

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON X.—DECEMBER 7, 1913.

The Fall of Jericho.—Josh. 5: 10-6:27.  
Print 6-8-11, 14-20.

Commentary.—I. The passover observed (5:10-12). The religious rites of the passover were observed by the Israelites in the wilderness, since during that time the Israelites were undergoing punishment because of their unbelief (Josh. 5:10). The entrance of the chosen people into their own country was marked, not only by the renewal of the rite of circumcision and by the observance of the passover, but also by the cessation of the manna which had been regularly supplied during a period of forty years. They had entered their own land and were now permitted to eat the fruit of the ground that God had given them. Many of the Israelites had been accustomed to seeing manna and gathering it for food, and the change in their manner of living was marked.

II. The captain of the Lord's host (5:13-6:5). 13-15. A stupendous task lay before Joshua. He was appointed, not only to lead Israel into Canaan, but to their leader in driving out those who then occupied the land. As he approached the first city that lay in his road to conquest, he was met by "the captain of the Lord's host." That he was divine is clear from the circumstances of his appearance, especially from the command to Joshua to take off his shoes, for he was standing on holy ground, a command which before had been given to Moses in Midian (Exod. 3:5). In the second verse of the next chapter he is called the Lord, or Jehovah. Joshua would be encouraged and inspired that came to him through this divine visitation. 1-5. Jericho was the most important and strongly fortified city of the land, and at the approach of Israel the gates were closed, so that the enemy could not gain access. The city was prepared for a siege. The Prince of Jehovah's host gave Joshua explicit instructions for taking Jericho. Joshua was the human leader of Israel, but Jehovah himself was the human direction and efficiency to his chosen people.

III. Jericho taken (6:1-21). 6, 7. Joshua at once put into execution the orders which he had received from the Lord. He believed in the Captain of the Lord's host and accepted his message. 8. When Joshua had spoken unto the people—He gave the orders to the people which had been given to him. Seven priests—the number seven is significant, meaning perfection. There were seven priests, bearing seven trumpets. The compassing of the walls of Jericho was to be accomplished on seven days, and on the seventh day was to be done seven times. On the seventh day, the city was to be taken. The ark of the covenant—This emblem of the Lord's presence was kept in the most holy place of the tabernacle. It was a chest containing the tables of the law, the pot of manna and Aaron's rod that budded. The lid constituted the mercy-seat. 9. Armed men went before—The order of march was: First, the ark of the covenant, borne by priests, and was followed by the "renewed," made up of the people of Israel. 10. Ye shall not shout—The only sound was to be the blowing of trumpets by the priests. There must be no taunts or boasting. Their silence would be deeply impressive. The shout should not be restrained when the proper time came. 11. Going about it once—The strangeness of the proceedings and the simplicity of their act magnified Israel's faith in God.

12, 13. There was no failure upon the part of Joshua or the people to carry out the directions which the Lord had given. 14. So they did six days. At the end of these six days there was apparently no progress made toward capturing Jericho, and the inhabitants might have been inclined to ridicule Israel's tactics. 15. Rose early—The procession had made an early start each day, but the camp of Israel was as still as death on this day. Compassed the city seven times. No statement is made regarding the size of Jericho. It certainly was not large, and the distance about the walls was probably not more than three or four miles. 17. Shall be accounted unto the Lord—Shall be devoted to Jehovah.—R. V. The inhabitants of Jericho were to be executed because of their sins, and all the property that was destructive was to be destroyed, but the useful and precious metals were to be set apart for sacred uses. The Israelites were thus taught that they were not to enrich themselves from the spoil of Jericho. The reason for the preservation of Rahab is given in this verse. So Josh. 2: 1-21. Keep your voice—The Lord had said that this warning was not fully heeded, and the curse that was pronounced was inflicted. 19. Silver, and gold, etc.—The house of the Lord was to be enriched by acquiring these metals. 20. The wall fell down flat. As Joshua and his people believed God and obeyed his commands, divine power was displayed in the destruction of Jericho's walls. This was clearly a miracle. "Straitly shut up" (v. 1), but now there was entrance into the city close to where every member of the encompassing army stood. 21. Every living creature in the city was destroyed; the people, lest they should influence Israel for evil, and the flocks and herds, lest Israel should become covetous. The wickedness of the inhabitants of Canaan was great, and when the city of their iniquity was full the Israelites, to whom the land was given,

were made the instruments of their punishment.

IV. Rahab preserved (6:22-27). What ever may have been the past character of Rahab, it is most reasonable to suppose that she turned fully to the Lord and accepted the true religion, or she would not have been honored with a place among God's people and among the ancestors of our Lord. A curse, which five hundred and fifty years later had its fulfillment, (L. Kings, 16:34), was pronounced upon anyone who should attempt to rebuild the walls of Jericho. Those prostrate walls were to be a perpetual witness of God's hatred of sin, and of his power over physical forces.

Questions.—Describe the interview of the Captain of the Lord's host with Joshua. What was the location of Jericho? How was the city taken? What was to be done with the people and property of Jericho? What household was spared? What was said about rebuilding the walls of Jericho?

## PRACTICAL SURVEY.

Topic.—Evidences of faith.

