

## Lesson I.

## JOSHUA ENCOURAGED

October 5, 1902

Joshua 1: 1-11. Commit to memory vs. 8, 9. Read Josh. chs. 1, 2.

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

2 Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jer'dan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Is'rael.

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

4 From the wilderness and this Leb'anon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, 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 thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

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

Revised Version—1 Border; 2 Very courageous; 3 Have good success; 4 Affrighted.

## EXPLANATION

Connective.—The children of Israel during their forty years' wanderings in the wilderness had become a great nation, under civil, religious and military rulers. They were thus fitted for the conquest of Canaan. This was not delayed, for Joshua was ready to take the place of Moses.

1, 2. After the death of Moses; and after the thirty days' mourning, Deut. 34: 5. The servant of the Lord; a name rarely applied to others than Moses, not even to Joshua until after his death, Josh. 24: 29. Joshua. The name means *Jehovah his help*. Jesus is the same name, Acts 7: 45; Heb. 4: 8. Moses' minister; his chief officer, or "prime minister," Num. 27: 15-20. Moses

...is dead; but his work must be completed by Joshua. Go over this Jordan; The river was a wild and raging flood, ch. 3: 15. It was an impossible command save for God's mighty aid. (See next lesson.) All this people. There were 601,730 fighting men above 20 years of age, Num. 26: 2, 51. Probably 2,000,000 in all.

3, 4. Every place, etc. They had to fight, to win, though the land was a gift. As I said; See Deut. 11: 24. The wilderness; of Paran in Arabia (Num. 13: 26), the southern border of their possessions, and the scene of their 40 years' wanderings. This Lebanon; a range of snow-covered mountains visible from their encampment, and marking the northern boundary. Euphrates; the eastern boundary. The Hittites; the most powerful of

7 Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses 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 then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then 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.

10 Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying,

11 Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jer'dan, to go in to possess the land, which the Lord your God giveth you to possess it.

The tribes in Canaan. They were descended from Heth, the son of Canaan, Gen. 10: 15; 23: 10. The great sea; the Mediterranean. The going down of the sun; that is, westward. Your coast; or borders. Note the large and liberal scale of God's provision for His people.

5, 6. Not any man . . . able to stand before thee; a promise previously made to the whole nation, Deut. 11: 25. It was literally fulfilled in Joshua's case. Not once did he suffer permanent defeat. As I was with Moses. God had not changed, though the earthly leadership had. I will be with thee; a promise for God's people always, Heb. 13: 5. Be strong; alert, vigorous, ready for action. Of good courage; allowing nothing to dishearten, or turn back. Unto this people, etc. The land was to be shared among the twelve tribes of Israel. For an inheritance. It was given them by God. Which I swear. See Gen. 12: 7; 26: 3; 28: 13.

7. Only be thou strong. God's promises were sure; but Joshua must not falter. That thou mayest observe, etc. This is why he needed strength and courage. The law, which Moses . . . commanded. See Num. 27: 23; Deut. 31: 7. Turn not to the right hand, etc.; implying strictest obedience. That thou mayest prosper. Prosperity depended upon obedience to God.

8, 9. This book of the law. The law of Moses was even then written in document form. Out of thy mouth; it was to be the subject of conversation, Deut. 6: 7; 30: 14. Meditate therein; reflecting upon the teaching of the law, Ps. 1: 2. That thou mayest observe, etc.; with the truth continually in heart and mind he would not go astray, Ps. 119: 11. Have not I commanded thee? It was God's work. There could be no failure if Joshua would obey.

10, 11. The officers; literally the "writers," or secretaries. Here they had charge of provisioning the army. Victuals; literally "game," but here food of any kind. Within three days. The long-sought prize was almost theirs.



A Hittite Captive