

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST.

LESSON II.—JANUARY 14.

THE CHILD JESUS VISITS JERUSALEM.

Luke 2, 41-52. Memory verses, 49-52.

GOLDEN TEXT.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.—Luke 2, 52.

OUTLINE.

- 1. Lost in the City, v. 41-45.
2. Found in the Temple, v. 46-52.
Time.—Probably the spring of A.D. 9.
Places.—1. Nazareth. 2. In and near Jerusalem.

LESSON HELPS.

1. "The passover"—"Every Israelite was bound to be present except the sick, the aged, and boys under the age of twelve, who, as well as the blind, the deaf, and the lunatic, were permitted to remain at home."—Lange.

42. "Twelve years old"—"At the age of three Jesus had been weaned and wore the fringed garments. (Deut. 22, 12.) At five he had begun to learn the law by memorizing extracts of important passages."—Ellicott. "At twelve the Jewish child became a 'son of the law.' He also began to learn a trade."—Abbott. "After the custom"—"Perhaps alluding to the practice of going up in caravans."—Godet.

43. "The days"—"The days spent in Jerusalem. "Tried behind"—"Each day of the feast he had gone into the temple, and continued to go as usual when the feast was over."—Ellicott. "According to Josephus the population of Jerusalem at the passover exceeded 2,700,000 males. In such a crowd it was easy to be lost."—Schaff.

44. "Supposing him to have been in the company"—"Thinking him to be elsewhere in the great caravan. Sometimes the men, women, and boys marched separately. In the East an ordinary child of twelve would be equal in self-care to one of fourteen or fifteen among us."—Lange. "A day's journey"—"The usual rate of travelling in the East is three miles an hour, and, as the number of hours devoted to travelling rarely exceeds six or eight, the distance of an ordinary day's journey may be considered as twenty or twenty-five miles. The first day, however, it is not customary to go more than six or eight miles, and the tents are pitched almost within sight of the place from which the journey commences."—Hackett. Tradition says that El Bireh, about six miles north of Jerusalem, is the spot where Joseph's caravan stopped.

46. "After three days"—"One day was spent in departure, one in return, the third in search."—Lange. "In the temple"—"Apparently in one of its chambers or porches (Acts 22, 3). "Hearing them," etc.—"The method of instruction among the Jewish doctors was very conversational and catechetical, teacher and pupil indulging in both interrogation and reply."—Whedon.

48. "When they"—"His parents. "They were amazed"—"Their surprise proves that Jesus had habitually observed a humble reserve."—Godet. "Why hast thou," etc.—"An expression of joyful surprise, with only the mildest possible shading of reproof."—Curry.

49. "How is it"—"Christ's first recorded words—a soft rebuke"—"Gelkic. "Wist"—"Knew. "Must"—"Indicating necessity. "My Father's"—"God is our Father only because he is Christ's Father."—Farrar. "Business"—"Perhaps it should be "house," as in the Revised Version, or "things." They would all mean the same to Mary. "Her son was outgrowing his childhood; the light of a higher world was breaking in on his soul; the claims of the house of Nazareth were fading before others infinitely greater and holier."—Gelkic.

50. "They understood not"—"the deeper sense of Christ's wonderful words."—Alford.
51. "To Nazareth"—"For eighteen years of obscurity before his Messianic work. The Scriptures contain no further word of these intervening years except that he was "the carpenter's son." "Subject"—"The most wonderful example of filial obedience known or conceivable."—Whedon. "His mother"—"Joseph is not mentioned again. "Kept"—"Remembered.

52. "Increased"—"Luke characterizes the whole of these eighteen years as a period of development."—Lange.

HOME READINGS.

- M. The child Jesus visits Jerusalem.—Luke 2, 40-52.
Tu. The passover feast.—Deut. 16, 1-8.
W. The Father's business.—John 5, 17-24.
Th. The Jews astonished.—John 7, 1-15.
F. Value of wisdom.—Prov. 4, 1-13.
S. The wise child.—Prov. 23, 15-25.
Su. Growing in grace.—2 Pet. 3, 11-18.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

- 1. Lost in the City, v. 41-45.
What journey did Jesus' parents make every year?
For what purpose did they go?
At what age did Jesus go up with them?
What did the passover commemorate? Exod. 12, 11-14.

