

LESSON XII—September 22nd, 1895.

Joshua Renewing the Covenant. JOSHUA 24: 14-25.

(Commit to memory verses 22-24.)

GOLDEN TEXT: "The Lord our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey." Josh. 24: 24.

PROVE THAT—We should decide for God. 1 Kings 18: 21.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 38. *What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?* A. At the resurrection, believers being raised up in glory, shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment, and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoying of God to all eternity.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 107, 103, 135, 141.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Joshua renewing the covenant. Josh. 24: 14-25. *Tuesday.* The stone of witness. Josh. 24: 26-31. *Wednesday.* Occasion of the covenant. Josh. 24: 1-13. *Thursday.* Joshua's exhortation. Josh. 23: 1-10. *Friday.* Warning against disobedience. Josh. 23: 11-16. *Saturday.* Persuasion to faithfulness. 1 Sam. 12: 20-25. *Sabbath.* The better covenant. Heb. 8: 7-13. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. Nearly eighteen years after the division of the land, Joshua, feeling that his end was drawing near, summoned all Israel with their elders and rulers to Shechem to receive his final charge. He then gave them his farewell counsel and bound them anew, in a solemn covenant, to God. This was his last official act. He died shortly afterwards at the age of one hundred and ten.

LESSON PLAN. I. Decision Demanded. vs. 14, 15. II. Decision Made. vs. 16-21. III. Decision Ratified. vs. 22-25.

14. **Now therefore.**—In view of the great things that God had done for them and which he had just recounted (Deut. 10: 12; 1 Sam. 12: 24). **Fear the Lord**—Reverence and worship him (Ps. 2: 11; Prov. 1: 7; Job 28: 28). **In sincerity and in truth**—With the heart as well as with the outward form (John 4: 23, 24; 1 Cor. 5: 8; 2 Cor. 1: 12; 2: 17; Ps. 1: 1; Eph. 6: 24). **The flood**—R. V. "beyond the river"—The river Euphrates. The gods of the ancestors of Abraham. 15. **Evil**—Undesirable. God wants willing service or none. **Choose you this day**—The Bible urges to immediate decision regarding our service of God (Ruth 1: 15; 1 Kings 18: 21; Ezek. 20: 39; John 6: 67). **As for me**—Whatever others might do, Joshua and all his family would remain loyal to their God (Gen. 18: 19). 16. **God forbid**—An expression of horror at the very thought. Three times Joshua made them repeat this resolve. It was kept for a whole generation (ch. 24: 31; Judges 2: 7). 17, 18. **Reasons for this choice:** (1) He was their God, (2) He set them free, (3) He defended them and provided for them in their journey, (4) He conquered the land for them. We have similar reasons for serving God. 19. **Ye cannot serve the Lord**—That is, unless you give him your entire and

sincere allegiance. They had not shewn hitherto that they were able to do this (Matt. 6: 24; Luke 14: 25-33). **He is a holy God**—He requires absolute purity of heart (Lev. 19: 2; 1 Sam. 6: 20; Heb. 12: 14; Matt. 5: 8; Eph. 5: 5). **He is a jealous God**—Loyalty to him forbids that any other should share his place in our hearts (Ex. 20: 5). **He will not forgive**—Will not tolerate, or overlook. Sin is not a slight matter in his eyes. He does forgive the penitent (Ex. 34: 6, 7; Ps. 32: 5; Prov. 28: 13; 1 John 1: 9, 7), for Jesus' sake. He bore the penalty of sin for those who repent and believe. 20. **Strange gods**—Gods of the stranger, or foreigner. **He will turn**—The change is not in God, but in his people who turn away from him (2 Chr. 15: 2; Ezra 8: 22; Isa. 17: 13; Heb. 10: 26-29, 38; Matt. 7: 7, 8). 23. **Put away the strange gods**—Idolatry was secretly practised by many (Ps. 66: 18; Prov. 28: 9). **Incline your heart**—Give your heart to God, love and reverence him. 25. **Made a covenant**—Renewed the covenant made at Sinai (Ex. 19: 1-8; 24: 3), as Moses did in Moab (Deut. 29: 1). **Set them a statute**—The covenant was solemnly recorded as part of the national constitution. They were registered in the book of the law of God (verse 26).

LESSONS. 1. God's goodness should lead us to love and serve him. 2. He demands our undivided worship and devotion. 3. He will not overlook sin, but will receive the penitent who pleads the merits of Jesus. 4. Whatever others may do, we should serve the Lord. 5. Solemn vows are helpful.