I. Portrayed in Joshua's reverence.

II. Portrayed in Israel's devotion.

I. Portrayed in Joshua's reverence.

The time toward which Joshua had looked for forty years had arrived. The campaign was about to begin. He went forth to commune with God, for he felt the need of guidance. Joshua was quick to take in his surroundings, while he carefully weighed the problems which pressed themselves upon him. He displayed a spirit of indomitable valor, a spirit of reverent inquiry and a spirit of earnest obedience. He had been careful to restore the broken covenant between Israel and Jehovah. He then ordered a general celebration of the great national festival, the Passover. Then appeared the captain of the Lord's host and gave him the direction for his task. God could not violate his word and leave his servant alone. Joshua exhibited his readiness to receive commands or advice respecting the management of the siege. The revelation that Joshua needed was that God would fight for Israel and with them. He was therefore encouraged by a visible proof that he was under the protection of the Most High. The method of the conquest was not to be one of war, but of faith, of prayer and waiting, in which faith was to be triumphant. It was when Joshua had learned the true reverence, when he had realized that the very place upon which he stood was holy, that the great secret was given him how to take Jericho. Heavy responsibility was lifted when he was assured that Jehovah himself would be his helper. Joshua had to learn that it was not for him nor for Israel to gain the victory, but for the Lord their God, who would be there to superintend, dispose, order and command. He was admonished to take heed to himself, his character and conduct, to be dutiful, to be loyal to the vision. By instant compliance with the behest, Joshua displayed a hearty acceptance of his appointment, and a fitness to receive further proofs of divine favor.

II. Portrayed in Israel's devotion.

Jericho was the great stronghold which protected the eastern district of Palestine, and which it was necessary for the Israelites to capture before they could advance into the country with safety. Speaking at the outset was, humanly speaking, imperative, for Israel had no strength, compared to the inhabitants of Canaan. God had plainly stated that the Israelites were the ministers of his vengeance against sin. The judicial principles on which God acts, and on which he here commanded the destruction of Jericho, need not be questioned. We know that wrong and wickedness go together, and we know that God punishes sin. Jericho and all it contained was to be utterly destroyed. In that campaign, the Israelites appeared at their best. Joshua was hardly more conspicuous than the humblest soldier. In that first conquest in Canaan, Israel experienced the fight of faith, the trial of faith, the patience of faith, the courage of faith, the continuance of faith and the triumph of faith. The old covenant of manna was to them a verification of the divine promise, a proof of God's fidelity to his word.—T.R.A.

## 1913 FIELD CROPS

### Government Report of Ontario For This Year.

The following statements give the area and yields of the principal field crops of Ontario for 1913. The areas have been compiled from individual returns of farmers and the yields by a special staff in each township in addition to regular crop correspondents:—  
Fall wheat 649,533 acres yielded 15,945,717 bushels, or 24.7 per acre, as compared with 15,039,555 and 19.8 in 1912. Annual average 21.1.  
Spring wheat—116,581 acres yielded 2,068,951 bushels, or 17.7 per acre, as compared with 2,202,329 and 18.7 in 1912. Annual average 16.0.  
Barley—623,658 acres yielded 18,255,958 bushels, or 29.5 per acre, as compared with 19,232,275 and 29.7 in 1912. Annual average 27.8.  
Oats—2,609,459 acres yielded 98,426,902 bushels, or 36.5 per acre, as compared with 98,444,897 and 37.8 in 1912. Annual average 32.6.  
Rye—118,429 acres yielded 1,979,775 bushels, or 16.7 per acre, as compared with 1,839,675 and 17.4 in 1912. Annual average 16.5.  
Buckwheat—228,275 acres yielded 4,012,418 bushels, or 17.6 per acre, as compared with 5,454,796 and 24.3 in 1912. Annual average 20.5.



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Peas—177,303 acres yielded 3,108,263 bushels, or 17.5 per acre, as against 3,067,095 and 16.6 in 1912. Annual average 19.2.  
Beans—66,639 acres yielded 1,021,243 bushels, or 16.3 per acre, as compared with 1,132,132 and 17.0 in 1912. Annual average 17.1.  
Mixed grains—41,517 acres yielded 1,113,580 bushels, or 36.5 per acre, as compared with 1,232,101 and 36.5 in 1912. Annual average 34.3.  
Potatoes—159,041 acres yielded 19,124,115 bushels, or 120 per acre, as compared with 21,316,394 and 134 in 1912. Annual average 116.  
Mangels—54,568 acres yielded 21,935,847 bushels, or 402 per acre, as compared with 27,671,114 and 460 in 1912. Annual average 450.  
Carrots—249 acres yielded 592,316 bushels, or 247 per acre, as compared with 747,207 and 273 in 1912. Annual average 340.  
Sugar beets—10,083 acres yielded 6,399,177 bushels, or 335 per acre, as compared with 7,819,066 and 371 in 1912. Annual average 388.  
Turnips—87,572 acres yielded 41,889,834 bushels, or 429 per acre, as compared with 49,501,566 and 488 in 1912. Annual average 431.  
Corn for husking—299,871 acres yielded 22,214,014 bushels (in the ear), or 74.1 per acre, as compared with 21,969,468 and 72.9 in 1912. Annual average 71.5.  
Corn for silo—388,138 acres yielded 4,059,345 tons (green), or 10.46 per acre, as compared with 3,750,577 and 10.50 in 1912. Annual average 11.2.  
Hay and clover (including alfalfa)—3,428,846 acres yielded 3,924,543 tons or 1.14 per acre, as against 5,220,713 and 1.55 in 1912. Annual average 1.45.

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## MARKET REPORTS

### TORONTO MARKETS

#### LIVE STOCK.