

Lesson I.

JOSHUA, ISRAEL'S NEW LEADER

October 6, 1907

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—The Book of Joshua, to which the Lessons now pass, tells of Israel's conquest of Canaan and the division of the land amongst the twelve tribes. Their new leader, in Moses' place, was Joshua (see Num. 27: 15-23; Deut. 31: 3-7, 23). Belonging to the tribe of Ephraim (Num. 13: 8), he was therefore descended from Joseph, Gen. 41: 50-52. He was a brave soldier and skilful general. At Rephidim, he had led Israel in routing the Amalekites, Ex. 17: 8-16. He had taken sides with Caleb at Kadesh-barnea, against the ten cowardly spies, Num. 14: 6-9. For well-nigh forty years he had been Moses' closest and most trusted attendant.

GOLDEN TEXT—I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.—Joshua 1: 5.

Memorize v. 7.* THE LESSON PASSAGE—Joshua 1: 1-11. Read Numbers 27: 12-23, Joshua, ch. 1.

1 Now¹ after the death of Mo'ses the servant of the Lord² it came to pass, that the Lord spake unto Josh'ua the son of Nun, Mo'ses' minister, saying,

2 Mo'ses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jor'dan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.

3 Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon,³ that have I given unto you, as I said unto Mo'ses

4 From the wilderness and this Leb'anon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your⁴ coast.

5 There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Mo'ses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

6 Be strong and of a good courage: for⁵ unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them.

7 Only be⁶ thou strong and very courageous,⁷ that

Revised Version—¹it came to pass; ²Omit it came to pass; ³to you have I given it, as I spake; ⁴border; ⁵thou shalt cause this people to inherit the land; ⁶Omit thou; ⁷to observe; ⁸have good success; ⁹affrighted; ¹⁰midst of the camp; ¹¹are to.

Daily Readings—(Courtesy, I. B. R. A.)—M.—Joshua, Israel's new leader, Joshua 1: 1-11. T.—Loyalty of the people, Joshua 1: 12-18. W.—Chosen by God, Numbers 27: 15-23. Th.—The book of the law, Deut. 17: 14-20. F.—Reading the law, Joshua 8: 30-35. S.—Obedience and trust, Prov. 3: 1-10. S.—Keeping the Commandment, 1 John 2: 1-8.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED



THEN JOSHUA COMMANDED THE OFFICERS OF THE PEOPLE"

I. AN APPOINTMENT CONFIRMED.—1, 2. After the death of Moses; and, of course, after the

thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Mo'ses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest⁸ prosper whithersoever thou goest.

8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success

9 Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not⁹ afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

10 Then Josh'ua commanded the officers of the people, saying,

11 Pass through the¹⁰ host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye¹¹ shall pass over this Jor'dan, to go in to possess the land, which the Lord your God giveth you to possess it.

thirty days of mourning, Deut. 34: 8. **The servant of the Lord**; Moses' most honorable title. He is praised for his faithfulness in Heb. 3: 2. **The Lord spake**; to confirm Joshua's appointment as Israel's new leader (see Between the Lessons) and to strengthen him for his duties. **Moses' minister**; attendant, an example to all in his forty years of faithful service, and an encouragement in his promotion because he was faithful. **Moses... is dead**. The great worker has passed away, but God's work must go on. **Arise**; take Moses' place. **Go over this Jordan**; a command calling for courage and faith, for on the other side were powerful enemies. **The land... I do give, etc.**; and therefore no foes could prevent Israel's taking possession of it.

3, 4. Every place... your foot shall tread upon This was Israel's part: God had given them the land; they must go into it and conquer it inch by inch. **As I said unto Moses**. See Ex. 23: 30, 31. Deut. 11: 24. Joshua could build on these promises as on a solid rock. For the boundaries in v. 4, see Geography Lesson.

II. ENCOURAGEMENT GIVEN.—5-9. **Not any man be able to stand before thee**; because the power of the Almighty was backing him up. **As I was... so I will be**. God never changes. His promises hold good in the present as surely as they

*The Scripture Memory Passages of the Supplemental Lessons are recommended as a substitute for those here given Sabbath by Sabbath. They will be found in the Supplemental Lesson Leaflets.