

These nations, though vanquished, were never thoroughly extirpated, and troubled Israel until the times of David.

**11, 12. Ark of the covenant.** So named because it was the visible symbol of God's pledge to his people, and the place of his meeting with them. **Lord of all the earth.** Not of Israel only, but of all the universe. **Take you twelve men.** The duty of these twelve men, representing the twelve tribes, was to build the memorial, as related in the following chapter. 3. God's mercies toward us, and his might in our behalf, call for a memorial.

**13. It shall come to pass.** The promise of this verse is the fulfilment of verse 16. **Cut off from.** The word "from" is not in the original, and the sentence should read, "the waters of Jordan shall be cut off, even the waters that come down from above." **Stand upon an heap.** Rather, "stand up one mass," as if congealed by an invisible power.

**14, 15. Removed from their tents.** Literally, "pulled up their tent-pegs," for removing the camp. 4. Obedience to God is wondrously rewarded. **To pass over Jordan.** The order of the procession was, 1. The ark and priests. 2. The armed soldiers of the two and a half tribes eastward, Josh. 4. 12. 3. The people, arranged by tribes. **Overfloweth all his banks.** The river generally lies in the lowest of the three terraces, less than one hundred feet wide. But in the spring, when swollen by the melting snows of Lebanon, it fills the terrace, and is not fordable. **Time of harvest.** The barley harvest, which in the hot Jordan valley comes a month earlier than on the uplands. This time was chosen, 1. To make the miracle more impressive. 2. Because at that time the enemy would not deem it necessary to guard the fords. 3. Because they would thus enter the land when food was abundant, at the barley harvest. 5. God adapts his aid to his people's needs. **16. Stood and rose up.** As if an invisible dam were thrown across the river. So deep is the depression of the channel that this would not flood the surrounding country. **Very far from the city Adam.** Rather, "Very far off, at the city Adam. This is an unknown place, from fifteen to thirty miles above the point of crossing. Thus a vast tract was left bare, so that the tribes could pass over rapidly. Our salvation was accomplished far off, in Adam, when with the first sin came the first promise of a Saviour. **Beside Zaretan.** A place in the Jordan valley, then and afterward well-known, but now lost. **Those that came down failed.** With the stoppage of the water above the channel would soon be left bare. **Sea of the Plain.** The Dead Sea, forty-six miles long, and thirteen hundred feet below the level of the Mediterranean. **Against** (opposite to) **Jericho.** At that time the largest city in the Jordan valley, and the first to be captured by Israel.

**17. Priests stood firm.** They stood in the empty channel until all the host had passed by. **On dry ground.** Not absolutely dry, but drained of its water. **Clean over.** En-

tirely over. The priests stood in their places until Joshua ordered them to advance.

#### GOLDEN TEXT.

**When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee." Isa. 43. 2.**

#### OUTLINE.

1. The Preparation, v. 5, 6.
2. The Promise, v. 7-13.
3. The Procession, v. 14-17.

#### HOME READINGS.

- M.* Passing over Jordan. Josh. 3. 5-17.  
*Tu.* The scarlet cord. Josh. 2. 1-21.  
*W.* The memorial stone. Josh. 4. 1-10.  
*Th.* Crossing the Red Sea. Exod. 14. 19-31.  
*F.* Elijah at Jordan. 2 Kings 2. 1-15.  
*S.* Passing through the waters. Isa. 43. 1-13.  
*S.* Entering into rest. Heb. 4. 1-16.

**Time.**—B. C. 1451.

**Place.**—The river Jordan, near the head of the Dead Sea.

**Connecting Links.**—1. The orders of Joshua preparatory to crossing the Jordan. Josh. 1. 10-18. 2. The visit of the two spies to Jericho, and the promise to Rahab. Josh. 2. 1-24.

**Explanations.**—*Sanctify yourselves*—Seek to fit themselves for God's presence by offerings and prayer. *The Lord will do wonders*—The work was God's, not their own. *Priests*—Sons of Aaron, who offered sacrifice. *The ark*—The chest containing the law of God, and over which God's presence was shown. *Pass over*—Not pass over the river, but to the front of the camp and the edge of the river. *Magnify thee*—God placed honour on Joshua, that the people would obey him. *Stand still*—They were to stand there until the people had gone over. *Hereby ye shall know*—By the wonders which God would work. *Twelve men*—The work of these men is given in chap. 4. 2-9. *Soles of the feet of the priests*—They were barefoot while carrying the ark. *Shall be cut off*—The flow from above shall be stopped. *Stand upon an heap*—As if a dam stood across the river. *Overfloweth all his banks*—This was at a season when the river is much wider and deeper than during the rest of the year. *Far from the city Adam*—This should read, "Very far away, at the city Adam." *Salt sea*—The Dead Sea, into which the Jordan flows. *People passed over*—Walking across the bed of the stream. *Clean over*—Entirely over. The ark was carried over last of all.

#### LESSON HYMNS.

No. 209, *Dominion Hymnal*.

There is a land of pure delight,  
 Where saints immortal reign;  
 Infinite day excludes the night,  
 And pleasures banish pain.

There everlasting spring abides,  
 And never-withering flowers;  
 Death, like a narrow sea, divides  
 This heavenly land from ours.

Could we but climb where Moses stood,  
 And view the landscape o'er,  
 Not Jordan's stream, nor death's cold flood,  
 Should fright us from the shore.