

divide the land to the tribes, v. 6. In this he was carrying out a plan long cherished. (c) God demanded two things: First, courage, not only physical, but moral (compare Daniel, Ezra, Paul). Second, loyal obedience to, and study of, the law. He was to fulfil God's plan; hence, he must know it. The law would give him the key to good success. (d) Personal encouragement, v. 9. His work was great from a military, social and religious standpoint, and God cheered him with assurance of victory.

2. *His acceptance and action*, vs. 10, 11. His was the order of a general, and shows supreme confidence in God.

The lesson is the call to new leadership. When the leaders and helpers, whether parent, minister, Sunday School teacher, or secluded worker falls, the call is to take up the work, as God's work, and carry it forward. He will see it triumph.

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

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The last Quarter's Lessons ended with the death of a great leader, his work unfinished (Review in outline the life of Moses—what God called him to, what he accomplished, and what remained still undone).

This Lesson takes up the story. The workman is dead; but the work must go on—because it is God's work. This time, it is completed: Israel enters into, and takes possession of the Promised Land. The Book of Joshua is the story of the conquest of Canaan. Joshua is the conqueror. This Lesson is The Programme of a Conqueror. (The various points in this paragraph should be brought out by questions.)

Let the title of the Lesson, therefore, be, under the several headings suggested:

THE PROGRAMME OF A CONQUEROR

1. *THE TASK*. Break this up into its parts, each new task more difficult than the one before:

1. *To cross the Jordan*, v. 2. The river swollen and unfordable; not only the soldiers, but "all this people", strong and weak, well and sick, men, women and children, to be taken over;—no easy problem.

2. *To meet fierce foes*. Ch. 3: 10 gives a list of the tribes. They were of strong fighting stuff. It was a giant undertaking to

uproot them.

3. *To conquer the whole land foot by foot*. It was very wide, v. 4 (see map), and much of it very rugged. Besides, only what they should actually conquer was to be theirs, v. 3 (with which, compare Deut. 11: 24). It was the work of long, hard years, and a long task is the hardest task.

II. *THE MAN*. Evidently a choice man needed for such a task. Who was chosen? Bring out these facts regarding Joshua: of splendid ancestry—descended from Joseph (of the tribe of Ephraim, Joseph's son); his grandfather a leader, Num. 1: 1, 10; 2: 18; himself a brave soldier, Ex. 17: 8-16; Moses' minister or attendant in the Mount of God, Ex. 24: 13; one of the two who were brave spies, Num. 14: 6-10; these are parts of his history. He had been Moses' choice and God's choice in long and honorable service, and he had "made good". It is to well-proved men we turn, when a specially hard task is to be attempted.

III. *THE BACKING*. Set the scholars to pick out the capital "I's" in the Lesson passage. There are seven of them. It is the great Jehovah, Israel's God (ask in what ways Jehovah had already shown His power), who stands back of Joshua. Stands back of him, in what ways? (1) By a direct command, v. 2; God never commands the impossible. (2) By a string of promises, vs. 2, 3, 5, 6; and, summing all up, the promise of v. 9. Easy, you say, to conquer, with such backing. Yes; and no.

IV. *THE CONDITIONS*. It is on the fulfilment of these that all turns. Vs. 7, 8, 9 bring out the conditions. Have the scholars state them. They are two in number: (1) Be strong, through trust in God; (2) Be strong, through obedience to God's word. Show that here is the key to all victory—relying on God, and doing as God commands.

V. *THE FIRST STEP*, vs. 10, 11. "Then"—no delay. The task was a gigantic one (Review I., *THE TASK*); but the man was of the right sort (Review II., *THE MAN*); he believed God; and so he at once begins the task which God has set him. Imagine the thrill in Joshua's voice, as he gave the command of v. 11; and imagine the heart it would give officers and people.