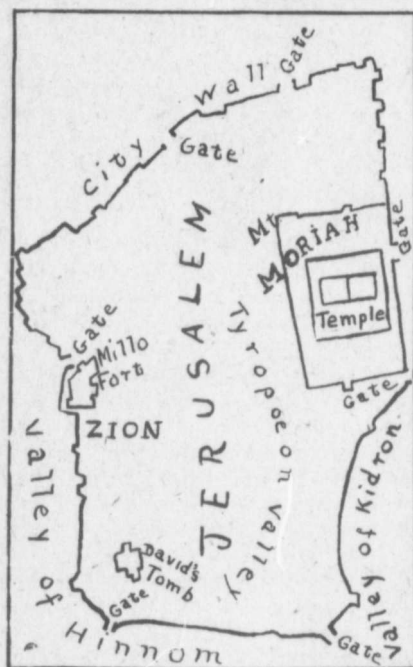


THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



Jerusalem has three valleys,—the Kidron on the east, the Tyropoeon running through the centre and the Valley of Hinnom to the west and south. At the junction of the three valleys at the southeast of the city was Topheth, where, under Manasseh, the Jews performed the rites of human sacrifice, offering children to the heathen god Molech. The Valley of Hinnom was also called Gehenna. It was defiled by Josiah (2 Kgs. 23 : 6, 10) for the purpose of preventing these heathen rites, and afterwards became a place for the burning of refuse, along with the dead animals and the bodies of criminals. It was natural, therefore, that the name should become a designation of hell (see Matt. 5 : 29; 10 : 28). Looking across from the south side of the valley northwards, one may see to-day the hill called Moriah rising, partly covered with olive trees, partly laid out in walled fields, partly shaped into terraces like great stairs with retaining walls of stone. On the summit of this hill stands the beautiful Mohammedan mosque which has replaced the temple.

THE LESSON APPLIED

By Rev. John W. Little, B.D., East Kildonan, Man.

When John G. Paton, who afterwards became the great missionary, was leaving home, his father walked with him about six miles and then they parted. "God bless you, my son! Your father's God prosper you and keep you from all evil," said the tenderhearted father. After going some distance, John climbed a high place of ground to see if his father was still watching him. At the same moment the father climbed the dyke to see his boy. John watched him get down again. "I watched," he said, "through blinding tears, till his form faded from my gaze; and then, hastening on my way, vowed deeply and oft, by the help of God, to live and to act so as never to grieve or dishonor such a father and mother as he had given me." The son was faithful to his vow all his life. It is the privilege of every youth blessed with a Christian home to prove worthy in after years of his early advantages and teachings, and of his parents' prayers and sacrifices on

his behalf. Manasseh did not honor his father and his father's God. How different his life history would read to-day if he had been loyal to the example set him.

Like many another foolish boy, Manasseh spent his youth sowing wild oats. He became king at the threshold of adolescence and threw to the winds his father's cherished beliefs and practices. He began by doing like the heathen around, and ended by doing worse than the heathen. Evil is progressive. We cannot go just so far and stop. The momentum carries us far beyond the goal originally set. And all the time he ignored the law that "whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Some day the penalty of transgression must be paid in full. Are we prepared to pay the price then?

As Manasseh sowed, so he reaped. For the disregard of restraint and foolish self-indulgence in youth he paid the price of exile, chains and fetters. Sin separates, separates