

Lesson VI.

JOSHUA RENEWING THE COVENANT WITH ISRAEL November 10, 1907

Joshua 24: 14-28. Commit to Memory vs. 22-24. Read Joshua, chs. 23, 24.

GOLDEN TEXT—Choose you this day whom ye will serve.—Joshua 24: 15.

14 Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served ¹ on the other side of the flood, and in E'gypt; and serve ye the LORD.

15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your father served that were ¹ on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Am'orites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

16 And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the LORD, to serve o^r gods;

17 For the LORD our God, he *it is* that brought us ² up and our fathers ³ out of the land of E'gypt, from the house of bondage, and ⁴ which did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way wherein we went, and among all the ⁵ people through ⁶ whom we passed:

18 And the LORD drave out from before us all the ⁷ people, even the Am'orites which dwell in the land: *therefore* ⁷ will we also serve the LORD; for he *is* our God.

19 And Josh'ua said unto the people, Ye cannot serve the LORD: for he *is* an holy God; he *is* a jealous God; he will not forgive your ⁸ transgressions nor your sins.

Revised Version—¹ beyond the River; ² Omit up; ³ up; ⁴ that did; ⁵ peoples; ⁶ the midst of; ⁷ we also will; ⁸ transgression; ⁹ evil; ¹⁰ the; ¹¹ unto; ¹² hearken; ¹³ he; ¹⁴ against; ¹⁵ sent the people away.

LESSON PLAN

I. A Choice Presented, 14, 15.

II. A Choice Made, 16-18.

III. A Choice Confirmed, 19-28.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association)

M.—The Assembly, Joshua 24: 1-13. T.—Joshua renewing the covenant with Israel, Joshua 24: 14-25. W.—Joshua renewing the covenant with Israel, Joshua 24: 26-33. Th.—Samuel's exhortation, 1 Sam. 12: 1-15. F.—Choose life! Deut. 30: 11-20. S.—Reasonable service, Rom. 12: 1-8. S.—The first choice, Matt. 6: 24-34.

EXPOSITION

Time and Place—B.C. 1427; at Shechem, between Mts. Ebal and Gerizim.

Connecting Links—For a number of years after the division of the land, the people are represented as living under the rule of Joshua in peace and quiet, interrupted, however, by occasional wars with the native Canaanites. These wars, for a time, were practically at an end, ch. 21: 43-45. The tribes of Reuben and Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh were sent back to their territory on the east side of Jordan, ch. 22. When Joshua, who had grown to be a very old man, felt his end approaching, he summoned first the elders of the people, and then a public gathering of all, in order that he might speak to them his parting words, as Moses had done before him, chs. 23, 24. On each occasion he recalled the great things Jehovah had done

20 if ye forsake the LORD, and serve strange gods, then he will turn and do you ⁹ hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good.

21 And the people said unto Josh'ua, Nay; but we will serve the LORD.

22 And Josh'ua said unto the people, Ye are witnesses against yourselves that ye have chosen you the LORD, to serve him. And they said, *We are witnesses*

23 Now therefore put away, *said he*, the strange gods which *are* among you, and incline your heart unto the LORD ¹⁰ God of Is'rael.

24 And the people said unto Josh'ua, The LORD our God will we serve, and ¹¹ his voice will we ¹² obey.

25 So Josh'ua made a covenant with the people that day, and set them a statute and an ordinance in Shechem.

26 And Josh'ua wrote these words in the book of the law of God, and ¹³ took a great stone, and set it up there under ¹⁰ an oak, that *was* by the sanctuary of the LORD.

27 And Josh'ua said unto all the people, Behold, this stone shall be a witness ¹⁴ unto us; for it hath heard all the words of the LORD which he spake unto us: it shall be therefore a witness ¹⁴ unto you, lest ye deny your God.

28 So Josh'ua ¹⁵ let the people depart, every man unto his inheritance.

Shorter Catechism—*Ques. 77. What is required in the ninth commandment?* A. The ninth commandment requireth the maintaining and promoting of truth between man and man, and of our own and our neighbour's good name, especially in witness-bearing.

The Question on Missions—6. What is done for Indian boys and girls? There are 15 schools, in which the children are trained to speak English and to live in a civilized way. The boys learn to farm and take care of cattle, and the girls to keep house. Especially, they receive Christian instruction.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, Ps. Sel. 80 (Supplemental Lesson); 210: 216: 90 (Ps. Sel.); 240 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 211.

for them, and urged them to remain true to Him alone as their God. The second address—from which the Lesson is taken—led to the renewing of the covenant between the people and Jehovah.

I. A Choice Presented, 14, 15.

V. 14. *Fear the Lord and serve him*; because of all that He had done for them and for their fathers before them. God's wonderful grace laid upon Israel the strongest obligation to grateful homage and obedience. *In sincerity and in truth.* Wyclif's translation is, "with perfect heart and most true". No other service would be acceptable, nor prove enduring. "Sincerity" is the equivalent of a Greek word supposed to contain the idea of something held up in the rays of the sun and thus proved to be without speck or flaw. God hates pretence, and is