

# INTERNATIONAL BIBLE LESSONS.

## FOURTH QUARTER—STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

### DECEMBER, 1882.

NOTE.—The Scripture verses to be committed to memory are indicated by an index [287] at the side.

A. D. 29.

#### LESSON X.—AFTER HIS DEATH.

December 3.

Mark 15. 38-47.



38 And *a* the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom.

*a* Exod. 26. 31; Eph. 2. 14; Heb. 6. 18; 10. 19.

39 And *b* when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God.

*b* Deut. 32. 31; Matt. 27. 54.

40 There *c* were also women looking on afar off: among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the less and of Joses, and Salome;

*c* Luke 23. 49.—d Psa. 38. 11.

41 (Who also, when he was in Galilee, followed *e* him, and ministered unto him;) and many other women which came up with him unto Jerusalem.

*e* Luke 8. 2.

42 And *f* now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath,

*f* Matt. 27. 57; Luke 23. 50; John 19. 38.

43 Joseph of Arimathea, an honourable counsellor, which *g* also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus.

*g* Psa. 25. 2; 27. 14; 37. 7, 34; Isa. 8. 16; 30. 18; 40. 27-31; 64. 4; Lam. 3. 25, 26; Luke 2. 25.

44 And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead: and, calling unto him the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead.

45 And when he knew it of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph.

46 And *h* he bought fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulchre which was hewn out of a rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre.

*h* Isa. 53. 9.

47 And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses beheld where he was laid.

#### GENERAL STATEMENT.

As it was the hour of the morning sacrifice when Jesus was lifted up on the cross, so it was the hour of the evening sacrifice when his dying cry pierced the air. At that moment, when the priest laid the bleeding offering upon the altar in the court of the temple, and when the Victim of a world's transgression breathed out his life, a strange event took place within the recesses of the house of God. An invisible hand from the inner sanctuary seized the great veil which separated the holy place from the holy of holies, and rent it asunder from the top to the bottom. For

the first time common eyes could look past the incense-altar and the golden candlestick to the very presence-chamber of the God of Israel, where only the high-priest might enter, and he but one day in the year. Around the cross outside the wall, at that moment, earth was shaking, shadows were gathering, hearts of witnesses were throbbing with terror, a Roman centurion was bearing his testimony that he who hung on the tree was God's Son, and the women, whose love had led them from their Galilean homes, showed themselves steadfast when disciples forsok the Saviour. We follow the Arimathean into Pilate's presence with his bold petition for the body of Jesus; we see it reverently taken down from its cross, and laid away by gentle hands, with tears of mingled affection, disappointment, and sorrow; we see the stone rolled against the door, the watch set to guard it, while, hovering amid the shadows of the garden, watch a few women, the last to linger upon the scene.

#### EXPLANATORY AND PRACTICAL NOTES.

##### Verse 38. The veil of the temple.

This was made of purple and gold, embroidered with figures of cherubim, was not less than thirty feet square, and formed the only separation between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies.

**Was rent in twain.** Torn apart by an invisible hand within, at the very hour when the priest was offering the afternoon sacrifice without, and at the moment when Jesus died upon the cross. Thus was shown God's departure for ever from his chosen house on earth; and thus was shown that in the death of Christ the highest privileges of the kingdom of God are thrown open to men. 1. Through the blood of Christ we may enter within the veil. Heb. 10. 19. At the same moment, according to Matthew, there was an earthquake, and many tombs were opened. Matt. 27. 52, 53.

**39. The centurion.** A Roman officer, commanding a company of a hundred men. He was probably present in charge of the crucifixion. **Stood over against him.** Stood in front of the cross, and therefore a witness of its strange scenes. **Saw that he so cried out.** The fact that he cried out in apparent fullness of strength, in so startling a manner, and with such remarkable words, amazed the Roman officer. The words "he cried out" are omitted in Revised Version. **Truly this man was the Son of God.** As Matthew has it, "was a