

## The Quiet Hour.

### Joshua Encouraged.

S. S. LESSON, Joshua 1: 1-11.

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GOLDEN TEXT—Joshua 1: 9. Be strong and of a good courage.

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Moses my servant is dead, v. 2. The loss to God's cause and church, due to the death of a great leader may be incalculable, but it is never irreparable. The fall of a standard-bearer always comes as a summons to the next in rank. God suffers no interregnum in the earthly leadership of His people. Moses the "servant of the Lord" may be dead; but God the Master is not; therefore Moses' minister becomes Moses' successor. Just because great men are gone from us, we must rise and strive to do the still unfinished work.

Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, v. 2. After centuries of preparation comes the moment for action. Then to the voice of circumstance and the clamant need in the world about us, is sometimes added the voice of some servant of God pointing out the duty; and always the "one clear call" of conscience, God's voice within our soul, saying "Arise and onward!" This call once clearly heard should be accepted with absolute and unwavering confidence and should be immediately obeyed. Compliance may seem fearfully perilous or even physically impossible; but God says "Over!" and our preparation to obey reveals our faith in Him in whose strength all things are possible.

Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon v. 3. God has given many kingdoms—material, educational, moral, religious. To all of us he offers dominion; but we must take possession—must enter in and possess the land. Only through our own trust and energy can come the appropriation and enjoyment of the promised land. The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent (the earnest and determined) take it by force," Matt. 11: 12. In regard to moral and spiritual as well as material possessions, we have but what we conquer. Longfellow was right when he said:

"We rise by the things that are under our feet,  
By what we have mastered of good and gain,  
By the pride deposed and the passions slain,  
And the vanquished ills that we hourly meet."

As I said unto Moses, v. 3. Whatever God has promised to his people will surely become their inheritance. Our promised land is sure. A place of holiness, of knowledge, of service, of blessed companionship, of fullness of joy awaits us, and, though there are difficulties in the way, victories to be won over evil tendencies, over sinful habits, over selfishness and sin, and the Jordan of death to cross at last, yet we need fear no evil for it is our Father's good pleasure to give us the kingdom.

There shall not any man be able to stand before thee, v. 5. The servant, while doing his Master's work, would be invincible and irresistible. Nor need we fear that we shall not receive all the strength we require for any duty God appoints. To our Joshua all

power is given in heaven and in earth, and His latest assurance was, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world," Matt. 28: 20.

As I was with Moses, so I will be with thee, v. 5. Every victory of every saint of God in the past is a presage and guarantee of our success in the Christian life. What God has done for others is a proof and an implicit promise of what He can and will do for us.

"I will not fail thee nor forsake thee," v. 5. How weak Joshua would have been, how foredoomed to failure and discouragement, but for that promise and that presence. God's presence would not fail him in any crisis, however momentous, in any struggle however severe and protracted. We too need God's presence, not merely when we begin our work, but all through the long struggle with our spiritual enemies, which ends only at death. How comforting to know that

"He will never leave us,  
He will not forsake;  
His eternal covenant  
He will never break."

"This book of the law, etc." v. 8. He who walks where the Bible marks the way will not go astray. He may be like an infant crying in the night," but if he listens to the Divine voice echoing out of the divine book, he will find it a pillar of cloud and of fire to his soul. As we study and meditate upon God's word, the Spirit of God comes to be the mighty occupant of our inner man. If we hearken to His voice, we shall not only go aright ourselves, but others observing our moral surefootedness will turn to the same great drill book for their marching orders.

"Then shalt thou have good success, etc." v. 8. Every man must make either a success or a failure of his life. Success is possible in spite of all odds and is certain if we govern our lives in accordance with the divine method. The only true success is that which a man makes for himself and of himself. A man's best final product is himself. We can obtain no adequate success unless our hearts are turned to God and our souls live and grow in and to Him. The only road to true success is obedience to God.

"Have not I commanded thee," v. 9. It should be enough that we hear the Leader's orders clearly and distinctly, for with the command to do is given the power to do. "O soul, remember here first of all the true Joshua, thy Saviour Jesus Christ, who has for thy good acquired the heavenly Canaan, to prepare for thee a place there, that thou also mayest dwell there and remain; fight therefore and subdue thy foes under the lead of thy Jesus, that thou mayest also one day take it." (Starke.)

### A Great Saviour Needed.

C. H. WETHERBE.

If the Bible did not declare the truth that sinful men need a great Saviour to deliver them from the thrall of their iniquities, sinners themselves have in many thousands of instances profoundly realized that they surely did need such a Saviour as Christ is. Religious revolutionists are fond of telling us that there is enough of divinity in all

men to be developed into fine saintliness, but they cannot make a converted sinner believe such folly.

Rev. Joseph P. Jacobs, a chapel-car missionary, now labouring in Missouri, tells of the recent conversion of a sinner, called Andy, who spoke to Mr. Jacobs thus: "For seventeen years I had not put my foot inside of a church, and had not heard a sermon until I went to the chapel car last Wednesday night. I have not missed a meeting since, and if I have made a mistake I want to know it. I believe you are in earnest and I want to ask you to help me to the light, if it be possible. Do you think I can be saved?" I assured him he could and urged him to trust Christ; but every passage of Scripture I quoted he would quote one that served to offset and disprove it. I said: "I will not argue with you; let us pray." He did not want to pray, but I insisted, and while he sat I kneeled, and if ever the Holy Spirit gave me power to pray it was then. I arose from my knees with tears streaming from my eyes." Then after stating that Andy went to meeting the next evening, and, on the following day, they had a talk with each other for several hours, Mr. Jacobs further wrote: "This morning I started to build a fire to get breakfast, I heard some one at the door, saying 'Oh Jacobs, oh Jacobs, open the door! Be quick! Be quick! The devil is after me, oh my God! I have run all the way from the mines here. Lock the door! Satan is after my soul! There stood my friend in his mining clothes, cap and lamp just as he had come up from the mine. I saw the trouble and said: 'Believe in Christ.' I do! I do!," he said, and then began to praise God. He danced, he shouted, he clapped his hands, he fell upon the floor, he sang, he laughed, and said: 'I am saved! I am saved!' in real Methodist fashion." No one could have made that sinful man believe that he did not need a great Saviour, and it was not necessary for him to read the Bible in order to ascertain that fact. Talk of a sinner's waking the natural goodness that is in him until it fruits out into a Christian life! Why even the old devil knows better than that! O sinner, you need salvation by Christ!

### Positive Belief.

"The men who have amounted to anything as religious forces in the world have been positive in their beliefs and practices. Abraham believed God and thus won a deathless fame. Moses took God at his word and thereby achieved deliverance for Israel and a recompense of reward for himself. David became the sweet singer of the Church of all ages through a rich personal experience of God and his communications to Israel. The prophets were men of the strictest fidelity to instructions and of the most steadfast adherence to right and truth. The apostles were imbued with the spirit of their Master, and in unflinching devotion to him founded his kingdom upon the earth, and laid down their lives in attestation of the faith once delivered to the saints. The martyrs won their crowns because God and Christ and truth were realities to them, and esteemed dearer than life. The Reformers wrought in the power of an invincible religious conviction. Missionaries cross seas to achieve victories in Christ's name because they believe, with all their soul, in him and in the efficacy of his gospel for the redemption of mankind. The successful workers in all churches are noted for a faith that worketh by love, purifies the heart and overcometh the world."—The Presbyterian.