

Lesson X.

THE FALL OF JERICHO

December 7, 1913

BETWEEN THE LESSONS.—The intervening events are: (1) the completion of Israel's passage over the Jordan (ch. 4: 1-18); (2) the erection of a monument at Gilgal (vs. 19-24); (3) the renewal of the rite of circumcision (ch. 5: 1-9); (4) the celebration of the Passover and the cessation of the manna (vs. 10-12); (5) the appearance of the "captain of the Lord's host" (vs. 13-15; ch. 6: 1-5), the leader of God's angel army, who appeared to Joshua with a drawn sword in his hand, to signify that the heavenly host had come to Israel's help.

GOLDEN TEXT.—All things are possible to him that believeth.—Mark 9: 23.

Memorize v. 20. THE LESSON PASSAGE.—Joshua 6: 8-11, 14-20. Study Joshua 5: 10 to 6: 27. Read Joshua, chs. 5, 6.

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.

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.

Revised Version.—I was so, that; Omit that; before the Lord passed on; Omit with; rearward went; priests blowing; as they went; Omit had; let your voice be heard; he caused; to compass at the; devoted; is; when ye have devoted it, ye take of the devoted thing; so should ye make; accursed; holy; and that.

Daily Readings.—(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Secretary, 56 Old Bailey, London, England.)—M.—The fall of Jericho, Josh. 6: 8-20. T.—The captain of the Lord's host, Josh. 5: 9-15. W.—The spies at Jericho, Josh. 2: 1-14. Th.—Rahab saves the spies, Josh. 2: 15-24. F.—Faith victorious, Heb. 11: 30-40. S.—Fear taketh hold on them, Ex. 15: 11-18. S.—Christ at Jericho, Luke 19: 1-10.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

At the Lord's command, Joshua arranged a procession with armed men in advance, followed by seven priests blowing continuously on large horns, behind these the ark of the Lord borne by the priests, the rear being brought up by the rest of the people. This procession was to march round and round the city of Jericho, "the City of Palm Trees," so named from its situation in a vast grove of noble palms, nearly three miles broad and eight miles long. Jericho was a walled town about 6 miles west of the Jordan, and stood at the entrance of the main passes from the Jordan valley into the interior of Canaan. Its capture, therefore, was essential to the conquest of the country. Vs. 6, 7.

I. THE MARCH.—8, 9. When Joshua had spoken; giving directions for the march round Jericho. Seven priests... seven trumpets. Seven was a sacred number amongst the Hebrews. The golden "candlestick" in the tabernacle had seven "lamps" (Ex. 25: 37), and the Sabbath was the "seventh" day. The use of the number here signifies that God Himself was leading His people. Trumpets of rams' horns; not the long straight trumpets commonly used, but curved instruments like our cornet. They had a loud, piercing tone, specially suited for making signals. Before the Lord; before the ark (see vs. 6, 7), the outward sign of God's leadership. Armed men; the warriors of Israel. Rearward (Rev. Ver.); that is, rear guard, closing the procession and guarding the ark from behind.

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 Ra'hab 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.

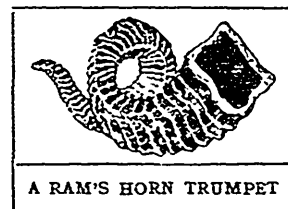
Revised Version.—I was so, that; Omit that; before the Lord passed on; Omit with; rearward went; priests blowing; as they went; Omit had; let your voice be heard; he caused; to compass at the; devoted; is; when ye have devoted it, ye take of the devoted thing; so should ye make; accursed; holy; and that.

10-15. Ye shall not shout; an instruction requiring great self-control and strong faith in God. Until the day I bid you. The people must wait God's time. To compass the city... once (Rev. Ver.);

to march completely round it. The camp; at Gilgal, about 2 miles from the Jordan. Rather the Israelites returned to spend the night after each day's march. Second day...

once... so... six days; and still the walls stood testing the trust of Israel in God's promise. Seventh day... about the dawning; earlier than on the preceding days, for on this day the city must be compassed seven times, again, the sacred "seven" (see on v. 8).

II. THE DOOM.—16, 17. Joshua said... shout; raise the war cry, which would strike terror into the hearts of Jericho's people. The Lord hath given you the city. Their trust was thus turned into triumph. City... devoted (Rev. Ver.); treated as belonging wholly to the Lord, not to the victorious Israelites. In the case of Jericho every living creature, man and



A RAM'S HORN TRUMPET