



SINAI.

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"In the third month, when the children of Israel had gone forth out of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai. For they were departed from Rephidim, and were come to the desert of Sinai, and had pitched in the wilderness; and there Israel camped before the mount." According to the best information we have this is the valley here spoken of; and the mountain you see in the distance is the holy place where God came down to teach poor erring men how he would have them live—what he would have them do. It was in this mount that Moses went up to hear the words of his Maker. Around this mount the bounds were set, past which neither man nor beast might go without the certainty of death, by being shot through or stoned. Moses alone was permitted to go up into the Divine presence. From the awful recesses of this solemn place, the trumpet of God sent forth its voice exceeding loud, calling the hosts of Israel to hear and do what God commanded. "And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mountain. And Mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire; and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly, and when the voice of the trumpet sounded long and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice." That Divine voice then gave to Moses the Ten Commandments to be obeyed by all men, and the rites and ceremonies for the government of Israel.

It must have been in this valley that the people set up the Golden Calf when they grow weary of waiting for Moses to come down from the presence of God. And because of their rebellion they were kept here in this valley and around the feet of those hills, shut in from the world, and kept back from the Promised Land for a whole long year.—*Methodist Monthly Greetings.*

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN JEWISH HISTORY.

B.C. 1491.] LESSON L [July 7.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.

Exod. 20. 1-17. Memory verses, 3-17.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.—Luko 10. 27.

OUTLINE.

1. Our Duty to God, v. 1-11.
2. Our Duty to Man, v. 12-17.

TIME.—B.C. 1491. This date, the most

important in history, may be readily remembered, because what is perhaps the next most important date is about as many years after Christ as this was before Christ—the discovery of America, A. D. 1492.

PLACE.—Mount Sinai, in the wild peninsula south east of the Isthmus of Suez. The tribes are believed to have been assembled in what is now known as the Wady (Plain or Valley) er Rahab, which opens in front of Ras Sufsafeh, a precipitous cliff which forms the north-western extremity or front of a great mountain range, Jebel Musa, "The Mountain of Moses," which Hebrew, Moslem, and Christian traditions alike point to as the mountain of the law.

INTRODUCTORY.

The lessons of last June brought us to the passage of the Red Sea by the children of Israel. They marched southward, guided by the pillar of cloud and fire, till they reached vicinity of Mount Sinai, where the law was given by Moses.

HOME READINGS.

- M. The Ten Commandments.—Exod. 20. 1-7.
- Tu. The Ten Commandments.—Exod. 20. 3-17.
- W. The Commandments written.—Deut. 27. 1-10.
- Th. God's law perfect.—Psalm 19. 7-14.
- F. Delight in the law.—Psalm 119. 1-16.
- S. Christ's summary.—Mark 12. 28-34.
- Sa. Love proved by obedience.—1 John 2. 1-11.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. *Our Duty to God*, v. 1-11.
 - By whom were the commandments given?
 - To whom did God first speak them?—Exod. 19. 20.
 - What had the Lord done for his people?
 - What is the first commandment?
 - What may we not make or worship?
 - What reason is given for this prohibition?
 - Which commandment forbids profaneswearings?
 - Why is this forbidden?
 - What is the fourth commandment?
 - What did God make in six days?
 - To whom does the seventh day belong?
 - Who are forbidden to work on that day?
 - What is our whole duty to God? Eccles. 12. 23.
2. *Our Duty to Man*, v. 12-17.
 - To whom is honour due and why?
 - What says Paul about this command? See Eph. 6. 2.
 - What is the sixth commandment?
 - Whom does John declare to be a murderer? See 1 John 3. 15.
 - What is the seventh commandment?
 - What does the eighth commandment forbid?
 - What duty to man does the ninth commandment exjoin?
 - What will help us to keep the law? See Rom. 13. 10.
 - What are we forbidden to covet?
 - What words sum up the whole law? (Golden Text.)
 - What conduct will show our obedience? See Micah 6. 8.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

- Where in this lesson are we taught—
1. Our sole rule of duty?
 2. Four duties toward God?
 3. The duty of love to man?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Where were the Ten Commandments given? At Mount Sinai. 2. How were they given? By the voice of God. 3. Repeat the Ten Commandments: First? Second? Third? Fourth? Fifth? Sixth? Seventh? Eighth? Ninth? Tenth? 4. What command does our Lord give? Golden Text: "Thou shalt love," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The existence of God.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

What was the practice of the first Christians? Spiritual fellowship was one of the special marks of the primitive Church from its beginning at Jerusalem. Acts 2. 42; Colossians 3. 16, 1 Thessalonians v. 14; Hebrews 10. 25.

The Stars.

BY REV. JAMES COOKE SKYMOUR.

WHAT are all those points of light
Up in yon ethereal height?
Worlds like ours—but far away,
Sun in depths of space, are they?

Are they young or are they old,
Each with story to unfold?
Brightening each, beneath a sun?
Sun itself—its circuits run?

Is the genial summer-warm
Followed by the winter-frost?
Are there flowers and verdant grass
Where the living creatures pass?

Far athwart an azure sky,
Do the birds of beauty fly?
Does the wide resounding sea
Dwell in vast immensity?

Are they worlds of human kind?
Full of sentient, loving mind?
Bravest men and women good?
Noble race of kindred blood?

Has the night of death and sin,
Never, never there set in?
Each a world of real bliss?
Each a starry paradise?

As they scan the heights above
Do they know the God of Love?
He to whom their thoughts aspire,
He, their most devout desire?

Glorious worlds indeed are they?
Part of heaven for us, some day?
We, with them, our God adore?
Drink their joys for evermore?

Paisley, Ont.

THE SINGING.

TEACH the Juniors the words of the songs, so that they can sing without the assistance of books. This will make the meetings the more social, and will cause less confusion when a hymn is announced.

There are various ways of teaching songs to children, the most common being to have them repeat line by line over after you. Another way is to print a verse at a time on the blackboard, and to have the children read this verse over and over until they have committed it to memory. Yet another method is to have the words of the hymn pasted upon charts or rolls and hung up in front of the room.

The singing is something that should not be neglected at any session. Eternity alone will reveal what Christian hymns have done for the world. The songs learned in childhood will never be obliterated from the mind.

Moreover, singing, especially that of the young, has a charm over people that nothing else possesses. Five young ladies were once seated in a car together when the thought



Milk. Education. Tea. Coffee. Non-alcoholic Beverages.



Bread.



Alcoholic Liquors.

John Bull's Drink Bill: "This Intolerable Deal of Sack."

occurred to them to sing a hymn, and, by the way, it is always well to follow such an impression whenever it comes. The hymn decided upon was "Near, my God, to Thee." A young lady sang each verse as a solo, and the others joined in with the chorus.

Everybody in the car seemed to be enjoying the music, and the conductor stood with his hand upon the knob of the door, waiting to hear the hymn before entering the next car. At that moment a crash came and the next car was in ruins. The song saved the conductor.

A SPEAKER once addressing an audience of boys and girls, told among other things that cider started the appetite for stronger drinks. At the close of the meeting a poor, besotted, broken-down man came up and said to the speaker, "You did right in warning the boys and girls against using cider. Just look at what I am! It was the cider on my father's farm that made me a drunkard!"

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