

Joshua 3 : 7-17. Study Joshua 3 : 1-17 ; Psalm 114—Memory Verses, 12, 13.

Golden Text—Fear thou not, for I am with thee.—Isaiah 41 : 10.



Ad'ams, that is beside Zar'etan : and those that came down toward the sea of the plain, *even* the salt sea, failed, and were cut off : and the people passed over right against Jeri'cho.

17 And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jor'dan, and all the Is'raelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jor'dan.

7 And the Lord said unto Josh'ua, This day will I begin to magnify thee in the sight of all Is'rael, that they may know that, as I was with Mo'ses, so I will be with thee.

8 And thou shalt command the priests that bear the ark of the covenant, saying, When ye are come to the brink of the water of Jor'dan, ye shall stand still in Jor'dan.

9 And Josh'ua said unto the children of Is'rael, Come hither, and hear the words of the Lord your God.

10 And Josh'ua said, Hereby ye shall know that the living God is among you, and that he will without fail drive out from before you the Ca'naanites, and the Hi'tites, and the Hi'vites, and the Per'i'zites, and the Gir'gashites, and the Am'orites, and the Job'usites.

11 Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth passeth over before you into Jor'dan.

12 Now therefore take ye twelve men out of the tribes of Is'rael, out of every tribe a man.

13 And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests that bear the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of Jor'dan, that the waters of Jor'dan shall be cut off from the waters that come down from above ; and they shall stand upon a heap.

14 And it came to pass, when the people removed from their tents, to pass over Jor'dan, and the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people ;

15 And as they that bare the ark were come unto Jor'dan, and the feet of the priests that bare the ark were dipped in the brim of the water, (for Jor'dan overfloweth all his banks all the time of the harvest,) 16 That the waters which came down from above stood and rose up upon a heap very far from the city

THE LESSON RETOLD

The children of Israel were now encamped by the side of the river Jordan, while, on the other side lay the beautiful promised land of Canaan. On the day before they were to cross the river, the leaders of Israel went all through the camp and said to the people, "Whenever you see the priests take up the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, rise up and follow where it leads, but do not go too near." For the ark was the sign of God's presence and it must be treated reverently.

Then Joshua cried to the children of Israel, "Make yourselves ready, for tomorrow the Lord will do great wonders among you." And when the next day came, the Lord said to Joshua, "This day shall the children of Israel see that I will be with thee, even as I was with Moses. Command the priests to take up the ark, and when they come to the edge of the river, they shall go into the water and stand still there."

And Joshua cried again to the people, "Draw near and see the great wonder that the Lord your God is about to do. Then will ye believe that He is strong enough to help you to conquer all your enemies in the land of Canaan. For it shall come to pass that, as soon as the feet of the priests who are carrying the ark, touch the waters of Jordan, the river shall roll back, leaving a dry path by which you can cross safely to the other side." For this was the promise which Joshua had received from God, and he was sure that it would be fulfilled.

So the people prepared for moving on, and when everything was ready, Joshua spoke to the priests and they lifted up the ark and went forward right into the river. And as soon as their feet touched the water, it parted before them and rolled back into a high wall, so that the people could walk right across on the bottom of the river as on the dry land.

The priests stood still in the midst of the