

First Quarter : The Patriarchs and Early Leaders of Israel

LESSON FOREWORD—We come to the end of a glorious career. Lord Roberts, a great Christian and great soldier, died hearing the booming guns of the unfinished War. Joshua died with conquest not yet complete. In our lesson he tells the supreme condition of ultimate victory and bids his people fulfil that condition.

Lesson XII. ISRAEL WARNED AGAINST COMPROMISE March 23, 1919

THE LESSON PASSAGE—Joshua 23 : 1-13.

1 And it came to pass a long time after that the Lord had given rest unto Is'rael from all their enemies round about, that Josh'ua waxed old and stricken in age.

2 And Josh'ua called for all Is'rael, and for their elders, and for their heads, and for their judges, and for their officers, and said unto them, I am old and stricken in age :

3 And ye have seen all that the Lord your God hath done unto all these nations because of you ; for the Lord your God is he that hath fought for you.

4 Behold, I have divided unto you by lot these nations that remain, to be an inheritance for your tribes, from Jor'dan, with all the nations that I have cut off, even unto the great sea westward.

5 And the Lord your God, he shall expel them from before you, and drive them from out of your sight ; and ye shall possess their land, as the Lord your God hath promised unto you.

6 Be ye therefore very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the law of Mo'ses, that ye turn not aside therefrom to the right hand or to the left ;

7 That ye come not among these nations, these that

GOLDEN TEXT—Evil company doth corrupt good manners.—1 Corinthians 15 : 33 (Rev. Ver.).

SENIOR AND HOME DEPARTMENT TOPIC—Compromising with Evil-doers.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. ISRAEL'S DOMINION.—1-5. *Given rest unto Israel* ; a temporary halt not a permanent peace. *Joshua stricken in years*. Joshua was one hundred and ten years old when he died. It is not said of him as of Moses that his eye was undimmed and his natural force unabated. *Called for all Israel* ; represented by its elders, judges and officers. *Ye have seen*. God's help was for him an actual experience, an historical fact. *Divided these nations that remain*. The task is unfinished. The unconquered territory was mainly the Philistine country southward, the Lebanon terri-

remain among you ; neither make mention of the name of their gods, nor cause to swear *by them*, neither serve them, nor bow yourselves unto them :

8 But cleave unto the Lord your God, as ye have done unto this day.

9 For the Lord hath driven out from before you great nations and strong : but *as for you*, no man hath been able to stand before you unto this day.

10 One man of you shall chase a thousand : for the Lord your God, he it is that fighteth for you, as he hath promised you.

11 Take good heed therefore unto yourselves, that ye love the Lord your God.

12 Else if ye do in any wise go back, and cleave unto the remnant of these nations, *even* these that remain among you, and shall make marriages with them, and go in unto them, and they to you :

13 Know for a certainty that the Lord your God will no more drive out *any* of these nations from before you ; but they shall be snares and traps unto you, and scourges in your sides, and thorns in your eyes, until ye perish from off this good land which the Lord your God hath given you.



TOMB OF JOSHUA

tory northward. *Great sea* ; the Mediterranean. *The Lord . . he shall expel* ; by helping the Israelites. Joshua fears a premature peace due to war weariness. He desires to keep up the morale of Israel, and there is nothing like faith in God to achieve that end. Peace with evil to-day,

when there is no peace, is the worst of compromises.

II. ISRAEL'S DUTY.—6-11. *Be courageous*. "Be steadfast." Courage wins battle, but steadfastness wins wars. There is danger from clashing swords, but a more subtle danger will be the influence of Canaanitish civilization and