

## Lesson VIII.

## JOSHUA, THE NEW LEADER

November 23, 1913

**BETWEEN THE LESSONS**—The Book of Joshua, to which the Lessons now pass, is divided into two halves: I. The Conquest of Canaan, chs. 1-12. II. The Division of the Land, chs. 13-19.

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

Memorize vs. 5, 6. **THE LESSON PASSAGE**—Joshua 1:1-9. Read Joshua, chs. 1, 2.

1 Now after the death of Mo'ses the servant of the Lord it came to pass, that the Lord spake unto Josh'ua the son of Nun, Mo'ses' minister, saying.

2 Mo'ses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Is'rael.

3 Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, I that have I given unto you, as I said unto Mo'ses.

4 From the wilderness and this Leb'anon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hit'tites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your inheritance.

5 There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Mo'ses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

**Revised Version**—to you have I given it, as I spake unto; 2 border; 3 thou shalt cause this people to inherit the land; 4 Omit thou; 5 to observe; 6 have good success; 7 affrighted.

**Daily Readings**—(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Secretary, 56 Old Bailey, London, England.)—M.—Joshua chosen, Num. 27:18-23. T.—The charge to Joshua, Deut. 31:14-23. W.—Joshua, the new leader, Josh. 1:1-9. Th.—If God be for us, Rom. 8:31-39. F.—Girded with strength, Ps. 18:31-39. S.—The Christian soldier, Eph. 6:10-18. S.—Divine encouragement, Isa. 41:8-16.

## THE LESSON EXPLAINED

## I. JOSHUA'S PROMOTION.—1.

**After the death of Moses**; and at the end of the thirty days' stillness in the camp of Israel on the plateau of Moab east of the Jordan, during which Israel had wept and mourned for its great lawgiver (see Deut. 34:8). **The servant of the Lord**; the highest possible title in God-governed Israel. Moses is praised in Heb. 3:2 for his faithfulness. **The Lord spake**; as Israel's true ruler and guide. **Joshua the son of Nun**; now over eighty years old, born, therefore, in slavery in Egypt, an Ephraimite (Num. 13:8), therefore descended from Joseph (Gen. 41:50-52), the general under whom Israel defeated the Amalekites (Ex. 17:8-16), and the comrade of Caleb against the ten cowardly spies, Num. 14:6-9. **Moses' minister**; attendant, faithful in all his forty years of service.

2. **Moses... is dead**. The great worker has vanished, but there must be no interruption in God's work. **Now therefore arise**; to take Moses' place. The Lord thus confirms the selection of Joshua as the successor of Moses (see Num. 27:15-23; Deut. 31:3-7, 23). **Go over this Jordan**; "the Descender." From its source at the foot of the mountains in the north of Palestine to its entrance into the Dead Sea, the fall is 1292 feet. Between the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea, about 60 miles, the river, in its windings, traverses 200 miles. The command to cross this river was a severe test of Joshua's faith and courage, since, on the other side were numerous and powerful foes.



ROLLS OF THE LAW

The land... I do give; and therefore no foes could prevent Israel's taking possession of it.

## II. JOSHUA'S PROSPECT.—3, 4.

**As I said unto Moses**. See Deut. 11:24. **From the wilderness**; in which Israel had been wandering for nearly forty years on their way to Canaan. This was to be the southern boundary of the Promised Land. **This Lebanon**; "White Mountain," the snow-clad range 150 miles to the north, which yet could be

seen from where Joshua stood,—the northern boundary. **The river Euphrates**; "the good and abounding river," the largest, longest, and by far the most important of the rivers in Western Asia,—the boundary to the east. **The land of the Hit'tites**; a powerful nation to the north of Palestine. **The great sea**; the Mediterranean,—the western border. **Coast**; boundary.

III. JOSHUA'S POWER.—5-7. **As I was with Moses**. The change of earthly leaders had made no change in God or in His purpose to make of Israel a great nation. "As I was"... so I will be... I will not fail. "I," "I," "I," says God to Joshua: it is the Almighty who is his helper. **Be strong**; not in your own might, but in that of God. **Of a good courage**; facing every foe with a steady nerve, an unblenching eye, an immovable purpose. **Only**; a word pointing like an index finger to the one necessary condition of success. **Do according to... the law**. So, in Deut. 17:19 kings, and here Joshua, are bidden to obey God's law, that they may prosper.