

lesson shows *what* was done, and *how* it was done. The leader obey God and makes for the river. God in his own way takes the mighty host over Jordan. Our OUTLINE shows us the great army moving, 1. ONWARD; 2. IN; 3. OVER the river. They find, as our TOPIC says: "*In the waves of Jordan—SAFETY.*" So, indeed, to us all, when called upon to do, to resist, to suffer. God says in our 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. See also the LESSON HYMN for to-day, page 29. Notice the DOCTRINE SUGGESTED: *God's Omnipotence.*

[Consult LESSON COMPEND. FREEMAN'S HAND-BOOK; The ark of the Covenant, 142. FOSTER: 1327, 1241, 91, 1354, 1304, 5790.

II. NOTES, ILLUSTRATIONS AND LESSONS.

The commands of Joshua having been given to the people, Josh. 1. 10-15; the people having taken the oath of allegiance, vs. 16-18; the spies having been sent to Jericho and having returned, Josh. 2; the preparations having been made for crossing the river, Josh. 3. 1-13; we now study the most interesting narrative.

REMOVED FROM THEIR TENTS, v. 14. Must leave the tents of the body and the tents of our earthly home when God calls us into another life. How glad were they to go to the land of rest! OVER JORDAN. A symbol of death. Also a symbol of conversion by which we enter the spiritual life for its possession, and for the necessary conflicts. (1) *Let us leave all and follow JESUS*, (the true Joshua.) ARK OF THE COVENANT, v. 14. Symbol of Christ—the divine manifestation—dwelling on the mercy-seat which rested above the law of God.

"Upon the Ark a Mercy-seat;

A perfect Law within:

'Tis Jesus, 'full of Grace and Truth,'

Atoning for my sin."

No other way of crossing the Jordan of Decision and Faith or of Death but by the grace and purity and power of the Ark—which is Christ. Joshua and the Priests, and the Ark together, represented Christ in his work of Loving, Atoning, Leading, and Saving. (2) *Let us look to Jesus and fear nothing.* Forget Egypt, forget Sinai, forget the way and the work of sin—looking only, and always, and trustingly upon Jesus.

"O JESUS! Thou art all in all!

I care for none like Thee!

All else be hidden from my sight,

But show THYSELF to me!"

BEFORE THE PEOPLE, v. 14. (3) *The Lord the Leader and not the people.* BRIM OF THE WATER, v. 15. An act of faith. How did they know that the waters would recede? They BELIEVED. [This occurred in the spring-time, when the inundation filled all the banks. The snows from Hermon caused it. For a fine description of this event see "Lesson Compend" for 1875.]

(4) *Let us walk by faith and not by sight.* OVER RIGHT AGAINST JERICO. In the very face of the foe. STOOD FIRM. The secret of the passage was the power in the ark. It opened a broad path ay. It gave all the people a passage. Its victory was perfect. (5) *Let us trust to the Omnipotence and righteousness and grace of Christ, who is able to do the whole work of salvation perfectly and gloriously.*

English Teacher's Notes.

The passage of the Jordan was one of the most cherished memories of the Jewish nation for centuries after: see the allusion to it in Psalm 66. 6, (second clause,) 78. 13, (second clause,) 114. 3, 5, etc. And if teachers use their opportunity in this Lesson well, the scene may remain in their scholars' minds a vivid recollection for years. But to effect this the picturing must be very life-like, and so, with tolerable pains, it may be.

First describe the great plain between the "mountain wall" of Moab and the Jordan, covered with the tents of that vast host stretching in long lines (see Numbers 24. 5, 6) as far as the eye can reach. Imagine the people looking with anxious expectation westward. Right before them, and only a few miles off, are the walls and towers of Jericho, and behind it the steep cliffs that bound what is by and by to be the hill-country of Judah and Benjamin. But what is there between them and the goal of their hopes? If it were even but the rushing river in its winding and narrow bed, that would be a serious obstacle, with a resolute foe on the other side; but it is worse than that. It is the time of Jordan's overflow, the winter snows of Hermon having melted before the advancing spring, and a broad and turbid expanse of