



LESSON I.—OCTOBER 5.

Joshua Encouraged.

Josh. i., 1-11. Commit vs. 8, 9. Read chs. 1, 2.

Golden Text.

'Be strong and of a good courage.'—Josh. i., 7.

Home Readings.

Monday, Sept. 29.—Josh. i., 1-11.
Tuesday, Sept. 30.—Josh. i., 12-18.
Wednesday, Oct. 1.—Exod. iii., 7-15.
Thursday, Oct. 2.—Deut. xvii., 14-20.
Friday, Oct. 3.—Dan. x., 10-21.
Saturday, Oct. 4.—2 Tim. ii., 1-15.
Sunday, Oct. 5.—Psa. 27.

Lesson Text.

(1) Now after the death of Moses the servant of the Lord it came to pass, that the Lord spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, (2) Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to thee, even to the children of Israel. (3) Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. (4) From the wilderness, and this Lebanon 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 your coast. (5) There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. (6) Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swore unto their fathers to give them. (7) Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest 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 not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest. (10) Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people saying, (11) Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days we shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the Lord your God giveth you to possess it.

(Condensed from 'Peloubet's Notes'.)

V. i. Now after the death of Moses, described in Deut. 34. The Lord spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, who by divine authority had been already designated as Moses's successor by Moses himself.

Brought up in Egypt, under bondage, he must have known and had part in the great deliverance,—the plagues, the first passover, the crossing of the Red Sea, the desert march, the giving of the Law from Sinai. His first appearance in the Scripture narrative is as a commander of the Israelite forces in a battle with the Amalekites soon after the Exodus (Ex. xvii., 8-16), before the arrival of the Israelites at Sinai. He then became an attendant or aide-de-camp to Moses. He was one of the explorers sent out to spy out the land, and, with Caleb, stood up with great courage and faith against public opinion, which was ready to stone them to death.

2. Moses my servant, the one appointed to do my work, is dead. Therefore there is a vacancy. A new leader is needed. 'The workers die, but the work goes on.' Arise, take the place of the dead leader. Go over this Jordan, which lay below them at flood-tide, between the Israelites and the Promised Land. See next lesson. This command was a severe test of his faith and courage. The land which I do give to them, which I am giving to them. That is, the land of which I have long promised them the inheritance, and of which I am now in the very act of putting them in possession. 'The possession of Canaan by the Israelites is constantly set forth as a free gift of the divine favor'. (Gen. xii., 7; xiii., 15; xvii., 8, etc.). 'But while the donation of this land was an act of the Lord's free favor to the Israelites, the taking it away from the Canaanites was no less an act of his retributive justice—of such justice as it behooved the moral governor of the world to administer against a people laden with iniquity. Gen. xv., 13-16 proves this clearly.'—Kitto.

V.3. Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon. That is, every place within the limits specified in the ensuing verse. The expression also intimates the condition upon which the land was to be given to the Israelites: their feet must tread it as conquerors. As I said unto Moses, Deut. xi., 24, where the words are recorded almost word for word.

V. 4. From the wilderness. The desert of Arabia, where the Israelites wandered so long. This was the southern boundary. And this Lebanon. Called 'this' because visible from the region where the Israelites were encamped. Lebanon signifies white mountain, from its snow-clad summits. This was the northern boundary. Unto the great river, the river Euphrates. Their northeastern boundary. All the land of the Hittites. Descendants of Heth, the second son of Canaan (Gen. x., 15.) They inhabited the country between the Lebanon and the Euphrates. Monumental remains in sculptures and inscriptions have within a few years been discovered in this region, as far south as Hamath, and in Asia Minor. Unto the great sea. The Mediterranean, the western boundary of the Israelites. Shall be your coast, or borders. These were the boundaries of the land promised to the Israelites, so far as they were willing to take and keep possession. These were practically the boundaries of the kingdom under David and Solomon.

