

These two territories make up the plateau country east of the Jordan. Perhaps the most fertile part of Palestine. It is easy to understand why the tribes of Reuben and Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh should have asked permission to settle in the plateau country east of the Jordan instead of ~~the~~ crossing over into Canaan. They were given permission, on the condition that they crossed over with the others and helped to conquer the land of Canaan. Moses was not permitted to enter into the promised land. He climbed Mt. Nebo and from that point he could see practically the entire land of Canaan.

After the death of Moses the Israelites crossed the River Jordan. This crossing of the Jordan was in itself a matter of no little difficulty. To bring ~~a~~ such a large nation across this rapid stream would have been quite a task. But we read that the way was opened for them to cross the river. The Scripture tells ~~us~~ us that the waters were dammed up at Adam, the city that is beside Z (Joshua 3-16). This is several miles north of the place where the Israelites crossed. The modern name is E. It is in a wide flat plain such as the region around Jerico where there is a plain about 14 miles in width with the Jordan River running down the middle of it, but a much narrower valley, possibly 3 miles wide in the middle of which the river flows, in a winding channel which is itself a gorge of considerable depth. The water here cuts into the sand banks at the side and it is easy to imagine its cutting into it far enough so that the whole bank caves in at one point, damming up the channel through which the water had flowed and making it necessary for the water to force a new channel before it could flow on to the Dead Sea and the result is that the river below the place where the cave in occurred would speedily run dry and would be dry for several hours until the river had forced a new channel and again resumed its course. Thus the Israelites were enabled to cross over without difficulty and to establish a camp on the western side of the Jordan.

Having established their camp west of the Jordan the next necessity was the taking of the strong cities which barred the way up into the