

Joshua was a soldier—not a teacher or a prophet, as Moses had been. God chose him to take Moses' place in leading the people. Why? Now there was need of a soldier. Battles were to be fought, cities to be taken, etc. Print "Joshua," with meaning of name, "Jehovah the Saviour," on the board, and read verse 5, teaching that God has strength and power to give to all who do his work. Read verse 2, and ask what God called Joshua to do, teaching that his presence and help were promised in doing that special work. Apply, showing that we may look for God's blessing when we are doing what he wants us to do, and not when we are taking our own way.

JESUS OUR LEADER.

Teach that Jesus is our Leader to Canaan, our home in heaven. We have a journey to make, foes to conquer, and battles to win. When we have something hard to do, it gives strength to know that a friend will be with us to help. God promised to be with Joshua; so he will be with us. How shall we know which way to go? He will tell us. Read verse 8, explaining what the "book of the law" is. Print, "Be not afraid," and teach that we need not be afraid when we are obeying God, walking with him, doing his work. When we are without faith, without love, and disobedient, then we should fear, for Satan is close by our side.

Lesson Word-Pictures.

It may have been in the tabernacle at some

midnight hour that God spoke to Joshua. Without the tabernacle court there was silence among the drowsy tents of Israel. Within the tabernacle itself there, too, was silence, an awful, unbroken hush in the inner sanctuary, that holy of holies, where the sound of footstep was never heard save once a year, on that memorable day of atonement, when, clad in white linen, and bare-footed, the high-priest passed within the veil. In the outer sanctuary it was still. From the golden candlestick that, never wholly extinguished, lifted its lights like some constellation transposed from the evening sky, fell in silence a soft radiance on the altar of incense, the table with its show-bread, the beautiful veil before the holy of holies. Standing before the door of the tabernacle amid these impressive surroundings Joshua may have received his charge from the great Jehovah. Or he may have been on some mountain-top. It was in the day, perhaps. Far below Joshua could see Israel's tents dotting the landscape. Down through its winding valley he could see that impetuous traveller, the Jordan, on its way to an undisturbed rest in the Dead Sea, flashing in the south. In the north Lebanon lifted its snowy watch-towers. Before Joshua stretched the Promised Land, hill succeeding hill, till their waves of purple beauty were met and stopped by the cold, white, invincible surf of the Great Sea. Through this unknown land Joshua was to guide Israel. What wonder if he bowed his head under the burden! He took that burden alone, to carry it alone, God his only sure helper.

B.C. 1451.

LESSON II.—PASSING OVER JORDAN.

July 8.

Joshua 3. 5-17.



5 And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify *a* yourselves: for to-morrow the Lord will do wonders among you.

a Exod. 19. 10; Lev. 20. 7; Num. 11. 18; chap. 7. 13; 1 Sam. 16. 5; Joel 2. 16.

6 And Joshua spake unto the priests, saying, *b* Take up the ark of the covenant, and pass over before the people. And they took up the ark of the covenant, and went before the people.

b Num. 4. 15.

7 And the Lord said unto Joshua, This day will I begin to magnify *c* thee in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee.

c Chap. 4. 14; 1 Chron. 29. 25; 2 Chron. 1. 1.

8 And thou shalt command the priests that bear the ark of the covenant, saying, When ye are come to the brink of the water of Jordan, ye shall stand still in Jordan.

9 And Joshua said unto the children of Israel, Come hither, and hear the words of the Lord your God.

10 And Joshua said, Hereby ye shall know that the *d* living God *is* among you and *that* he

will without fail *e* drive out from before you the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Hivites, and the Perizites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Jebusites.

d Deut. 5. 26; 1 Sam. 17. 26; 2 Kings 19. 4; Hosea 1. 10; Matt. 16. 16; 1 Thess. 1. 9.—*e* Exod. 83. 2; Deut. 7. 1; Ps. 44. 2.

11 Behold the ark of the covenant of *f* the Lord of all the earth passeth over before you into Jordan.

f Ps. 24. 1; Job 41. 11; Micah 4. 13; Zech. 4. 14.

12 Now therefore *g* take you twelve men of the tribes of Israel, out of every tribe a man.

g Chap. 4. 2.

13 And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests that bear the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of Jordan, *that* the waters of Jordan shall be cut off from the waters that come down from above; and they *h* shall stand upon an heap.

h Ps. 78. 13; 114. 3.

14 And it came to pass, when the people removed from their tents, to pass over Jordan, and the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people;

i Exod. 26. 10; 26. 30; Num. 10. 8; 2 Chron. 6. 41; Ps. 132. 8; Acts 7. 45; Heb. 9. 4.