

The Quiet Pilgrim.

What shall I say? He hath both spoken unto me and himself hath done it. I shall go softly all my years in the bitterness of my soul. --Isa. XXXVIII. 15.

WHEN on my soul in nakedness His swift, avertless hand did press, Then I stood still, nor cried aloud, Nor murmured low in ashes bowed; And, since my woe is utterless, To supreme quiet I am avowed; Afar from me be moan and tears - I shall go softly all my years.

Whenso my quick, light-sandaled feet Bring me where joys and pleasures meet, I mingle with their throng at will; They know me not an alien still, Since neither words nor ways unsweet Of stored bitterness I spill. Youth shuns me not, nor gladness fears - For I go softly all my years.

Whenso I come where griefs convene, And in my ear their voice is keen, They know me not, as on I glide, That with arch-sorrow I abide, They haggard are, and droop'd of mien, And round their brows have cypress tied; Such shows I leave to light grief's peers - I shall go softly all my years.

Yea, softly! heart of hearts unknown, Silence hath speech that passeth moan, More piercing-keen than breathed cries To such as heed, made sorrow-wise. But save this voice without a tone, That runs before me to the skies, And rings above thy ringing spheres, Lord, I go softly all my years!

—Scribner's Magazine.

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

B.C. 1451.] LESSON IV. [Oct. 28

THE FALL OF JERICHO.

Josh. 6. 1-16. Memory verses, 15, 16

GOLDEN TEXT.

By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days Heb. 11. 30.

OUTLINE.

- 1. The Besieged City. 2. The Lord's Host.

TIME.—1451 B.C.

PLACE.—Before the city of Jericho.

CONNECTING LINKS.—The story grows in interest. The heathen nations hear of this wonderful passage of the river, and are thrown into great fear. They rally, however, for the defence of Jericho. Joshua begins his preparations for the conquest of the land by an act of entire consecration of the whole people, and by a solemn celebration of the passover. Joshua himself receives a personal revelation as he goes in the night to inspect Jericho, and is assured of the presence and help of the Almighty. Then comes our lesson.

EXPLANATIONS.—Straitly shut up—Closely shut up; the gates closed and defended; also hemmed in by the army of Israel. Seven trumpets of rams' horns—Signal trumpets, or, horns for blowing a loud sound. Seven—The number so often used here and elsewhere was the Hebrew sacred number. The rearward—The gathering host, or entire rear of the army following the priests.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

- 1. The Besieged City. Where was the city of Jericho? What was it sometimes called, besides Jericho? Deut. 34. 3; 2 Chron. 28. 15. What is meant by its being "shut up"? What does the fact of a very strong wall about this city prove? What is shown by the fact given in ver. 1 concerning the army of Israel? What would naturally be the effect upon the country if Israel could capture this city? What was the effect? ver. 27. 2. The Lord's Host. Was there any doubt in Joshua's mind that he should capture the city?

What had given him his strong assurance? chap. 5. 13-15. Who was the real leader of the army? Who once had words similar to chap. 5. 15 spoken to him? see Exod. 3. 5. What was the plan for the capture of Jericho? What was the central figure in this marching host? What caused the complete success of this singular plan? Heb. 11. 30. Whose faith? What characterized every act of Joshua in all this scene?

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Learn how to win in the battle before you. (1) Be obedient to orders (2) Be patient day after day though there are no results. (3) Be orderly in God's service. (4) Be early at the work. (5) Be ready to "shout," or to do the thing which the time demands, when the time arrives. Sin is entrenched in the human heart and defended by walls of many thickneses: pride, lust, envy, selfishness, appetite, hate, greed. These walls must fall.

HINTS FOR HOME STUDY.

