INTERNATIONAL BIBLE LESSONS.

FOURTH QUARTER: STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

B. C. 1451.]

LESSON V. DEFEAT AT AL.

THOU GOD

Josh, 7, 1-12. Commit to memory sees 10-12: THOU GOD

THOU GOD

The committed a trepass in the accurred thing: for A'chan, the son of Carrinton the son of A'chan, the son of Carrinton of the time of

accursed thing: and the angen of the Lord was kindled against the children of New York and the angen of the Lord was kindled against the children of New York and the New York and the New York and the Lord was the Lord Wash and the Lord was the Control of the Lord Wash and the Lord wash and the Lord wash and said unto him. Let not all the people on the New York and make not all the people to went the Lord wash and wash and wash and they come to the Lord wash and wash and washe had been an Lord washe and washe had been an Lord washe was

6 And Josh'u-a rent his clothes, and fell to the earth After the fall of Jericho, the next objective point of

the Israelites was Shechem, in the center of the land.

They had been commanded to hold at this place a

solemn service of thanksgiving and consecration. But

in their way up the ravine leading to the mountain dis-

trict, the little city of Ai stood confronting them, barring

their progress; or, if passed by, endangering their rear.

Joshua sent a part of his army to capture and destroy

this city; but to his surprise and alarm. his attacking

party was repulsed, and a number of the warriors were

slain. He knew that the defeat, though slight, would

inspire the people of the land with new hope of victory

over their invaders, and to the same measure it would

discourage the Israelites in their campaign. He knew,

too, that in some way sin was the cause of their failure,

upon his face before the ark of the LORD until the eventide, he and the elders of Is'ra-el, and put dust upon their heads.

Their nears.

And Josh'n-a 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'o-rites, to destroy us? would to God we had been content, and dwelt on

us? would to God we had been content, and dwelt on the other side of Jordan!

8 O Lord, as the shall I say, when Is/ra-el turneth their backs of their neemies!

9 For no Comman-itee and all the inhabitants of the land shall environ us round, and off the content of the content

cut off our name from the earth: and what wit could do unto the great name?

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

11 Is'n-el hath shmed, and they have also trausgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put if even among their own stuff.

18 Therefores the children of Is'ra-el could not stand

12 Therefore the children of Is'ra-el could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they were accursed; neither will be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you.

General Statement.

drawn if the covenant people had kept faithful. There fore Joshua sought the Lord in his extremity, and fell down before the tabernacie. Here he received a revelation that there was an accursed thing in the camp. Some one had taken of the consecrated spoil of Jericho; and all Israel must suffer until the crime was expiated. Joshua ordered the lot to be cast; and tribe by tribe, clan by clan, family by family, man by man, the crime was traced until the guilty man was found. He confessed his sin, and gave up the stolen booty. But as a warning he was put to death, with all his family, who were held as partakers in his guilt. Then Ai was again attacked, and this time conquered. Over the stone heap in the valley, where Achan was buried, and over the ruined city upon the mountain, God wrote his condemnation of sin.

for God's promise of victory would not have been with Explanatory and Practical Notes.

Versé 1. The children of Israel. Notice that the whole nation was held responsible for the act of one man. Israel was regarded as a unit in the covenant with God, and when one man broke the pledge, all must suffer until the one guilty man is detected and puni-hed. (i) Every community suffers, and each finnity in it, for every act of crime. In the accurace thing, the they will be not consider the control of t voted to God. The anger of the Lefd. God's anger is no blind, unreasoning passion, but a just indignation against wickedness. (3) Our God is neither a dead Buddha nor an impulsive Jupiter.

2. Joshua sent men. As spies or scouts, to ascertain the next place where the enemies were to be net. From Jericho. From the ruined city in the Jordan valley up the ravine to the mountains. TAAI. Though this place is named several times in Scripture and

Practical Notes.

Its locality is given quite definitely (see besides this verse Gen. 12. 8), geographers are not agreed as to its identification. We include seat of Bettin, or Captain Conder, at Law with the law of the

3. Let not all the people go. If Joshua had consulted the Lord instead of taking the advice of the spies, the repulse at Ai might have been avoided. But the victory at Jericho had made the people self-confident, though it was not their victory, but the Lord's, and even Joshua forgot to seek counsel from on high. Let about two or three thousand. They underrated the power of their adversaries, who had the advanted of position, and made a fatal mistake. They are both few. The population of Ai was twelve thousand (Josh, S. 25), which would give about two thousand fighting men. (4) It is a mistake to seek counsel from men and not from God.

4. They fled before the men of Ai. This was the a. They use before the men of Al. This was the first and only defeat of the Israelites in the war of con-quest; and it came because of one man's sin. God for-sook them, and left them to themselves, and then they were n 5. 8 About lose in alarm, The u disgra

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