

LESSON VIII—August 25th, 1895.

Crossing the Jordan. JOSHUA 3: 5-17.

(Commit to memory verse 17).

GOLDEN TEXT: "When thou passest through the waters I will be with thee." Isa. 43: 2.

PROVE THAT—Christ meets his people at death. John 14: 3.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 34. *What is adoption?* A. Adoption is an act of God's free grace, whereby we are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges of the Sons of God.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 182, 127, 195, 199.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Crossing the Jordan. Josh. 3: 5-17. *Tuesday.* Command and promise. Josh. 1: 1-9. *Wednesday.* Stones of remembrance. Josh. 4: 1-11. *Thursday.* Obligations of God's goodness. Josh. 4: 14-24. *Friday.* Caution against pride. Deut. 9: 1-6. *Saturday.* Telling of mercy. Ps. 78: 1-8. *Sabbath.* God our preserver. Isa. 43: 1-7. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. After delivering his final message to his people Moses was permitted to view, from the top of Nebo, or Pisgah, the promised land. He then died and was buried, but not by human mourners (Deut. 34: 6). His mantle fell on Joshua, who was at once recognized as his successor (Deut. 34: 9). Preparations were immediately made for crossing the Jordan. Spies were sent out and their reports this time encouraged the people (Josh. 2).

LESSON PLAN. I. The preparation. vs. 5-8. II. The promise. vs. 9-13. III. The passing over. vs. 14-17.

5. **Joshua**—His name was originally Hoshea, "salvation," (Num. 2: 8; Deut. 32: 44) but was changed to Jehoshua, contracted to Joshua, "Salvation of Jehovah," (Num. 2: 16). This is the same name as "Jesus" (Acts 7: 45; Heb. 4: 8). **Sanctify yourselves**—They were to shew faith in God and willing obedience to his commands (Ex. 19: 10-14; Lev. 20: 7). **To-morrow**—These words were spoken on the day before the events narrated in the lesson occurred, the 10th Nisan (4: 19), the early part of April. 6. **The ark of the covenant**—This was the symbol of God's presence. As it led their march from Sinai so now it was to lead them through Jordan. It was to go about 1,000 yards in advance of the host (verse 4). 7. **Magnify thee**—"Make thee great." He had already been highly honored (Ex. 24: 13; Deut. 31: 7) but now he was to stand beyond question in Moses' place and lead them through "the swellings of Jordan" as through the Red Sea (Josh. 4: 14; 1 Chr. 29: 35; 2 Chr. 1: 1). 8. **Stand still in Jordan**—They were to enter the brink of the river and remain there until the river-bed was dry. Then they were to advance to the middle of the channel and remain there until all the people had passed over (verses 15-17). 9. **The living God**—The passage of the Jordan was to be a fresh proof that Jehovah alone was God (Deut. 5: 26; 1 Sam. 17: 26; 2 Kings 19: 4; Hos. 1: 10; Matt. 16: 16; 1 Thess. 1: 9; Heb. 10: 31) and that he had power to keep his promise of driving out the nations before them. 11. **The Lord of all the earth**—He therefore has a right to dispose of it as he pleases. From him the Israelites held their title-deeds of Canaan (Micah 4: 13, 14; 6: 5; Ps. 24: 1). 12. **Twelve men**—They were to be ready to carry twelve memorial stones out of the bed of the river with which to erect a monument at Gilgal (4: 2-4, 20). 13. **Stand in one heap** (R. V.)—As if an invisible dam were thrown across the river (Ps. 78: 13; 114: 3). 15. **Overfloweth all its banks**—The barley harvest comes in the end of March and beginning of April, and the flood is owing to the melting of the snow in Lebanon. The river would be very wide and rushing like a torrent (1 Chr. 12: 15; Jer. 12: 5; 49: 19). 16. **A great way off at Adam** (R. V.)—About 18 miles farther up. The great length of river bed thus made dry would enable the immense multitude to cross over in a short time. The sea of the plain—The Dead Sea. 17. **In the midst of Jordan**—To reassure the people that they were safe from the returning waters (4: 10).

LESSONS. 1. We should "sanctify ourselves" when we are about to draw near to God. 2. God will honor his faithful servants. 3. He will open the way for us if he wishes us to go forward. 4. He will stand by us to defend us in every danger. 5. Christ will carry us through the Jordan of death into the heavenly Canaan.