

Joshua 7 : 6-15. Study Joshua, ch. 7—Memory Verse, 13.

Golden Text—Be sure your sin will find you out.—Numbers 32 : 23.



16 And Josh'ua rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of the Lord until the eventide, he and the elders of Is'rael, and put dust upon their heads.

7 And Josh'ua said, Alas, O Lord God, wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over Jor'dan to deliver us into the hand of the Am'orites, to destroy us? would to God we had been content, and dwelt on the other side Jor'dan!

8 O Lord, what shall I say, when Is'rael turneth their backs before their enemies!

9 For the Ca'naanites and all the inhabitants of the land shall hear of it, and shall environ us round, and cut off our name from the earth: and what wilt thou do unto thy great name?

10 And the Lord said unto Josh'ua, Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face?

11 Is'rael hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff.

12 Therefore the children of Is'rael could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they were accursed: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you.

13 Up, sanctify the people, and say, Sanctify yourselves against to-morrow: for thus saith the Lord God of Is'rael, There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Is'rael: thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you.

14 In the morning therefore ye shall be brought according to your tribes: and it shall be, that the tribe according to your tribes: and it shall be, that the tribe

which the Lord taketh shall come according to the families thereof; and the family which the Lord shall take shall come man by man.

15 And it shall be, that he that is taken with the accursed thing shall be burnt with fire, he and all that he hath: because he hath transgressed the covenant of the Lord, and because he hath wrought folly in Is'rael.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Now, when the children of Israel went in and conquered the city of Jericho, Joshua warned them strictly to keep none of the gold, silver or other spoils which they found. Everything made of metal was to be brought to him for use in the service of the tabernacle, and the rest was to be burned. But one of the Israelites named Achan coveted some of the beautiful things which he saw and took them off secretly and hid them in his tent.

Shortly after Jericho was taken, Joshua sent an army of three thousand men to fight against a city named Ai. But instead of being afraid, the men of Ai came out and fought so fiercely against the Israelites that they turned and fled, leaving thirty-six dead behind them.

Then Joshua was in great distress. He tore his clothes in his grief, and he and the elders of Israel bowed down, praying before the ark of the Lord until the evening. And Joshua cried to the Lord saying, "Why hast

Thou brought us over Jordan to deliver us into the hands of our enemies? All the people of Canaan will now hear how the children of Israel have fled before their enemies, and they will gather round us on every side and kill us till none of us are left."

But God told Joshua to rise up. "Why," He asked, "art thou lying there?" The Lord then told Joshua that there was sin amongst the children of Israel and that was the reason they had been afraid and not able to stand before their enemies. For one of them had taken some of the silver and the gold that was in Jericho and had hidden it for his own use instead of putting it into the treasury of the Lord.

And the Lord said also, that He would not be with them to help them again unless they punished the man who had done this thing. And He commanded Joshua to bring out all the people before Him that He might show who the man was. That man, the Lord said, would be burned with fire, he