

Lesson XI.

THE SIN OF ACHAN

December 14, 1913

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—The Lesson follows immediately upon that for last Sabbath.**GOLDEN TEXT**—Be sure your sin will find you out.—Numbers 32: 23.**Memorize v. 13. THE LESSON PASSAGE**—Joshua 7: 6-15. Study Joshua, ch. 7. Read Joshua, chs. 7-11.

6 And Josh'ua rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of the Lord until the eventide, he and the elders of Is'rael, and ² put dust upon their heads.

7 And Josh'ua said, Alas, O Lord God, wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over Jor'dan, to deliver us into the hand of the Am'orites, to ² destroy us? would to God we had been content, and dwelt ⁴ on the other side Jor'dan!

8 O Lord, what shall I say, ² when Is'rael turneth their backs before their enemies!

9 For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land shall hear of it, and shall ² environ us round, and cut off our name from the earth: and what wilt thou do ² unto thy great name?

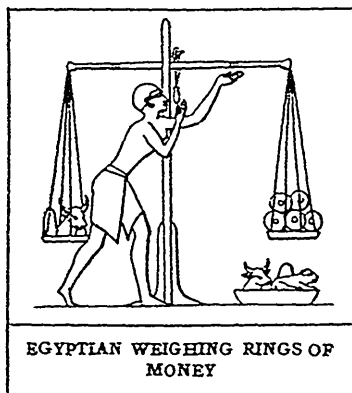
10 And the Lord said unto Josh'ua, Get thee up; wherefore ² liest thou thus upon thy face?

11 Is'rael hath sinned, ² and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: ¹⁰ for they have even taken of the ¹¹ accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have ¹² put it even among their own stuff.

Revised Version—evening; ² they; ³ cause us to perish? would that we; ⁴ beyond Jordan; ⁵ after that Israel hath turned; ⁶ compass; ⁷ for; ⁸ art thou thus fallen; ⁹ yea, they have even; ¹⁰ yea; ¹¹ devoted; ¹² even put it; ¹³ cannot; ¹⁴ they turn; ¹⁵ are become accursed: I will not be; ¹⁶ devoted thing; ¹⁷ the; ¹⁸ a devoted thing; ¹⁹ near by your; ²⁰ near by families; ²¹ and; ²² near.

Daily Readings—(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Secretary, 56 Old Bailey, London, England.)—M.—Israel defeated, Josh. 7: 1-5. T.—The sin of Achan, Josh. 7: 6-15. W.—Judgment, Josh. 7: 16-26. Th.—The people re-encouraged, Josh. 8: 1-8. F.—Israel victorious Josh. 8: 9-23. S.—Nothing hid from God, Acts 5: 1-11. 8.—A solemn warning, Num. 32: 16-23.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED



EGYPTIAN WEIGHING RINGS OF MONEY

In spite of the Lord's command, that all the property captured in Jericho, except the metals, should be destroyed and that the metals should be put in the Lord's treasury, an Israelite named Achan took for himself a costly embroidered cloak of Babylonish manufacture, a tongue-shaped bar of gold worth about \$500 and silver to the value of about \$130. After the taking of Jericho, Joshua sent a detachment of his army against Ai; but these were defeated and driven back. Vs. 1-5.

I. ISRAEL DEFEATED.—6, 7. Joshua rent his clothes; in token of sorrow and distress (compare Gen. 37: 29, 34; 44: 13). "The clothes were torn in front over the breast, yet not for more than a hand-

breadth." Fell to the earth; in agonizing prayer. Before the ark; the symbol of God's presence. Put dust upon their heads; also a sign of mourning. Wherefore hast thou, etc. In his distress, Joshua almost throws the blame of Israel's defeat upon God. Amorites; one of Canaan's chief tribes, here put for all the people of the land. Would to God, etc. Compare Num. 14: 2.

8, 9. Israel hath turned their backs. See the story of their flight in vs. 4, 5. Canaanites; the "lowlanders" of the Mediterranean coast and the Jordan valley. Cut off our name; destroy us as a nation. What...for thy great name (Rev. Ver.)? The defeat of Israel means dishonor for God; the people of Canaan would say that He was not able to give His people the victory.

II. SIN REVEALED.—10-13. The Lord said... Get thee up; a sharp rebuke: the cause of the defeat was to be sought elsewhere than in God. Wherefore...upon thy face? Complaining to God, as if He had suddenly changed or had forgotten His promise. Israel hath sinned. The whole nation were held guilty until they had brought home Achan's sin to him and punished it. The sin was fourfold: (1) Transgressed my covenant; disobeyed the command of ch. 6: 17, 18 regarding the devoted thing (Rev. Ver.). (2) Stolen; theft. (3) Dissembled; practically lying in the concealment of the stolen property. (4) Among their own stuff; sacrilege, robbing God. Therefore...Israel cannot stand (Rev. Ver.). Sin was the cause of the crushing defeat. They are become accursed (Rev. Ver.). By keeping amongst them the thing which should have been

12 Therefore the children of Is'rael ¹² could not stand before their enemies, ¹³ but turned their backs before their enemies, because they ¹⁴ were accursed: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the ¹⁵ accursed from among you.

13 Up, sanctify the people, and say, Sanctify yourselves against to-morrow: for thus saith the Lord ¹³ God of Is'rael, There is ¹⁴ an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Is'rael: thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the ¹⁵ accursed thing from among you.

14 In the morning therefore ye shall be brought ¹⁴ according to your tribes: and it shall be, that the tribe which the Lord taketh shall come ¹⁵ according to the families thereof; and the family which the Lord shall take shall come ¹⁶ by households; and the household which the Lord shall take shall come ¹⁷ man by man.

15 And it shall be, that he that is taken with the ¹⁸ accursed thing shall be burnt with fire, he and all that he hath: because he hath transgressed the covenant of the Lord, and because he hath wrought folly in Is'rael.