

Lesson III.

THE CAPTURE OF JERICO

October 20, 1907



A RAM'S HORN TRUMPET

GOLDEN TEXT—By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were compassed about seven days.—Hebrews 11:30.

Memorize v. 20. THE LESSON PASSAGE—Joshua 6: 8-20. Read Joshua, chs. 5 to 8.

8 And it came to pass, when Josh'ua had spoken unto the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns passed on before the Lord, and blew with the trumpets; and the ark of the covenant of the Lord followed them.

9 And the armed men went before the priests that blew with the trumpets, and the rearward came after the ark, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets.

10 And Josh'ua had commanded the people, saying, Ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I bid you shout; then shall ye shout.

11 So the ark of the Lord compassed the city, going about it once: and they came into the camp, and lodged in the camp.

12 And Josh'ua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the Lord.

13 And seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the Lord went on continually, and blew with the trumpets; and the armed men went before them, but the rearward came after the ark of the Lord, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets.

14 And the second day they compassed the city once, and returned into the camp: so they did six days.

Revised Version 1 was so, that; 2 Omit that; 3 before the Lord passed on; 4 Omit with; 5 rearward went; 6 Omit going on, and; 7 as they went; 8 Omit had; 9 let your voice be heard; 10 he caused; 11 to compass; 12 the; 13 and the rearward; 14 at the dawning; 15 devoted; 16 is; 17 when ye have devoted it, ye take of the devoted thing; 18 should ye make; 19 accursed; 20 holy; 21 and the; 22 that.

Daily Readings—(Courtney, I. B. R. A.)—M—Joshua's vision, Joshua 5: 10-15. T—The capture of Jericho, Joshua 6: 1-8. W—The capture of Jericho, Joshua 6: 9-20. Th—Singing and victory, 2 Chron. 20: 14-24. F—Punishment of idolatry, Deut. 7: 1-11. S—Mighty through God, 2 Cor. 10: 1-6. S—“Wonderful things,” Isaiah, ch. 25.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. JERICO SURROUNDED.—8. When Joshua had spoken; repeating to the people the directions he had received, vs. 2-5. The “captain of the Lord's host”, the leader of God's angel army, had appeared to Joshua with a drawn sword in his hand, signifying that he had brought his heavenly host to Israel's help. Seven priests. So there were “seven trumpets”; “seven” days to compass the walls; and “seven” repetitions of this on the “seventh” day, vs. 13-15. Seven was the symbol of everything connected with God. Its use here emphasizes the fact that the Lord Himself was leading His people. Trumpets of rams' horns; curved instruments resembling our cornets. Passed on before the Lord; that is, before the ark (vs. 6, 7), the outward sign which showed that God was leading His people. Victory depended upon His presence.

9-11. Armed men; the warriors of Israel. Rearward (Rev. Ver.): that is rear guard, closing the procession and guarding the ark from behind. Priests... blowing... trumpets. Save for these

15 And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they rose early about the dawning of the day, and compassed the city after the same manner seven times: only on that day they compassed the city seven times.

16 And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Josh'ua said unto the people, Shout; for the Lord hath given you the city.

17 And the city shall be accursed, even it, and all that are therein, to the Lord: only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.

18 And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from the accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it.

19 But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, are consecrated unto the Lord: they shall come into the treasury of the Lord.

20 So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

long-drawn blasts, the march round the city for six days was in solemn silence. Not shout. The procession was to move in solemn silence, as engaged in a religious service. Compassed the city... once; marched completely round it, and then returned to their camp.

12-16. Second day... once... so... six days; a severe test this was, of Israel's faith and patience. Seventh day... seven times. See on v. 8. Joshua said... Shout; raise the war cry. The Lord hath given you the city. Victory always comes to those whom God leads.

II. JERICO DEVOTED.—17-19. City... devoted (Rev. Ver.); treated as belonging wholly to God, not to the victors. The devoting to God of Jericho, the first city captured in Canaan, was a token that Israel had received all the land from God. The inhabitants, except Rahab and her household (see ch. 2), were to be slain, and the city itself burnt with fire (vs. 21-25), while all the metals in the city were to go into “the treasury of the house of the Lord”.