

LESSON VI—August 11th, 1895.

The Brazen Serpent. NUM. 21: 4-9.

I. GOLDEN TEXT: "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up." John 3: 14.

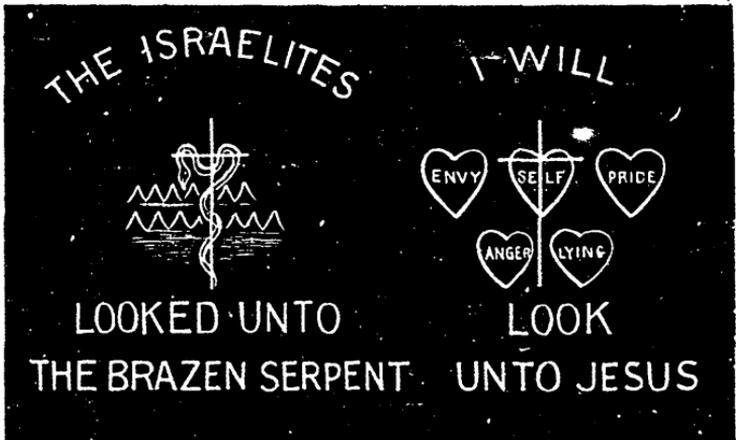
II. PREVIEW THOUGHT: "Jesus the Healer of Sin." (See Preview in July number).

III. REVIEW: Ask where the Israelites encamped in last lesson. Point out Kadesh Barnea, on the outline or sand map. Where did the spies go? Point out "Palestine." What did they bring back with them? Tell some of the giants that we have to fight to kill. Who has been trying to kill them since last Sunday?

IV. LESSON STORY: In our last lesson we left the Israelites at Kadesh Barnea, and they remained round about that place for a long time, more than 38 years. Draw a line on the map and shew their wanderings. Why did they stay there so long when they might have been living comfortably and happily in the promised land? Because they did not trust God, did not believe that he should help them to fight and drive out the giants, therefore God saw it would be best for them not to go until they could trust him, and let them wander about all these years in the wilderness. They soon got tired of living that way too and began to grumble, and as they journeyed from "Mount Hor" (point out the mountain half way between the "Dead Sea," and the eastern arm of the "Red Sea") to come to the land of "Edom," (point out Edom) they spoke against God and against Moses, and said "why did ye bring us up out of "Egypt" to die in the wilderness?" It was very wrong for them to speak that way, for God had been caring for them all this time, giving them food to eat and water to drink, and Moses had been leading them along and was very kind and patient to them all the time. Their murmuring in this way showed that they did not yet trust in God, but God wanted to teach them to trust in him, so sent fiery serpents among them, and the serpents bit the people and poisoned them, and many of them died. Then the people saw how foolish they were to grumble in that way and not to trust in God, and they went to Moses and told him they were sorry for having spoken against God and against him, and asked him to pray to God to take away the serpents. Moses did pray for the people, and God told him to make a serpent of brass and set it up upon a pole and if anyone who had been bitten by a serpent looked up to the brazen serpent on the pole he would not die, but be healed.

V. APPLICATION: As you tell how the Israelites were healed by looking to the brazen serpent, pin the symbol of the tents on the board for the Israelites, just below draw a line for

a pole, and near the top draw a serpent, or have a symbol of a pole and serpent and pin on board. As the serpent came and bit the Israelites and poisoned them, so Satan comes and poisons our hearts with sin. Draw some hearts on the board and put some sin in each one such as "envy" "pride" "anger," "selfishness," "lying," etc.



Shew that as the poison of the serpents caused death unless the people were healed, so sin the poison of Satan in our hearts will cause death to our souls unless we are healed. But there is a great Healer. Jesus is the healer of sin. As God told Moses to lift up the serpent in the wilderness, so he sent Jesus into the world to be lifted up on the cross for us. (Make a cross on the board just below the hearts). Just as the Israelites had only to look up to the brazen serpent and were healed so I have only to look to Jesus and he will heal me.