

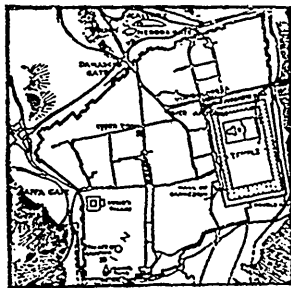
rightful King of all mankind. **Two robbers** (Rev. Ver.); perhaps companions of Barabbas.

II. THE MOCKERIES.—39, 40. **They that passed by.** The crucifixion took place near a road. (See Geography Lesson.) **Reviled him;** jeered at Him in cruel scorn. **Wagging their heads;** nodding towards the cross, as if to say, "That is what all the fine claims of this Jesus have come to." **Save thyself.** They would have Jesus prove His power by saving Himself: His way of proving it was by saving the world. **The Son of God;** as Jesus had claimed to be, ch. 26 : 64. **Come down.** They did not understand that Jesus had the power to come down, but would not use it, because He could not then have become the world's Saviour.

41-43. Himself he cannot save. To make this true, "cannot" should be changed to "will not". Jesus would not save Himself, because then He could not have saved others. **He trusted in God.** These scoffers thought that Jesus' sufferings were a sign of God's displeasure. They were really the path to the highest glory.

III. THE DEATH.—44-50. **The robbers also** (Rev. Ver.). But one of them afterwards repented and was saved, Luke 23 : 42, 43. **Sixth hour;** 12 noon. **Darkness;** caused by a miracle. It was as if the earth and sky were mourning over man's sin and the Saviour's sufferings. **Ninth;** 3 p.m. **My God, my God,** etc. Jesus was bearing the sins of the world, and felt that these were separating Him from the holy God. **Elijah** (Rev. Ver.). Some thought that Jesus was calling on Elijah to rescue Him. V. 48 tells of an act of compassion. **Cried again;** "It is finished" (John 19 : 30); that is, He had completed His work. **Yielded up the ghost;** let His spirit (life) go.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



The traditional site of Golgotha or CALVARY is where the Church of the Holy Sepulchre now stands, in the heart of the city of Jerusalem. But many believe that the true site is outside the present

north wall of the city, near the main road to Damascus. The name Golgotha is from the Hebrew,

and Calvary from the Latin, word for "a skull", which well describes the knoll on which, according to the second view, our Lord was crucified. Its skull-shaped appearance is heightened by the two caves in its side resembling eyes.

LESSON QUESTIONS

Whom did the Jews choose instead of Jesus? What did they demand to have done with Him?

33-38 To what place was Jesus taken to be crucified? What did the soldiers do with His clothing? What was written over His head? In what languages? What did this teach? Who were crucified on either side of Jesus? What words did Jesus utter on the cross? (Luke 23 : 34 ; 23 : 39-43 ; John 19 : 25-27 ; Matt. 27 : 46-49 and Mark 15 : 34-36 ; John 19 : 28 ; John 19 : 30, Luke 23 : 46)

39, 40 How did the passers-by treat Jesus on the cross? What did they challenge Him to do? Why could He not come down from the cross? Who joined the people in mocking Jesus? Show that God approved of Jesus' sacrifice. (Phil. 2 : 9-11.)

44-50 How did the robbers act towards Jesus? What change took place in one of them? Where did Jesus say that He laid His life down of Himself? (John 10 : 18.)

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Jesus the world's King.
2. "Himself He cannot save." True, or untrue?

A LESSON FOR LIFE

The Golden Text explains why Jesus died on the cross: "He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities." We have sinned. We need forgiveness. God is willing to forgive us. But there was no way for Him to forgive, without sending His own Son to the cruel cross. Now the way of forgiveness is free and open. The moment we trust in Jesus, all our sins are blotted out forever.

Prove from Scripture—That Jesus' blood opens the way to God.

Shorter Catechism—*Ques. 81. What is forbidden in the tenth commandment?* A. The tenth commandment forbiddeth all discontentment with our own estate, envying or grieving at the good of our neighbour, and all inordinate motions and affections to anything that is his.

The Question, on Missions—11. How do girls benefit by Christianity? They attend the schools which the church has established purposely for them and receive a good education, after which they become teachers and helpers. They gain freedom of thought and an independent spirit; decline to marry very young, or against their own will.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. How was Jesus treated by His enemies while He was on the cross?.....

2. What does the inscription over the cross teach us?.....

3. Show that Jesus died of His own free will.....