

"Joshua, the Book of Conflict."

By A. C. DIXON.

Key text: "Now, therefore arise, and go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them." (1:2).

The Book of Joshua bears the relation to the Pentateuch that the "Acts of the Apostles" bears to the four Gospels. Jehovah continues the work which He began. William the Conqueror made what is known as "The Doomsday Book," in which are given the division of England among his followers. Joshua is the "Doomsday Book" of the Bible.

ANALYSIS.

1. THE CONQUEST (1-12).
2. THE SETTLEMENT (13-22).
3. JOSHUA'S FAREWELL (23, 24).

But the purpose of these lectures is not so much analysis or synthesis, as an effort to get out of each book what belongs to us of this day. There continues in Joshua the conflict between the self-center and the God-center, between the mud and the crystal. There is also conflict, with both difficulties and dangers.

Everything in the Book might be classed under the heading, THINGS NEW AND OLD. The people carried with them even their old clothes which had lasted during the forty years in the wilderness. They also carried with them their old selfish natures. Under the new things are:

1. The New Leader.

Joshua was Moses' minister, trained under the eye of the great statesman and law-giver. He was pre-eminently a soldier, although about eighty years of age, full of physical, mental and spiritual vigor. Caleb, his old friend, is about eighty-five years old, and insists on conquering Hebron, where the sons of Anak lived (14:6-15).

2. The New Commission (1:2-9).

No time for mourning. The death of great men, God's call to the living.

3. The New Difficulties.

The swollen Jordan (3).

Jericho with its high walls (6).

4. The New Source of Authority (1:8).

To be henceforth a book religion

5. The New Symbol of God's Presence (3:14).

The pillar of fire by night and of cloud by day has disappeared. Now the Ark leads.

6. The New Source of Supply (5:12).

The "old corn" of the land. The manna disappears. The old corn is God's gift through natural means, as was the manna through supernatural. Bless God for the natural as well as the supernatural.

7. The New Methods of Warfare.

In capturing Jericho (6); the march of silence; the ram's horns, and the final victory. God's way of testing and giving sudden victory. The battle for Gibeon (10:11). Hail stones for the enemy; light for Israel (10:12-14).

8. The New Perils.

a. Covetousness (7:1-5). Achan's sin. Organic national unity, making the sin of one affect all.

b. The wiles of the enemy—deceived by the Gibeonites (9:3-15).

- c. Misunderstanding (22:10-21).

Altar erected by tribes of Reuben, Gad and Manasseh.

War prevented by arbitration.

In Joshua's farewell, a rehearsal of God's dealing and promises. Brave to meet real death in the power of real faith in God.