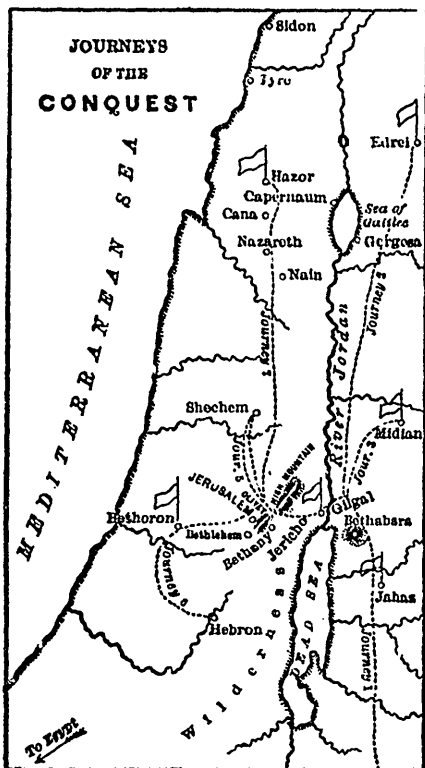


NOTES AND EXPLANATIONS.

INTRODUCTORY. The teacher should try to get a clear view of Joshua's campaign of conquest. We take the following outline from Prof. Crockery's, *Bible Class Primer* on "Joshua and the Conquest." Had Joshua tried to enter the



land from the south, a section always threatened from Egypt, and bristling with fortresses, he would have been confronted by a constantly increasing mass of enemies, who would have been reinforced at every step backwards, and protected by fresh lines of fortification in a country singularly adapted for the purposes of defence. His plan was to lead them round the southern borders of the country, and to fling them upon its poorly defended eastern flank near the Dead Sea. By choosing a weak point near the middle of the frontier, he executed the favorite manoeuvre of Napoleon by breaking through the centre of the enemy's line, and then striking with his whole force right and left in rapid succession. Having captured the only strong fortress on that quarter, he next attacked Ai and its fall together with the defection of the Gibeonites, opens up the interior of the country to him. At the great battle of Beth-horon the southern confederacy is defeated and at Merom the northern. These two battles decided the fate of the country. After a conflict of about seven years the land of Canaan was sufficiently subdued to permit of assigning to the various tribes their several portions. How this was done is described in the part of the book from which our lesson is taken. God himself appointed the persons who were to superintend the partition of the country, and Caleb was one of them. Hence he appeared as a petitioner, supported by the elders of his own tribe, asking for the most difficult portion to subdue.

Had this lot fallen to him some might have accused him of arranging it so, but a public request removed all suspicion and the granting of it conferred a deserved distinction upon the brave old man.

LESSON PLAN. I. Past Fidelity. vs. 5-9. II. Present Blessings. vs. 10, 11. III. Promised Reward. vs. 12-14.

I. PAST FIDELITY. 5. As the Lord commanded Moses—(Num. 35: 2; Josh. 21: 2). The land was divided by lot (Num. 26: 55; 33: 54; 34: 13). How the lot was taken we do not know. The rabbins conjecture that there were two urns; in one had been placed little tablets with the names of the tribes, and in the other similar tablets with the names of the districts, and that one of each was drawn at the same time. The decision was made by lot, not merely to prevent all disputes with reference to their respective possessions, and to remove every ground of discontent and complaint, but also in order that each tribe might cheerfully and thankfully accept the share awarded to it, as the inheritance intended for it by God (Prov. 18: 18; 16: 33). (Maclean). Our place in life and all our cir-

cumstances are ordained of God (Ps. 16: 5). No share in the land was given to the Levites (see ch. 13: 33) nor to the tribes which had settled on the east side of the Jordan.

6. The children of Judah—The heads of the tribe endorsing Caleb's request. This occurred six or seven years after the fall of Jericho and just before the allotment of the land was proceeded with. Caleb was himself one of the "commissioners" chosen to preside over the apportionment (Num. 34: 19). **Gilgal—**The first encampment near the Jordan which was the head quarters of the people until the removal of the ark to Shiloh (Josh. 18: 1). **Caleb—**One of the two faithful spies (Num. 32: 12; Josh. 15: 17). **The Kenezite—**This is generally understood to mean that Joshua was descended from Kenaz, the son of