

heathen religions on Israel. Israel must not only conquer the land, she must keep her faith in God pure. *To keep all that is written.* This is to be the secret of Israel's steadfastness. This was the very command that God gave to Joshua himself. *Turn not aside to right hand.* Implicit obedience is the only course. A moment's dalliance with sin is often fatal. Often the only moderation is total abstinence. *Come not among these nations.* No relationships are to be entered into at all. *Neither make mention of the name of their gods.* Even their conversation is to be free of them. *One man . . . shall chase a thousand.* Men of faith and fidelity are always supermen. One man may be really worth a whole battalion.

III. ISRAEL'S DANGER.—12, 13. *If ye shall make marriages.* This social relationship would certainly involve religious consequences. The home and the church always react one on the other. *Know for a certainty.* The punishment

is certain. *God will no more drive out.* A forsaken God will be a forsaking God. *Scourge . . . thorns ; a constant source of weakness.*

Lesson Questions

- What task had Israel not finished yet ?
- What encouragement had they for the task ?
- What was to be the penalty of disobedience ?

For Further Study and Discussion

1. What king shows the evil of a heathen marriage ? (1 Kgs. 16 : 31.)
2. Did the Israelites drive out the Canaanite completely ? (Judges 1 : 21.)
3. Should a Christian marry one not a Christian ?
4. Has Christianity any bearing on the making of a good soldier ?

PROVE FROM SCRIPTURE—That evil persons make bad friends.

S. CATECHISM—Review Questions 48-50.

THE LESSON IN DAILY LIFE (Daily Readings)

Monday—Israel warned against compromise, Josh. 23 : 1-13.

Donald Hankey says that amid the tremendous actions and reactions of a soldier's life, love is the thing that keeps him true. Joshua's policy for the new circumstances, problems, temptations which will come to Israel in a new land, is equally simple :—obey.

Tuesday—Defeat through compromise, 1 Sam. 15 : 10-23.

Do not forget that the commander in chief of this battle was God. The victory was his. So were the spoils. Saul was a subordinate. It was his duty to carry out God's commands.

Wednesday—Warnings against evil companionships, Prov. 1 : 7-19.

Life may be a drift or a voyage, a journey or a wandering. The fear of God is the compass of life. It gives direction. It is the helm of life. It definitely guides us past certain places, certain people, certain temptations that make shipwreck of life. It points right and keeps right.

Thursday—Results of evil companionships, Judg. 3 : 1-8.

Remember that friendships are both history and prophecy. They indicate and also determine. Your friendships of to-day tell of your present character and they also determine your character to-morrow.

Friday—A call to decision, Josh. 24 : 14-23.

How easy it is to add your voice to the multitude's shout, to add your feet to the multitude's rush. What a little cry, what a contemptible little army we make alone. Yet the world and the home is saved by those who say with Joshua—"As for me and my house, we."

Saturday—The decision on Mt. Carmel, 1 Kgs. 18 : 30-39.

A decision day for your great fear is a good thing. Remember Elijah's cry, "Baal or Jehovah." Goliath stalking up and down before the Israelites looked bigger every day, and the Israelites felt smaller every day. Better to fail, trying to master your fear, than to pass the days measuring it.

Sunday—A prayer for deliverance, Ps. 3.

Registration day for your fears is a good thing. Compel them to tell how old, how many, how mighty they are. You will be surprised how many will fail to appear. They are pretenders. And for the rest, tell them there is a God, your shield, your glory, the lifter up of your head.

A PRAYER

Lord, teach us how to adjust our life to all the conditions of every day. Keep us clean, and help us to keep others clean by doing our part to take temptation from their way. Show us how to sympathize with others in their temptations, as thou dost sympathize with us. For Christ's sake. Amen.