

Lesson XI.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS, II.

September 14, 1913

Exodus 20 : 12-21—Memory Verses, 12-17.

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.—Luke 10 : 27.



Mo'ses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was.

THE LESSON RETOLD

The first four Commandments told God's people how they should act towards God. The next six Commandments showed how they should act towards one another. The Fifth Commandment was, "Honour thy father and thy mother." Next to reverencing and obeying God, His people were to reverence and obey father and mother, doing this gladly and willingly. God said that if they obeyed this Commandment, their days would be long in the land.

The Sixth Commandment was, "Thou shalt not kill," which meant also, that they should not even have angry thoughts in their hearts towards any one. And the Seventh Commandment was, "Thou shalt not commit adultery." Their thoughts and acts were to be pure.

The Eighth Commandment was, "Thou shalt not steal." No one was to take even the smallest thing that belonged to another. And God directed that if any one did so, whether by mistake or on purpose, he was

12 Honour thy father and thy mother : that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

13 Thou shalt not kill.

14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

15 Thou shalt not steal.

16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

18 And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking : and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off.

19 And they said unto Mo'ses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear : but let not God speak with us, lest we die.

20 And Mo'ses said unto the people, Fear not : for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not.

21 And the people stood afar off, and

to give it back or pay for the thing taken. The Ninth Commandment was, "Thou shalt not bear false witness," which meant not to say anything about another person that was not true.

The Tenth Commandment was, "Thou shalt not covet." They were to be content with what they had and not feel unhappy if other people had things which they had not, for God gives to each of His people just what He knows each ought to have.

Now, all the time that God was giving these rules or laws to Moses for His people, they were down at the foot of the mountain waiting in awe and trembling. For the smoke still hung over the top and the lightning flashed and they could still hear the thunderings and the sound of the trumpet. They heard the sound of God's voice also, although they could not hear the words, so when Moses came down they cried to him in fear, "You tell us the words which God is saying, for if He speaks to us Himself,