

## Lesson III.

## THE FALL OF JERICHO

October 19, 1902

Joshua, 6: 12-20. Study Joshua 6: 8-20. Commit to memory v. 20. Read Joshua 5: 13 to 11: 23.

12 And Joshua 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 rereward 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.

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 priest blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the Lord hath given you the city.

**Revised Version**—1 The: 2 The priests blowing with the trumpets as they went: 3 Devoted: 4 When ye have devoted it, ye take of the devoted thing: 5 So should ye make the camp of Israel accursed: 6 Holy: 7 When: 8 That: 9 And.

## EXPLANATION

**Connection**—At the approach of the Israelites the Canaanites were very much afraid, ch. 5: 1. The latter having set up their memorial pillar (4: 19-24) renewed the covenant with God by circumcision and by observing the feast of the passover, 5: 2-12.



Priest Blowing Trumpet

The angel of the Lord (5: 13-15) then instructed Joshua how to take the city.

Joshua gave to the people (ch. 6: 8) the instructions of the angel (vs. 2-5), and then set about carrying them out. It was a strange procession he arranged. The soldiers were in advance; then came the white-robed priests with their blaring trumpets; then followed the bearers of the gold covered ark, flashing in the light of the sun, symbol of the divine presence; and then the rear-guard, moving

in absolute silence, but eager and intent.

12, 13. **Joshua rose early**; on the morning of the second day. **The ark**. As a symbol of God's presence, it took the place of the pillar of cloud, Deut. 31: 15. **Seven priests**. Seven was a sacred number with the Jews (See v. 4.). **Trumpets of rams' horns**; literally huge twisted rams' horns or a metal, horn shaped instrument,—used for sounding an attack or a retreat in war (Judges 3: 27; 2 Sam. 2:

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.

28), and for ushering in the year of Jubilee, Lev. 23: 24. The straight silver trumpet of Num. 10: 2 was the only other kind in use. **The armed men**. About 40,000 crossed the Jordan, 4: 13. They were armed with bows, slings, spears and shields. **The rereward**; the rear-guard, made up, as some think, of unarmed people; but they may have been a part of the regular army. (See Num. 10: 25.)

14-15. **The second day**. They were to go round the city once a day for six days, but seven times on the seventh day, vs. 3, 4. It was God's plan to teach them patience and trust in His word. **Returned to the camp**; at Gilgal, ch. 4: 19. **Joshua said... shout**; as instructed by the angel, v. 5. It was a sign of their faith in God's promise. "When our people are in dead earnest, they are generally silent; but the more in earnest an Oriental is, the louder he shouts." (Merri.)

17. **The city shall be devoted** (Rev. Ver.); that is, set apart for destruction. **Only Rahab... shall live**; for her kindness to the spies, ch. 2: 4, 18, 19. Had the people of Jericho accepted Israel's God as did Rahab (ch. 2: 11), they, too, would have been spared.

18, 19. **Keep yourself from the accursed thing**. They were to take no plunder. Everything was set apart for destruction, to mark God's hatred of sin. **Lest ye make yourselves accursed**; bring a city's doom upon themselves as did Achan later, 7: 12, 19-26. **The silver and gold**; which could be purified by fire. These vessels, thus purified, were set apart for the sacred treasury.

20. **So the people shouted**; looking back to v. 16. **The wall fell down flat**; not all of it, for Rahab's horse did not fall (ch. 2: 15), but enough fell to allow the soldiers to enter at many points. **They took the city**. It is a terrible picture of judgment, the blare of the trumpets, the fierce shout of the people, the terror of the inhabitants, the tottering walls, the clouds of dust, the swift rush of the troops,—then fire and sword.