

the evidence before them. If it is hurtful to serve God, do not do so. If it is hurtful to serve idols, do not do so. They had tried the gods of the Amorites and the gods of the Chaldees, and had found them discredited and vicious. They had worshiped God, and had found power, joy, victory. He thus demands a reasonable choice. He further insists that the worship of God must be wholehearted. They had been mingling idol worship with the worship of God. He asks that false gods be wholly abandoned.

2. *The choice of God*, v. 16-18. They decided to serve God, and Joshua had them confirm it, (vs. 16, 21, 24); and it was permanent for that generation (compare ch. 24 : 31; Judg. 2 : 7). Note the reason : God had shown himself their God by redeeming them from Egypt, keeping them in the journey, and aiding in the conquest; therefore they would serve Him. Gratitude demanded it.

3. *The principles of service*, vs. 19-20. These were very high. God is holy and jealous, therefore must be worshiped in sincerity. Transgression, sin, idolatry are all an outrage and must be punished. It was a powerful plea for uprightness.

4. *The witnesses*, vs. 21-28. The people themselves publicly committed themselves to God. A covenant was made; and a written testimony to it placed by the sanctuary. A stone memorial was built to commemorate the decision.

It was the splendid closing of Joshua's long and honorable career. Review his work. He was a soldier, who settled the people and gave Israel rest. He thus fulfilled the promise of God, and gave Israel a new beginning. The Lesson is an illustration of the secret of his success, God first. Let the teacher bring this home to the class. See Jesus' principle in Matt. 6 : 33, 34.

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

The Lesson being the last of the six from Joshua's life and deeds, it will be in order to review the Lessons of the Quarter, which begin with Joshua's call to lead the people across the Jordan into the Promised Land. The scholars should be asked the week previous to read over the Carrying on the Story

in the six Lessons, in the INTERMEDIATE QUARTERLY. This will give them the narrative, while the questions of A Backward Glance will test their knowledge. The present writer sets great store by the boys and girls knowing the Bible story, in its order.

Joshua's crowning life's work was to conquer Canaan in God's name and by God's help, for God's people. He had done this, and established the people securely in it. He is now a very old man. We are to listen to his last words to them.

Have the scholars turn to chs. 23 and 24, and note that there were two assemblies : first, of the rulers (ch. 23 : 2), and then of the rulers and all the people (ch. 24 : 1, 2). It is of the second the Lesson tells. Where held ? Ch. 24 : 1 gives the answer, Question about Shechem, and the gathering of all the people between Mts. Ebal and Gerizim. When the people entered Canaan, Joshua had there solemnly rehearsed in their hearing the law of the Lord. (See Geography Lesson and ch. 8 : 30-35.)

"Now therefore"—the Lesson begins. "Therefore" gives a reason. Question for this. There will not be time for all the answers. The substance of them is, "The Lord has done wonderful things for you; therefore —." Have the scholars turn for parallel passage, to Rom. 12 : 1.

"Therefore"—what ? The class will pick out the items from v. 14—"fear" and serve the Lord and put away idols. Some questions as to the meaning of "the other side of the flood", and as to what idols they were, will be of interest.

Now comes the climax—a challenge to choose between the Lord and the idols. The scholars will hold their breath as you describe it, v. 15. Have them give reasons for the one side and the other, encouraging free discussion—why choose idols ? why choose the Lord ?

The choice : What is it ? Why this choice ? Let the five great reasons which the people gave be named. Get the scholars to say how many of these reasons we have for choosing God, and to tell who is our great Deliverer, and from what He delivered us, and what blessings He has brought to us.

Does this end the work of the day ? Let