

covenant; the sign of God's presence with Israel. *Went before the people*; "two thousand cubits" (v. 4), between a half and three quarters of a mile in advance. *The Lord said unto Joshua*. Behind the commands of the human leader was the full weight of divine authority. *Magnify thee*; make thee great. *As... with Moses... so... with thee*. It had been shown by special miracles that Moses was sent from God; by like miracles would it now be shown that God had sent Joshua as Moses' successor.

See V. 8

Command

Joshua

Command

V. 8

Joshua

Command

V. 9, 10

Joshua

Command

V. 11

Joshua

Command

V. 12

Joshua

Command

V. 13

Joshua

Command

V. 14

Joshua

Command

V. 15

Joshua

Command

II. Preparation, 8-13.

Vs. 8-10. *Priests... to the brink... of Jordan*; which, at some seasons of the year, could easily be forded, but which now overflowed its banks (v. 15), and was therefore utterly impassable on foot. *Stand in Jordan*; going boldly into the river, just as if there was a way across it. There they were to wait for divine help. *The living God is among you*. Their help is not in a dead, motionless idol, but in One who is the Source of all life and power. *Without fail drive out*, etc. The previous victories of Israel over Sihon, king of the Amorites, and Og, king of Bashan (Num. 21: 21-35), were pledges that God would enable them to conquer the tribes of Canaan. For these tribes, mentioned in v. 10, see Geography Lesson, also the QUARTERLIES.

Vs. 11-13. *The Lord of all the earth*; who, as Creator and Owner of all lands, has the right and power to give them to whom he will. *Take twelve men*. The reason of this is given in ch. 4: 1-9. They were to take twelve stones from the bottom of the river to be set up as a monument of the passage. *It shall come to pass*. We have here God's promise; v. 16 gives the fulfilment. *Sole of feet... rest in the waters*. The priests must prove their faith by actually going into the water, before God will interpose for the help of His people.

III. Fulfilment, 14-17.

Vs. 14, 15. *People removed, etc.*; marching down to the Jordan. The faith of Joshua and the priests had proved contagious, spreading a like confidence throughout the whole camp. *Feet of the priests... dipped in water*. They made the venture God required of them, sure that He would do His part. Such assurance is never disappointed.

Jordan overfloweth, etc. The "time of harvest"; that is, the barley harvest, is from the middle of March to early in April. The overflow at this season is due to the melting snows of Mt. Hermon and Mt. Lebanon, and the heavy mid-winter rains of a few weeks previous.

Vs. 16, 17. *Waters... from above*; up stream. *In one heap* (Rev. Ver.); swept back and piled up by a divine Hand, as at the Red Sea, Ex. 15: 8. *The city of Adam*. This was probably situated at the ford unknown as Damieh, seventeen miles above Israel's crossing place. *Zaretan*; probably an isolated hill near Adam. *Those... toward the sea*; the Dead Sea, called the salt sea on account of its intense saltiness. *The plain*; Rev. Ver., "Arabah," the depression of land through which the Jordan flows, and also its extension from the Dead Sea to the Gulf of Akaba. *Failed, and were cut off*. We are to picture the waters down stream as flowing rapidly off, leaving the whole bed of the river dry for miles. *Priests... stood firm... in the midst of Jordan*. This would assure the people that they would have full time to make the passage.

Light from the East

JORDAN—"The down-comer", is the principal river of Palestine, and historically and religiously the most remarkable river in the world. It is only about 160 miles in a straight line from its source to its mouth, but with all its windings it is nearly 300 miles in length. Through the most of its course it is below the level of the sea, and the Dead Sea, into which it empties itself, has no outlet, but evaporation carries the water off as fast as the Jordan and all its other streams can pour it in. The river itself is a rapid, muddy stream, about 90 feet wide, and varies from three feet in depth at the fords, to twelve feet. In January and February, and even as late as April, the waters rise out of the old channel and flood the plain. The banks are usually a dense, unhealthy jungle of bushes struggling up through the driftwood and mud piled up everywhere. The lower plain has too much alkali to sustain ordinary vegetation, and the heaps and ridges scattered over it look like the refuse of a chemical factory. Although

... literally, "pulled up"; that is, their feet were

until this was done the river remained un- changed, - a bit of the people's faith