

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE LESSONS.

FOURTH QUARTER: STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

B. C. 1451.]

Josh. 1. 1-9.



[Commit to memory verses 8, 9.]

1 Now after the death of Mo'ses the servant of the Lord, it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Josh'u-a the son of Nun, Mo'ses' minister, saying,

2 Mo'ses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Is'ra-el.

3 Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Mo'ses.

4 From the wilderness and this Le'va-non even unto the great river, the river Eu-phra'tes, all the land of the Hit'tites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.

5 There shall not any man be able to stand before

General Statement.

The host of Israel, more than a million strong, is encamped at the foot of the Moabite mountains. Above their camp towers the height from which their great leader has but recently taken his view of Canaan, and his flight to glory. Before them rolls the turbid Jordan, swollen by the spring-tide rains, a seemingly impassable barrier to the land of promise. Beyond they see the walls of Jericho, and the heights and passes of the mountains; southward the glittering Dead Sea; northward from the heights above may be seen the snowy crown of Hermon. A voice comes to Joshua out of the curtained recess of the tabernacle. He is bidden to assume the mantle of authority left by the great lawgiver, and to lead the host on to the conquest of their promised inheritance. The bounds of the land are named, and the pledge is made that so far as the Israelites shall occupy it they shall possess and hold it. The God of Israel promises to stand by his chosen leader, to direct his energies, to guide him and his people into the full realization of the covenant long ago given to their fathers. Again and again the captain of Israel is exhorted to courage and strength and faith in the arm of his God. The roll of the law, penned by the hand of Moses, is to be borne on his bosom, shrouded in his memory, kept before his eyes, and held in his heart. He is to study it day and night, to make it the theme of his converse, and the law of his life. Thus armed with the sword of the Spirit, Joshua is promised complete success.

Explanatory and Practical Notes.

Verse 1. Now. In the original "and," thus connecting this book directly with the Pentateuch. **After the death.** Probably at the close of the thirty days mourning, Deut. 34. 8. **Moses the servant of the Lord.** A title especially given to Moses as the Mediator of God, and the instrument of his will. (1) *Under the old dispensation the highest honor was to be a servant; now it is to be a son.* **The Lord spake.** Probably from the tabernacle, but in what way is unknown. **Unto Joshua.** He was a descendant of Joseph, of the

tribe of Ephraim, born in Egypt, and a young man at the time of the Exodus. He led the Israelites in repelling the Amalekite attack at Be'phidim, accompanied Moses to the mount of the law, with Caleb gave a good report of the land of Canaan, and was appointed before Moses's death as his successor. In his leading traits of character were decision, energy, courage, leadership, and faith.

Son of Nun. The father of Joshua was an unknown Ephraimite, who perhaps died in bondage, ignorant of his son's greatness. **Moses's minister.**

6 Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them.

7 Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Mo'ses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for when thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and thou shalt have good success.

9 Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage: be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.



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