

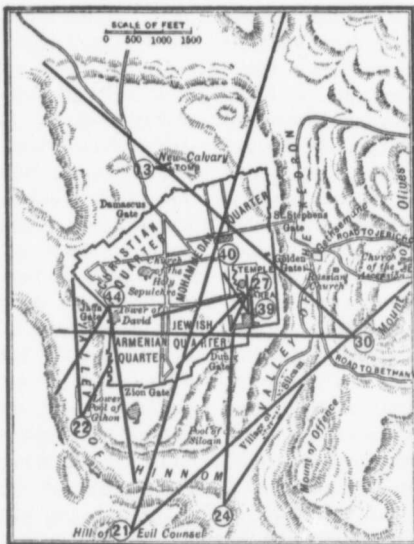
Nothing from one sphere might with impunity intrude into the other sphere. Both holiness and the lack of it were like contagious diseases

and required isolation and purification. In some cases intrusion was fatal; Uzzah touched the ark and fell dead.

### THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON

The number 21 on our Jerusalem map marks a spot on a hill outside the city, from which we can see the southeastern part of modern Jerusalem and the adjoining hillsides. Let us take our stand at the point of that largest V and face northeast. As the spreading arms indicate, we shall be able to see across one corner of the city and beyond it to heights at the east and north. The hill on which we stand is steep, descending abruptly into the deep valley of Hinnom.

The valley makes a broad curve around the base of another height at its farther side. The opposite slopes before us are covered with orchards, gardens and little fields. High up on the shoulder of those heights a long, high wall of brownish gray stone marks a curiously



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irregular boundary line, and beyond it we have glimpses of some of the city's buildings, the most conspicuous one crowned by a magnificent dome. The city wall turns a sharp corner at a very steep place where the hill overlooks another deep valley, that of Kidron. The exact location of the nation's new shrine nobody knows to-day; but we may feel confident that the procession of devout Israelites climbed that slope which we see now below the farthest corner of the modern city wall, which is seen from the stand-

point across the Hinnom valley.

To see with your own eyes the place of the celebration, use a stereograph entitled, Jerusalem, from Across the Valley of Hinnom to Olivet, Looking Northeast.

### THE LESSON APPLIED

1. Religion in the home always brings blessing. The ark was the symbol of the religion of Israel, and it brought blessing to the home of Obed-edom. Obed-edom and his household were probably blessed in basket and in store. It may be that religion does not always bring material prosperity, although we have the promise that those who trust in God will not want any good. But of one thing we can be certain. Religion of the right sort will always bring blessing to the soul. There is serious need to-day for emphasis to be laid upon the place of religion in the home. There are homes where no family worship is observed. There are homes where the simple matter of grace before meals is neglected. The children who go out from

such homes go out with a sad handicap laid upon their lives. We easily slip into the idea that the church and the Sabbath School are the places where religion is to be taught. But the home must lie behind and beneath these.

2. Religion and joy ought not to be strangers to each other. David believed that the bringing of the ark to the capital was a proper opportunity for joy. The Christian church has always recognized the place of joy in religion, for two of her chief festivals are festivals of rejoicing,—Christmas and Easter Day. Not that the joy of Christianity is to be confined to any special time. It should permeate all our religious life. "Rejoice evermore," said the great apostle, "rejoice, and again I say, Rejoice." There is a differ-