

And they were rightly driven out; for their land had been promised to the Israelites four centuries before, by the only Being who is the owner of the earth. Moreover, their abounding wickedness made them deserve the destruction which came upon them. **Canaanites.** "Lowlanders;" living on the plain near the Mediterranean Sea and in the Jordan valley. **Hittites.** A powerful people, the *Kheta* of the Egyptian monuments, whose territory was north of Palestine, but having outlying settlements at the foot of Mount Lebanon. **Hivites.** A peaceful people in the center of Canaan, the only tribe which made a treaty with the Israelites. Josh. 9. **Perizzites.** "Villagers;" people in unwallied towns south of Mount Carmel. **Girgashites.** Supposed to have lived around the Sea of Galilee, and perhaps the ancestors of the Gergesenes of the New Testament period. **Amorites.** "Mountaineers;" the most powerful of all the early races in Palestine, inhabiting the mountain region on both sides of the river Jordan. **Jebusites.** A small but resolute tribe occupying Jebus, afterward Jerusalem. These nations, though vanquished, were never thoroughly extirpated, and troubled Israel until the times of David. Some think that they constitute the body of the common people of Palestine at the present time.

11. The ark of the covenant. A people just emerging from heathenism needed some visible representation of God; and this was given in the ark. **The Lord of all the earth.** This was the truth that distinguished Israel from the rest of the world. Every other nation held that its gods were local or national; Israel alone regarded Jehovah as the only God, the God of the whole earth. **Passeth over before you.** To lead the van and to open the way. (6) *Who need fear when God goes on before?*

12. Take you twelve men. The men were chosen before the crossing, to build the memorial of the crossing, as related in the next chapter. **Out of every tribe a man.** So that all the tribes would feel a common interest in the event and its memories. (7) *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 related as fulfilled in verse 16. **The waters of Jordan shall be cut off.** The miracle at the Red Sea was in removing the waters from the path, which ran like an isthmus between water on either side. This miracle at Jordan was in damming up the waters from above, so that the stream below flowed away and left a

dry bed. **From the waters.** The word "from" is not in the original, and the sentence should read, as in Rev. Ver., "even the waters that come down from above." **They shall stand upon a heap.** Rev. Ver., "They shall stand in one heap," as if an invisible dam were thrown across the river.

14. Removed from their tents. Literally, "pulled up their tent-pegs," for removing the camp. **To pass over Jordan.** The order of the procession was, 1. The ark and priests. 2. The armed soldiers of the tribe of Gad. 3. The half tribes eastward. Josh. 4. 12. 3. The people arranged by tribes.

15. Jordan overfloweth. The river generally lies in the lowest of three terraces, each about one hundred feet wide. During most of the year it can be crossed by wading. But in the spring, when swollen by the melting snows of Lebanon, it fills the two lower terraces, and is not fordable. **All the 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 miracles would not seem it necessary to guard the fords. 3. Because they would thus enter the land when food was abundant, at the barley harvest. (8) *God adapts his aid to his people's needs.*

16. Stood and rose up. At the place where this is supposed to have taken place, the channel is so deeply depressed that the rise in the water would not flood the country on either side. **Very far from the city Adam.** Rev. Ver., "a great way off at Adam." **That is beside Zarethan.** The exact sites of these places are unknown, but they are believed to have been from fifteen to thirty miles north of the place of the crossing. Thus a vast tract was left bare, so that the tribes could pass over rapidly. **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 Jericho.** Opposite to Jericho, at that time an important city in Palestine, and the first to be captured by the Israelites.

17. Priests.... stood firm. They stood in the dry bed of the river until all the host had passed by. **On dry ground.** Not absolutely dry, but drained of its water. **Clean over.** Entirely over. The priests stood in their places until Joshua ordered them to advance.

HOME READINGS.

- M. Crossing the Jordan. Josh. 3. 1-17.
Th. Crossing the Red Sea. Exod. 14. 13-22. [8-15].
W. Elijah and Elisha crossing Jordan. 2 Kings 2.
Th. The mighty God. Isa. 51. 9-16.
F. The wonderful works of God. Psa. 111.
S. Song in remembrance. Psa. 114.
S. God our helper. Isa. 43. 1-11.

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.

LESSON HYMNS.

- No. 118, Dominion Hymnal.
Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing thy grace.
No. 119, Dominion Hymnal.
Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land.

No. 114, Dominion Hymnal.

Holy Spirit, faithful Guide,
Ever near the Christian's side.

TIME.—1451 B. C.

PLACE.—The banks of the Jordan, near Jericho.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—God's presence.

QUESTIONS FOR SENIOR STUDENTS.

1. The Ark.

What command had been given by the officers to the people concerning the ark? chap. 3. 3, 4.

What was the ark of the covenant?

What was its usual place among the people?

What was the pillar of cloud still the signal by which they moved?

For what did God use the ark of the covenant that day?

What was the ark designed to teach to Israel?

What allusion is there in Hebrew literature to this occurrence? Psa. 114. 3, 5.

To what does the Psalmist ascribe this? Psa. 114. 7.

2. The River.

What is the river that is here made memorable?

Where does this river rise, and what are its peculiarities?

On which side of it were the people?

What preparations were made for crossing it?

How was the passage effected?

Can this be explained from natural causes?

If this was miraculous, was it contrary to nature?

Did any others ever pass the Jordan dry-shod? 2 Kings 2. 8, 14.

Practical Teachings.

Through the Red Sea with Moses, through the Jordan with Joshua, through the "dark river" with Jesus. The waters always divide before the feet of him who follows the voice of God.

"To stand still in Jordan" was the command then. Very often now God's command is to the soul, "Stand still." He is the best servant who does exactly what he is told.

The reason why we do not often see God's wonders among us is because we are not "sanctified." All of God's acts are wonders: each new day is a wonder.

Here are three words to just sum up the foregoing: submission, obedience, purity.