

SABBATH, January 10th.—LESSON II: Crossing the Jordan.—Joshua iii. 14-17.

Leader. 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:

School. 15 And as they that bare the ark were come unto Jordan, and the feet of the priests that bare the ark were dipped in the brim of the water, (for Jordan overflowed with all his banks all the time of harvest,)

L. 16 That the waters which came down from above stood and rose up unto a heap very far from the city Adam, that is beside Zarethan;

S. And those that came down toward the sea of the plain, even the salt sea, failed, and were cut off; and the people passed over right against Jericho.

L. 17 And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan,

S. And all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan.

HOME READINGS: *M.* Josh. i. 1-13. *Tu.* Josh. iii. 14-17. *W.* Josh. i. 10-18. *Th.* Isa. xliii. 1-13. *F.* Luke vii. 1-10. *S.* Heb. i. 1-16. *S.* Exod. xv. 1-11.

TOPIC: IN THE WAVES OF JORDAN—SAFETY.

GOLDEN TEXT: WHEN THOU PASSEST THROUGH THE WATERS, I WILL BE WITH THEE; AND THROUGH THE RIVERS, THEY SHALL NOT OVERFLOW THEE. Isa. xliii. 2.

OUTLINE: 1. Toward the Jordan, v. 14; Judges viii. 4.
2. In the Jordan, v. 15-17; 2 Kings v. 14.
3. Over the Jordan, v. 16, 17; Deut. xxxiv. 1-4.

QUESTIONS, ETC.

Give the TITLE of this lesson.

Where is the Jordan?

Who were about crossing it?

What troubles and difficulties in this life are sometimes compared to deep waters?

What comfort do Christians in trouble find in our TOPIC and GOLDEN TEXT?

Recite OUTLINE.

1. Toward the Jordan, v. 14.

On which side of the river were the tents of Israel?

Give the order of the procession toward the Jordan.

What was the "ark of the covenant"?

What is it called in verse 17?

Who is to us what this ark was to Israel?

Do we follow him faithfully and cheerfully?

2. In the Jordan, v. 15-17.

What was the condition of Jordan in harvest?

What happened as the priests entered?

Where are "Adam" and "Zarethan"?

[ANS. No one can certainly tell. The best authorities say that "these sites are unknown."] *What two names has the Dead Sea in verse 16?*

Where did the ark remain while the people crossed?

Can you think of any reason for the expression "the people passed over right against Jericho"?

Whom should we have with us when we cross rivers of sorrow and of death?

How may we secure his presence both in life and in death?

3. Over the Jordan, v. 16, 17.

What terms in verse 17 describe the perfection and thoroughness of the deliverance which God wrought out for his people?

Into what land did the people come? [Read Exod. iii. 8; Num. xiii. 27.]

To what land do we hope to come after crossing the river of death?

Dear teachers and pupils, do not forget THE ARK!

Where do we learn—

1. What will make it easy to leave our earthly tents and cross the river of death?

2. How to overcome the greatest obstacles in the religious life?

3. That we should follow Christ our leader even though the way seem impassable?

DOCTRINE SUGGESTED: God's omnipotence.

LESSON HYMN. 11s.

Tune: Portuguese Hymn.

When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be with thee thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace all-sufficient shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee, I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

19. Has He not also given us certain rules to direct us in our conduct towards our enemies?

To direct us in our conduct towards our enemies, our Lord has given us this rule,—"I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you," (Matthew v. 44.)

SABBATH, January 17th.—LESSON III: Memorial Stones.—Josh iv. 4-9.

Leader. 4 Then Joshua called the twelve men, whom he had prepared of the children of Israel, out of every tribe a man:

School. 5 And Joshua said unto them, Pass over before the ark of the Lord your God, in the midst of Jordan, and take ye up every man of you a stone upon his shoulder according unto the number of the tribes of the children of Israel:

L. 6 That this may be a sign among you, that when your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean ye by these stones?

S. 7 Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan

were cut off; and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel forever.

L. 8 And the children of Israel did so as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones out of the midst of Jordan, as the Lord spake unto Joshua,

S. According to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, and carried them over with them unto the place where they lodged, and laid them down there.

L. 9 And Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests which bare the ark of the covenant stood;

S. And they are there unto this day.