

## LESSON XII—September 22nd, 1895.

### Joshua Renewing the Covenant. JOSHUA 24: 14-25.

I. GOLDEN TEXT: "The Lord our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey."

II. PREVIEW THOUGHT: "Our Choice."

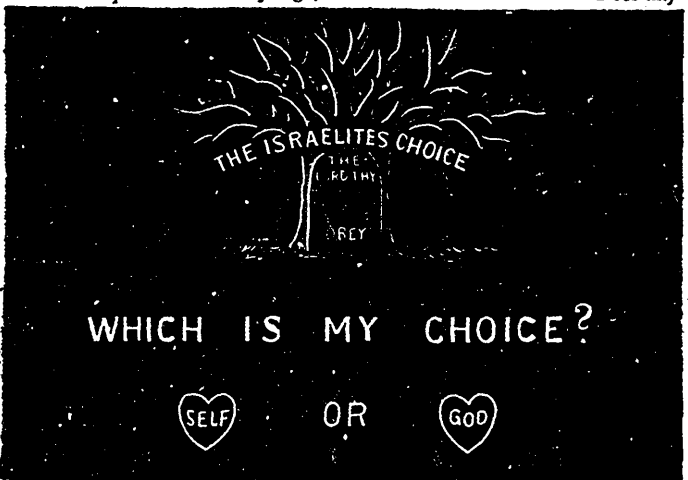
III. REVIEW: Who can remember what the last lesson was about? How many cities were there? Whom were they for? Whom were they not for? Who is our refuge? What must we do to be safe?

IV. INTERESTING EVENTS: After Joshua had finished dividing the land, he blessed the tribes of Reuben, Gad and half tribe of Manasseh who had helped their brethren of the other tribes to conquer the tribes west of the Jordan, and sent them home. The tribes on the west of the Jordan, hearing that those on the east had erected an altar, were afraid that they were going into rebellion and idolatry, and were going against them in battle; but finding out that it was an altar of testimony to God, they had erected, the western tribes were appeased. Then we have an account of Joshua's exhortation to the people before his death.

V. LESSON STORY: Eighteen years have passed in Joshua's life since we last learned about him, and now he is 110 years old. He had been a good soldier, fought many battles, and now his work is almost done, and God is soon going to take him home to be with Himself. But before he goes, he wants to talk once more to the people whom he loved so well, and had been with so long. He is afraid they might forget God again and serve other gods, as they had done before. He does not want them to do this and reminds them how good God had been to them all these many years, bringing them out from bondage in the land of Egypt, and taking care of them in all their journeyings, driving out their enemies, and giving them such a beautiful land to live in. These gods that they foolishly worshipped before, could not do anything like that for them, for they were sometimes made out of wood or stone, or gold, like the golden calf, we had a lesson about not long ago. Sometimes too they worshipped the sun, the moon and the stars, animals, and all sorts of strange things. Joshua told the people that God would be very much displeased, and would punish them, if instead of worshipping him, they worshipped these idols. He said he was going to have the true God to be his God, and was going to love and obey him, and asked the people to choose which they were going to have for their God to love and obey. Three times he asked them, and each time they told him that they were going to have the True God to be their God, and were going to love and obey him.

VI. APPLICATION: I am sure that we are all very glad that the people made such a good choice, instead of choosing idols, they chose the True God. Do you think people ever have idols now? Yes, they do, and even little girls and boys have to choose which they will serve—God or idols. You know quite a few Sundays ago, we had a lesson about idols. Does any-

one remember what any of those idols are? Yes, "self" is one, "play" another, anything we love better than God is an idol. (Make a heart on the board and write "self" in it). Some little boys and girls are selfish, and are always thinking about what will please themselves, and not about what would please other people and what would please God.



They think so much about "self" that it becomes an idol, because they love it more than they love God. God is just as much displeased with us for having this and other idols, as he was with the Israelites. He wants us to have him in our hearts. (Make another heart and write "God" in it). That means he wants us to love him more than anything else. As the Israelites had to choose, so we have to choose which we will serve, self or God.