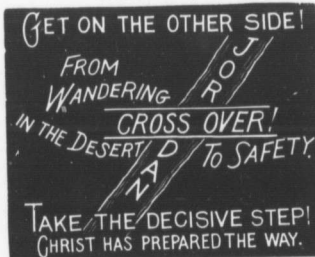
References. FREEMAN'S HAND-BOOK. Ver. 6: The ark of the covenant. 142.

The Lord's my shepherd.
Though troubles assail.
Who'll be the next?
How firm a foundation.
Guide me, O thou great Jehovah.
All the way.
The Lord will provide.

Lead, kindly Light.
My times are in thy hand.
Final victory.
Heaven is my home.
Shining shore.
I'm a pilgrim.
Shall we gather at the river?
We shall meet beyond the river.
Hark, hark my soul.

Blackboard.

BY J. B. PHIPPS, Esq.



SUGGESTIONS. Briefly review the points in to-day's lesson, and make the blackboard diagram be the application of the lesson taught. Each one must leave the desert of sin and worldly wandering in order to come into God's land of promise and possess it. When the Israelites had crossed over Jordan there was no turning back; they had taken the decisive step, the waters had rolled back again, and they were there to stay. Viewing the landscape from the other side would never have made them possessors of the promised land. So with each one of us. The decisive step must be taken, the Jordan of repentance crossed, and the place of safety reached. Christ hath prepared the way, and when thou "pasdest through the waters" his presence will be with thee.

Primary and Intermediate.

LESSON THOUGHT. "I will be with thee."

The wilderness. Talk about the wilderness journey. Tell that babies born in the wilderness were now men and women. They had no home all the forty years of their life there. When they were not marching they were resting in tents. See if some child can tell what their food was and who sent it. Tell that they were always looking forward to the time when they should come to the home God had promised to give them. Where was this?

Canaan. Print "Egypt" in lower left-hand corner of the board; "Canaan" in upper right-hand corner. Tell that Israelites were slaves in Egypt. The Lord told them to come out and go to Canaan, where they should be free and have pleasant homes of their own. Print "Wilderness" diagonally across board. Yes, they had to cross this great wilderness before they could reach Canaan. Talk a little about the beautiful land—its high hills and green fields and beautiful fruits. Now after forty years wandering they could look right over into this lovely land! How could they get there?

Jordan. What was this? A river, deep and wide. It must be crossed. Tell what the Lord said to Joshua. Describe the gathering of the people on the banks of the

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