

shall descend from heaven with a shout and the sound of a trumpet, Satan's kingdom shall be utterly ruined, and not till then, when all opposing rule, principality and power shall be effectually and eternally put down.—Matthew Henry.

As we sign a postal order, "Received the above," before the money is placed in our hands, so faith praises God for blessings in advance.

Light from the East

Accursed—Is here something devoted to God for destruction and which cannot be used by man without bringing a curse upon him. A survival of the primitive custom is found in the taboo of Polynesia, which is a civil and religious interdiction laid on persons

and things, by which they are made sacred and inviolable, and are withdrawn from common use for a time. In the ancient East, as a war was conceived to be a holy undertaking, it was not unusual to devote to the invader's god, or put under the ban the enemy and all things belonging to him. Anyone who took possession of a devoted thing became himself devoted to destruction. The reason for the solemn application of the custom on this occasion is manifest. If indiscriminate plundering had been allowed, it would have demoralized Israel and would have resulted in their easy defeat. Whereas the course followed was a moral training to them and a lesson of warning and ethical import to all the nations of Canaan.

TEACHING HINTS AND HELPS

This section embraces teaching material for the various grades in the school.

For Bible Class Teachers

AN ANALYSIS

The events which immediately preceded the fall of Jericho are recorded in ch. 5: 13-15. "The Captain of the Lord's host," "the Son of God," "the Captain of their salvation" (Heb. 2: 10), appeared to Joshua and instructed him how to accomplish the destruction of the city, 6: 2-5. Joshua repeated this message to the priests and people, 6: 6, 7. Then follows our lesson, which tells how the divine instructions were carried out.

1. *The means employed for the overthrow of Jericho.* To human reason they seem to have been: (a) Most unpromising and unfit to accomplish the end aimed at. A silent daily march of armed men during a whole week round the city! Not a blow to be struck, not a missile to be hurled against its strong walls, not a word to be uttered, v. 10. These were their marching orders. This seemingly useless procession was accompanied by the ark of the covenant and seven priests blowing upon trumpets of rams' horns, v. 8. Upon the seventh or Sabbath day, the day of rest, this unique march was repeated seven times, and at the signal by Joshua a unanimous shout rose from the

whole army and mingled with the blare of trumpets. (b) This was God's method, to show that victory was of Him, and not by human skill and prowess. He connects great issues with seemingly inadequate and even utterly inappropriate means. The means are nothing, the power behind them is everything. It is thus that foolish things confound the wise and weak things the mighty, 1 Cor. 1: 27. (See also 1 Sam. 17; John 9: 6, 7.) A handful of Galilean fishermen, backed by Christ's promise, "Lo, I am with you always," turned the world upside down.

2. *The faith exercised by Joshua and his army.* They must have felt that the marching and blowing of trumpets and shouting were in themselves vain and useless to shatter the strong walls of Jericho. But faith has higher functions than mere feeling. Not much is accomplished by creatures of impulse; but all things are possible to him that believeth, Mark 9: 23. Why is this? Because faith unites us with Almighty God, and thus His strength is manifested in our behalf, and "made perfect in weakness," 2 Cor. 12: 9. In this manner we may remove mountains and destroy citadels of wickedness. (See Heb. 11: 33 etc.)

3. *The patience and self-control manifest by the Israelites.* (a) This absolute silence and monotonous tramping round the city under