

**Golden Text**—And he led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city of habitation.—Psalm 107 : 7.



bearing the ark of the covenant before the people ; 15 And as they that bare the ark were dipped in the brim of the water, (for Jor'dan overfloweth all his banks all the time of harvest.)

16 That the waters which came down from above stood and rose up upon an heap very far from the city Ad'am, that is beside Zar'etan : and those that came down toward the sea of the plain, even the salt sea, failed, and were cut off : and the people passed over right against Jer'icho.

17 And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jor'dan, and all the Is'raelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jor'dan.

### THE LESSON RETOLD

When the people were ready to move, Joshua led them from their camp, down near to the banks of the river Jordan, on the other side of which lay the Promised Land.

The day before they were to cross the river, the officers of Israel went throughout the camp, and said to the people, "Whenever you see the priests take up the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, rise up, and follow whither it leads, but do not go too near."

Then Joshua cried to the Is'raelites, "Make yourselves ready, for to-morrow the Lord will do great wonders among you". And when the next day came, the Lord said to Joshua, "This day shall the children of Israel see that I will be with thee, even as I was with Moses. Command the priests to take up the ark, and when they come to the edge of the river, they shall go into the water and stand still there". And

5 And Josh'ua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves : for to-morrow the Lord will do wonders among you.

6 And Josh'ua spake unto the priests, saying, Take up the ark of the covenant, and pass over before the people. And they took up the ark of the covenant, and went before the people.

7 And the Lord said unto Josh'ua, This day will I begin to magnify thee in the sight of all Is'rael, that they may know that, as I was with Mo'ses, so I will be with thee.

8 And thou shalt command the priests that bear the ark of the covenant, saying, When ye are come to the brink of the water of Jor'dan, ye shall stand still in Jor'dan.

9 And Josh'ua said unto the children of Is'rael, Come hither, and hear the words of the Lord your God.

10 And Josh'ua said, Hereby ye shall know that the living God is among you, and that he will without fail drive out from before you the Ca'naanites, and the Hit'tites, and the Hi'vites, and the Periz'ites, and the Gir'gashites, and the Am'orites, and the Jeb'usites.

11 Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth passeth over before you into Jor'dan.

12 Now therefore take you twelve men out of the tribes of Is'rael, out of every tribe a man.

13 And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests that bear the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of Jor'dan, that the waters of Jor'dan shall be cut off from the waters that come down from above ; and they shall stand upon an heap.

14 And it came to pass, when the people removed from their tents, to pass over Jor'dan, and the priests

15 And as they that bare the ark were come unto Jor'dan, and the waters of Jor'dan shall be cut off from the waters that come down from above ; and they shall stand upon an heap.

17 And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jor'dan, and all the Is'raelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jor'dan.

Joshua cried to the people, "Draw near, and see the great wonder that the Lord your God is about to do. Then shall you believe that He is strong enough to help you to conquer all your enemies in the land of Canaan. For it shall come to pass, as soon as the feet of the priests, who are carrying the ark, touch the waters of Jordan, the river shall roll back, leaving a dry path, by which you can cross safely to the other side".

So the people prepared for moving on, and when everything was ready, Joshua spoke to the priests, and they lifted up the ark and went forward—right into the river. And as soon as their feet touched the water, it parted before them and rolled back, making a pathway right across to the other shore. The priests stood still in this path with the ark, while all the Is'raelites passed over to the other side into the land of Canaan, just as the Lord had said to Joshua.