

(4.) Children should be made acquainted with God's dealings with their forefathers, (See Psalm 78: 2-7.)

FOURTH SABBATH.

SUBJECT:—*Preparation for Conquest*—Joshua 5: 9-15. Golden Text. Heb. 12: 2.

This whole Chapter had better be read, for the facts contained in it have all a bearing upon the lesson—preparation for conquest.

Before the people can go forward to conquer and occupy the land, they must be circumcised. They are not fit to take and possess the land that God gave them, till they are consecrated to His service. The rite of circumcision had been neglected during the wilderness journey. And as all the men that came out of Egypt had died in the wilderness, with the exception of two, the present generation had all to receive the sign of the Lord's covenant.

Vs. 10.—The passover was observed four days after they entered the land. On the fourteenth day, (See Ex. 12: 6, 18,) that was the right day for its observance. It seems that the passover had been neglected too in the wilderness, for there is only one record of its observance during the thirty-and eight years.

Vs. 11.—*Old corn*.—The meaning is—the self-same day in which they ate the unleavened bread from the new grain, they also ate the corn of the previous year. *Parched, roasted ears of corn* are meant, an article of food still much esteemed by the Arabs.

Vs. 12.—That is on the sixteenth day of the month the manna ceased. They needed it no longer, for Canaan was a land “flowing with milk and honey.” At this time and place also it is probable the ark was substituted for the pillar of cloud and of fire, as the guide in the way.

Vs. 13, 15.—That which Joshua saw, a man over against him, &c. An angel in the form of a man. (See Gen. 18: 2, and 32: 24.) *A drawn sword*. (See Num. 22: 23.) Joshua's question, ‘Art thou for us,’ &c., an appropriate question for the leader of the Israelites to ask.

Vs. 14.—The one addressed answers in the negative, and belongs, therefore, neither to one nor to the other, but is rather the Captain of Jehovah's host, that is prince of the Lord's host. From the next Chapter [sixth and second vs.] we learn that this angel was none other than the Lord himself. (See also Gen. 18: 17, 20.)

The Captain of the Lord's host is the angel of the presence or face, (Ex. 23: 20), in whom was God's name, (Vs. 21), of whom God says to Moses, (Ex. 33: 14), “My presence shall go with thee, &c.” From the passages referred to, he assumes an altogether peculiar position towards God, who raises him above all other angels, so that we may, perhaps, recognize in him the word incarnate.—(Lange in loco.)

The conduct of Joshua falling on his face and worshipping, also bears out the view

that the angel was none other than the angel of the Lord—the second person of the Trinity.

Vs. 15.—Compare to the call of Moses, (Exodus, 3rd Chapter). *Holy*, from the appearance here of this exalted Being. Joshua was obedient as well as reverent, and then, doubtless, the heavenly visitor went on to give him directions for the approaching war, as well as promises and encouragements.

LESSONS.

(1.) Before we are ready to enter on the work of conquering our enemies we must dedicate ourselves to the Lord, and observe his ordinances. Circumcision and the passover, the two Sacraments of the Old Testament, were observed by the Israelites before they entered upon the subjection of their enemies.

(2.) When we attend to God's ordinances we may expect God to manifest himself to us. The angel appeared to Joshua after he had attended to the solemnities of circumcision and the passover.

(3.) The best way to undertake a difficult work is to begin with God, with renewed consecration to his service and prayer for his blessing.

(4.) God is on the side of his people, and manifests his power most when they most feel their weakness and need.

(5.) God never works miracles when they are not required. The manna ceased when Canaan was entered.

(6.) The path of duty is the way that leads to prosperity. “Joshua was in his post as General when God came and made Himself known to him as Generalissimo.”

Presbytery Minutes.

Presbytery of Halifax.

The Presbytery met on 2nd inst.

Inter alia: 1st. Rev. Mr. Grant reported that Rev. Mr. Patterson had written that he would be in St. John early this month.

2nd. A letter from Mr. John Murray, Secretary of the Spring Hill congregation, was read, stating that the sum of \$636 had been subscribed towards the stipend of a minister, and requesting moderation in a call. The moderator also reported concerning the congregation to the great satisfaction of the Presbytery. It was then moved and agreed to that the Presbytery accede to the request of Spring Hill congregation, and appoint the Clerk to moderate in a call on Monday, 11th January, 1875, intimation thereof to be given on the two preceding Sundays by Rev. Mr. Sutherland, who, Rev. Mr. Campbell intimated, would give supply on those days; and the call to be returned at the next regular meeting of Presbytery. Agreed also to appoint Mr. Potter