- 1. Learn what wonderful changes had occurred in Israel's condition since the passage of the Jordan. 2. Study the story of the spies. 3. Find the sequel to that story, and see if you can find any after traces of Rahab. Heb. 11. 31; James 2. 25; Matt. 1. 5. 4. Study out the future concerning Jericho. How could it have existed in Christ's time if it were so utterly destroyed in Joshua's time?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What promise had God given Joshua concerning Jericho? I have given it into thy hand. 2. How many parts compose the besieging army? The soldiers, the priests and the people. 3. What was the method of the warfare? To march each day around the city. 4. On the seventh day how was it varied? By seven marches and a blast of trumpets. 5. When the trumpets sounded, what did the people do? Shouted with a great shout. 6. What was the effect of the people's obedience? "By faith the walls of Jericho," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Triumphs of faith.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

4. What was the sin by which our first parents fell from their holy and happy state? Eating of the fruit of the tree of which God had forbidden them to eat. Genesis 1. 16, 17. The Lord God commanded the man saying: Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. Genesis iii. 6.

B.C. 1451] LESSON V. [Nov. 4

DEFEAT OF AI.

Josh. 7. 1-12. Memory verse, 10-12

GOLDEN TEXT.

Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness. Psa. 119. 36.

OUTLINE.

- 1. The Defeated Army. 2. The Despairing Cry

TIME.—1451 B.C.

PLACE.—Jericho. Ai.

CONNECTING LINKS.—The destruction of Jericho was complete. Only Rahab was saved. Sheep and cattle, man and woman, young and old, even furniture and garments, all were pitilessly destroyed, save the silver and gold, the vessels of brass and of iron, which were consecrated to the Lord. The curse of God was pronounced upon the city, and Joshua turned to other work for his people. Let us see how he succeeded.

EXPLANATIONS.—The accursed thing—There was to be no spoil or booty; everything was cursed. If a single soldier took a thing for booty, it was an accursed thing. View the country—A military reconnaissance. In the going down—The is, on the descent of the hills. Hearts . . . melted—Became very greatly disheartened. Rent his clothes—An expressive symbol of grief common in the Orient: it was done by tearing downward a hand's breadth of the loose outer robe. Dnt on their heads—Another symbol of humiliation.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

- 1. The defeated Army. What army was defeated?

Where and by whom was the army defeated? Why did God allow this defeat? How widely did this guilt of one man reach? Can you find any Scripture instances of parallel nature? Rom. 5. 12. How was the sin discovered? How severe was the defeat which Israel suffered? Was the whole army defeated? What would be the moral effect throughout the country of such a defeat?

2. The despairing Cry.

What was the burden of Joshua's cry? Was the Lord's answer to him a rebuke? What prophet in later days received a similar rebuke? 1 Kings 19. 9-15. Should Joshua have known that there was sin among the people that caused defeat? In what does the cry of Joshua show despair? In what respect is the prayer or lament unworthy of Joshua? What promise of the Scriptures was nevertheless exemplified in Joshua's experience? James 4. 8.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Sin always involves others besides the sinner. Have you found it so? Sin delights in exposing the sinner. Satan would have only half a victory if he could not bring disgrace upon the sinner. Covetousness takes many forms: Achan "saw," that was not wrong; "took," that was; "hid," that was cowardly. A thief is always a coward—he was a sneak thief. We do not all do like Achan. But - do we covet? The only thing that can separate us from God is sin.

HINTS FOR HOME STUDY.

- 1. Read chap. 6 from ver. 17 through. 2. Read all of chap. 7. 3. How many things are said about Joshua in this lesson? Can you find more than six? 4. How many joined in this mourning? 5. Find a proof of God's omniscience in this lesson. 6. Read Psa. 90. 8. 7. Write ten questions which tell what you think about this lesson.

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What was Joshua's next military attempt? The capture of Ai. 2. What was the result? Defeat and loss of thirty-six men. 3. What was the effect upon the people? They were greatly frightened. 4. What was Joshua's first act? He gave way to grief. 5. What did God tell him was the cause? The sin of the people. 6. What ought this lesson to make each of us pray? "Incline my heart," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The consequences of sin.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

5. Why were they commanded not to eat of this fruit? To try them whether they would obey God or not. 6. Wherein lay the evil of eating the forbidden fruit? In the spirit of disobedience to God, unto whom, as their Creator and Benefactor and Lord, they ought to have been in entire submission.

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