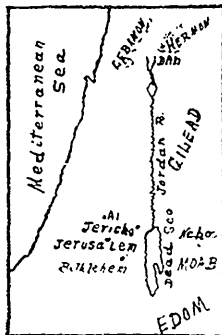


the waters. This was the means by which a way was to be made for the people,—a means powerless in itself, but necessary because commanded of God. **Waters . . . in one heap** (Rev. Ver.) ; as a wall or dam (compare Ex. 15 : 8).

III. ISRAEL'S OBEDIENCE.—14-17. People removed ; "started off" towards the river ; literally "pulled up," that is, their tent pegs. Feet of the priests . . . dipped in . . . the water. Until this moment the river remained unchanged,—a test of the people's faith. **Jordan overfloweth.** See on v. 8. Time of harvest ; the barley harvest. **Waters . . . from above ;** up stream. **At Adam, the city . . . beside Zarethan** (Rev. Ver.) ; probably a lonely hill 17 miles north of Jericho, where high rocks compress the Jordan valley into its narrowest limits. **Those . . . toward the sea ;** the Dead Sea. There was a dam above, while below the river bed soon ran dry. **Priests . . . stood firm . . . in the midst of Jordan ;** as an assurance to the people that it was safe to go on. **Were passed clean over ;** literally, "had finished to pass over."

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



ADAM (v. 16) was probably at the Damieh ford about 17 miles above the Israelites' encampment. Between this and the Lake of Galilee there are upwards of 50 fords on the river. Near the Damieh ford the mountains on either side come down and overhang the stream, so that a landslide could easily block the waters and hold them back. This actually occurred in A.D. 1257, when the bridge,

of which the ruins may still be seen, was being repaired. Such a landslide would allow the bed of the river below to become dry, the waters running off to the Dead Sea. It may have been in a similar way that a dry crossing was provided for the Israelites. There would be none the less miraculous . . . use this method to have been used.

LESSON QUESTIONS

7, 8 Who was now Israel's leader ? By whom was Joshua himself led ? On what day did Israel's crossing

of the Jordan take place ? What proof was promised that Joshua was the divinely appointed leader of Israel ? What were the priests to do ? What was the ark ? Describe the Jordan at this point. What great New Testament preacher laboured in the country about the Jordan ? (Luke 3 : 3.)

9-11 Explain "the living God." What tribes were to be driven out before Israel ? Show that God was able to do this. Find a passage in the Revelation which speaks of God as Creator. (Rev. 4 : 11.)

12, 13 What was the means by which a way through Jordan was to be made ?

14-17 How was the faith of the people tested ? Why was the Jordan at this time specially difficult to cross ? What happened to the waters up stream ? What was the river like down stream ?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Did Israel's safe crossing of the Jordan depend upon the ark ?
2. Are miracles to be expected now ?

A LESSON FOR LIFE

The famous Duke of Wellington, on one of his marches, came, with his army, to a river too deep and wide for fording and across which there was no bridge in sight. But the Duke, from an elevation near his camp, saw through his field glasses, far away down the stream, two villages, one on either bank. He reasoned that there must be a bridge, though he could not see it, connecting these two villages. He led his men to the spot, and found the bridge where he had expected to see it, and the army crossed with ease. There is always some way through or over every difficulty that meets us when we are in the way which God has appointed for us.

Prove from Scripture—That trust keeps fear away.

Shorter Catechism—Review Questions, 76-79.

The Question on Missions—9. How many ordained native pastors and elders have we ? 6 pastors and 15 elders. These, with the ordained missionaries, form the Presbytery of Ham Kyung, one of the seven Presbyteries under the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Korea, organized last year.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise : 129 (Supplemental Lesson), 297, 306, 53 (Ps. Sel.), 274 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY), 308.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What great promise was given to Joshua ?

2. Describe the part of the priests in Israel's crossing of the Jordan.

3. What happened when the priests' feet touched the water ?