- Until what time did Joseph remain in Jerusalem?
How many days did the feast last? Deut. 16, 8.
How did the boy become separated from his parents?
How far did they go before they missed him?
Where first did they seek him?
Where did they next go in search?
2. Found in the Temple, v. 46-52.
When and where did they find him?
How was he engaged?
What did the doctors think of his words?
What answer did Jesus make?
How was this answer regarded by Joseph and Mary?
What was Jesus' chief joy? John 4, 34.
Where was the home of this family?
What is said of the boy's obedience?
Where did the mother hide Jesus' sayings?
In what did Jesus constantly grow? Golden Text.
What prophecy was thus fulfilled? Isa. 11, 2.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

- Where in this lesson are we taught—
1. The duty of religious worship?
2. The duty of seeking knowledge?
3. The duty of filial obedience?

"Let us have faith that right makes might; and, in that faith, let us to the end dare to do our duty as we understand it."

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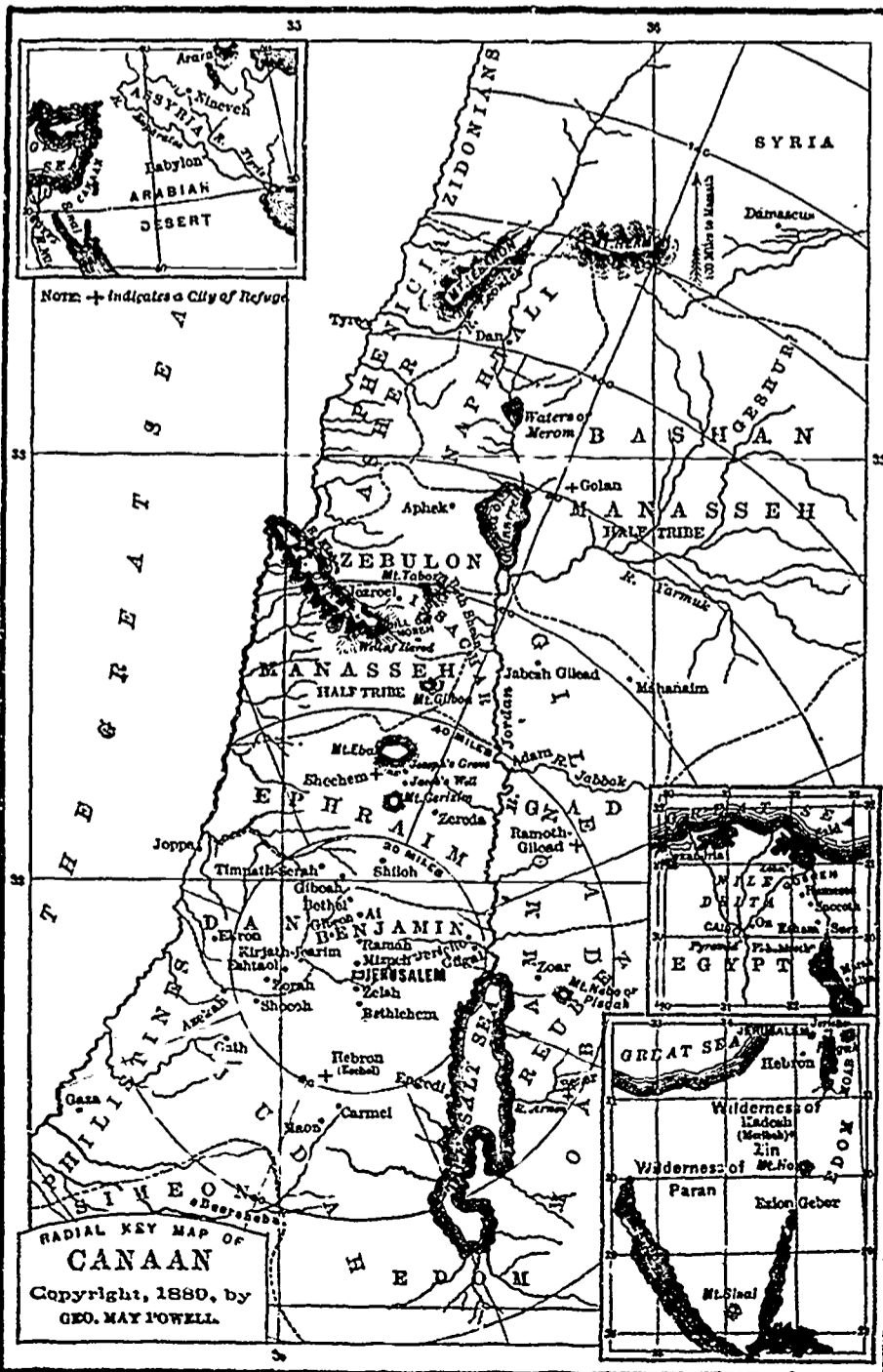
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