

vine and the palm, Jordan crossed! And until Jordan has been crossed the ark of God waits patiently in the river bed. O, ark of the covenant, appear thou to our longing eyes when to us shall come the word that we must pass over Jordan this day!

Blackboard.



ONLY A STEP

FOR
ISRAEL
FROM

HARDSHIP TO HOME...

WANDERINGS **|** **P**OSSESSIONS
IN **|** AND
WILDERNESS. **|** PLENTY.

CROSS OVER THE JORDAN.

ENTER THE LAND.
ENJOY

ONLY A STEP

FOR ME
FROM

HARDSHIP TO HEAVEN.

STRAYING **|** **S**ONSHIP
IN **|** THROUGH THE
SIN. **|** SAVIOUR.

CROSS OVER THE
JORDAN OF UNBELIEF.

ENTER.
ENJOY.

"As many as received him, to them
gave he power to become the
SONS OF GOD."

By Way of Illustration.

Verse 5. Every great victory for the Christian faith has been preceded by days of earnest prayer and consecration. The reformation under Luther, the great revival under Wesley, and hundreds of revivals since, had their beginnings in sanctified hearts. A large revival broke forth in a town noted for its wickedness. It was discovered later that a little company of mothers had been having a concert of prayer, holding a special religious service one afternoon each week for some weeks previous to this work of grace.

Verse 6. "The ark of the covenant." Moses had died, but the divine Presence, the ark of the covenant, was with them. It was better than Moses and his rod, as divine help is always better than human help. A lady who had buried all her family, and who was overwhelmed with great sorrow, was one day reading her Bible and found these words of Jacob to his son, "Behold I die; but God shall be with you." She realized then that she could lose nothing unless she lost her God; that having him she possessed all things.

John Wesley found in his travels a woman who was in great distress because she had lost her crucifix. She said mournfully: "I have lost my crucifix, and now I have nothing to trust in but the great God." The children of Israel had lost Moses, but they still had the great God to trust in, and so were safe and prosperous.

Verses 14-16. In Jordan. At the beginning of this lesson the children of Israel were "this side Jordan;" at the close of the lesson they are "clean over Jordan." Just now they are in the Jordan, and they find that there is no Jordan there. Bishop Gilbert Haven said when dying, "I had always supposed there was a river of death to be crossed, but there is no river here. I am floating in light." Ofttimes Christians dread this dark and unknown stream of death, only to find that there is no river, but instead a safe and glorious passage "to Canaan's fair and happy land."

Verse 17. God's plan demanded the transfer of the people across the Jordan. They must be isolated from alien people. The wider world was to contribute its share to this preparation, so that Israel must set its feet by the shore of the great sea, and dwell upon the roads traversed by caravans and armies. Then Alexandria can supply its spiritual philosophy, Greece its culture and language, Rome its law and wide sway, to aid in recording and extending the Gospel. Physical geography is potent in civilization. So must the Church of Christ come out from the world and be a separate body. "Cannot I be a Christian without joining the Church?" Doubtless; but at loss to yourself and sacrifice of power to the Church. The nebulous haze of unattached believers is not