

girl told him of a man who could cure him. He went to the man and was told the remedy; but the cure was so simple, he was angry. He looked for a great demonstration. However, urged by his friends he did as he was commanded, and, "as soon as" he so did, he was cured. The great from the little: that is a lesson we are all slow to learn; the great tree from the little seed commencing to grow; the great river, from the little springs and rivulets; the great salvation, from one look of unfeigned faith at the Crucified One; great mountain heights of character, from the little daily habits of holiness; great achievements for the Heavenly Lord, from the small unnoticed goodnesses of daily conduct.

The feet of the priests . . . shall rest in the waters, v. 13. There are stories of secret chambers in old castles, containing rich treasures. Entrance to these could, in some cases, be gained only by touching a spring in a certain panel in the wall of a room. That panel might look exactly like all the rest, but once the spring was touched, it flew open and disclosed the hidden wealth. There are untold riches of divine grace waiting for us to enjoy them. And the way to discover the

The Secret
Spring

spring that opens to us their secret depository is very simple and plain. It is just obedience to God's commands. He will hide none of His wealth from those who obey.

Priests . . . stood . . . firm . . . people . . . passed over, v. 17. There is a decisive moment in every battle, when the tide of victory ebbs to and fro. The result depends usually on a regiment, sometimes on a single individual. The courage of that individual or regiment becomes contagious, and, for the moment, dominates the whole army. Opportunities without number come to us, of taking a brave stand against temptation, or boldly declaring ourselves on the side of right. If we play the man, some one else is sure to follow our example. Our joy in winning the fight will be multiplied by thus helping another to win.

Lesson Points

The conquests of life depend upon character. v. 5.

Our fidelity should be as constant as God's faithfulness. v. 7.

Waiting for God is the secret of success in working for Him. v. 9.

Those who obey the "come" of the gospel are sure of a welcome. v. 9.

TEACHING HINTS

This section embraces teaching material for the various grades in the school.

For Teachers of the Older Scholars

The last Lesson led up to the preparation for entering Canaan. This lesson gives the account of the actual crossing. The place was at the fords opposite Jericho, probably selected as this was an unguarded point, the natural highways being from the north and south. Note the sending of the spies in ch. 2, their discovery of the fear of the people of Jericho, and the additional assurance this gave the Israelites. The orders had been issued three days before, and preparations had been made. The first movement (ch. 3) began from the high plateau to the river bank, probably 4 miles. This leads up to the Lesson.

1. *There was spiritual preparation*, v. 5. Note the meaning of the word "sanctify", to make holy, separate (compare Ex. 19: 10-14; Lev. 20: 7, 8; Num. 11: 18).

Though this had reference to outward forms, it also signified an inward purification, a turning to God with a desire to obey Him. The time is noteworthy. "To-morrow" (see ch. 4: 19), the fortieth anniversary of the Exodus (compare Exposition). Here was the fulfilment of God's promise. They were led to expect a great work of God. They were now in sympathy with God's desire to bless them.

2. *The marching orders*, vs. 6-13. Note briefly there four things: (a) The ark of the covenant, under the care of the priests, was to lead the way (v. 6), and the people were to follow. The cloud was no longer seen. The ark takes its place as a symbol of God's guiding presence. There was to be a space of 2,000 cubits between the ark and the people (v. 4), so that all might see the direction. (b) The priests were to come to the brink of the river, wait until the channel was dry, and remain there until all passed over