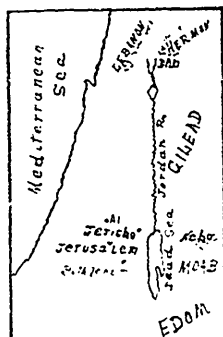


destroyed, they exposed themselves to destruction. **I will not be with you** (Rev. Ver.); and without God's help they must fail. **Except ye destroy the devoted thing** (Rev. Ver.). Only by doing God's will can God's help be enjoyed.

III. SIN DOOMED.—13-15. Sanctify; make holy by putting away everything evil, even in thought and desire. Brought near (Rev. Ver.); to God at the tabernacle. Tribes; twelve of them. Families; in the wider sense, including kinsfolk and dependants. Households; a man with his wife and children. Man by man; individual persons. He that is taken; by lot. In the casting of lots small tablets of wood or stone were used, each inscribed with the name of a tribe, family or person. Burnt with fire; like the "devoted things." The thief, by his own act, had placed himself amongst these. Folly; Margin, "wickedness."

The sad story of Achan's detection and punishment is told in vs. 16-26.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



Ai used to stand about 10 miles from Jericho, in the hill country of Judea. A road,—merely a rough path for foot passengers and donkeys—led up to the hill country from Jericho. From the earliest known times this valley had been a natural route from the Jordan valley up to the highlands. It would have been easy for heathen chiefs up here to combine and descend suddenly

on the Israelitish camp. Joshua's first attack on Ai was an attempt to forestall such a danger, and it must have been in this valley that the men of Ai smote Joshua's soldiers as they were retreating towards Jericho.

LESSON QUESTIONS

What had Achan taken from the spoils of Jericho? What divine command had he broken in so doing? Against what place did Joshua send an attacking force? How did this expedition turn out?

6, 7 In what two ways did Joshua show his grief? What complaint did he make to God? What wish

did he express? Where and by whom had a similar wish been uttered?

8, 9 Describe the flight of the Israelites from Ai. Why, according to Joshua, would this bring dishonor upon God?

10-12 What did the Lord say was the cause of Israel's defeat? What four elements were in Achan's sin? What must Israel do to enjoy God's presence and help?

13-15 How was Achan's sin to be brought home to him? Find the story of the choosing of a Hebrew king by lot. (1 Sam. 10: 20-24.) What punishment was he to suffer? What man, with his wife, in the New Testament were punished by death for an act of deceit? (Acts 5: 1-11.)

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Was it fair that all Israel should be held accountable for Achan's sin?
2. Was the punishment of Achan too severe?

A LESSON FOR LIFE

Captain Scott, the hero of the Antarctic, tells how, on his first voyage to the south polar regions, in the *Discovery*, a great deal of inconvenience and some danger were caused by a leak due to some fault in the building of the vessel. Some carpenter had been careless and dishonest, and had scamped his work. His sin found him out. There the record of it stands on the printed page, pointing him out to the world as a man not to be trusted. "Be sure your sin will find you out" is love's warning to save each of us from the shame and sorrow that sin most surely brings.

Prove from Scripture—That hiding sin hinders prosperity.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 81. What is forbidden in the tenth commandment? A. The tenth commandment forbiddeth all discontentment with our own estate, envying or grieving at the good of our neighbour and all inordinate motions and affections to anything that is his.

The Question on Missions—11. What are the chief hindrances to the work? The entrance into the church of false teachings; the coming of the Japanese, who, by keeping open their places of business on the Sabbath, make it hard for the Korean Christians to observe the holy day; and the fewness of our missionaries.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise: 129 (Supplemental Lesson), 168, 162, 23 (Ps. Sel.), 551 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY), 152.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. Of what sin was Achan guilty?

2. How was his sin discovered?

3. What punishment did he receive?