V. 5. As I was with Moses, so I will be with thee. Joshua had the experience of Moses's whose lifetime as an encouragement to his faith. Moses had many a trying time, many a hard duty, many a danger and difficulty; and the God who had brought him safely and successfully through would not fail nor forsake the new leader. In every new difficulty before Joshua,—and they were many and great,—he could look back upon a greater one from which God had delivered Moses. But all his strength, as is all ours, was in God. The work was impossible to him without God's presence. With God he could do all things.

V. 7. Be thou strong and very courageous. Great strength, firmness of will, patience, and courage would be required to observe to do according to all the law. Because the temptations to worldliness and idolatry were very great. The people were but partially trained, and sometimes resisted authority, and rebelled against the restraints of the law. There would be a great pressure to turn from the right, because expedience or policy seemed to demand it. Turn not from it to the right hand or to the left. The path of duty is like a direct road to success, and moving from it in either direction leads to disaster and defeat.

V. 8. This book of the law. There was then a book of the law. With this Joshua was to do three things: (1) Shall not depart out of thy mouth. He must talk about it and teach it. He must make it the theme of his conversation. It must be a familiar book. All his teachings must be Biblical. (2) Thou shalt meditate therein day and night. He must study

his Bible; let it be continually in his thoughts. No careless reading would do, but earnest, long-continued study, so that he might penetrate into its real and deepest meaning. It must be practically committed to memory, bound 'for a sign upon thy hand,' and 'as frontlets between thine eyes,' written 'upon the posts of thy house,' and on thy gates' (Deut. vi., 7-9; comp. Psa. i., 2). (3) The third thing Joshua was to do with the law was to obey it. The purpose of the study was to learn his duty. It was to be his rule of life, his chart on the voyage to success, a guide board on his way, a book of instructions.

V. 9. For the Lord thy God is with thee. 'Take hold of the promise, and keep that hold. Nothing so demoralizes the forces of the soul as fear. Nothing fosters fear like solitude. Only as we recognize the presence of the Lord, does fear give place to faith. Such simple, child-like faith in God has made more heroic souls upon this earth than the stoic could ever dream.'

V. 11. Pass over this Jordan. The Jordan was at flood-tide and seemed an impassable barrier. The command was a test of faith, courage, and obedience.

C. E. Topic.

Sun., Oct. 5.—Topic.—A searching question.—John xxi., 15-25.

Junior C. E. Topic.

MOTHERS AND FATHERS.

Mon., Sept. 29.—The commandment.—Ex. xx., 12.

Tues., Sept. 30.—Honor them. Lev. xix., 3, 32.

Wed., Oct. 1.—Hear them.—Prov. iv., 20-22.

Thu., Oct. 2.—Obey them.—Prov. vi., 20-21.

Fri., Oct. 3.—Cherish them.—1 Tim. v., 4, 8.

Sat., Oct. 4.—Gladden them.—Prov. x., 1.

Sun., Oct. 5.—Topic.—Mothers and fathers; how to pay what we owe them.—Luke ii., 51-52.



Alcohol and Disease.

(The 'League Journal'.)

At the annual meeting of the British Medical Temperance Association, in London, Prof. Sims Woodhead, the chairman, said that those who were following the subject of alcohol were more and more convinced that total abstinence from alcoholic liquors was conducive to good health; and moreover that alcoholic liquors were in many cases not only exciting causes but predisposing causes of disease. He had been much interested during the past week in a paper on fatty degeneration of the heart. A careful examination of something like 150 hearts in which there was some evidence of disease, had recently been made, and it was found that a very large proportion were in some stage or other of fatty degeneration, due moreover in many cases to alcoholic excess. This, added Dr. Woodhead, was most important evidence, for they would find that all cases of fatty degeneration were said to be due to some other disease. Very many surgeons were rather on the lookout for other causes, and therefore when they came across cases which there could be no mistake about alcohol being the cause, it was as well to have such recorded. He would like to draw attention to an interesting paper on 'The Seed and the Soil in Disease,' by Dr. Dickinson, who looked upon alcohol as one of the most potent of all the most predisposing causes of tuberculosis. This, of course, was not anything new, for they had heard a great deal about it in the Tuberculosis Congress. But, unfortunately, from one point of