

Lesson I.

THE BOYHOOD OF JESUS

January 3, 1904

Luke 2 : 40-52. Commit vs. 49-51. Read Luke 1 ; Matt. 1 : 18-25 : Luke 2 : 1-38 ; Matt. 2.

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

40 And the child grew, and waxed strong ¹ in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon him.

41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover.

42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up ² to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.

43 And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it.

44 But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance.

45 And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking ³ him.

46 And it came to pass, ⁴ that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the

doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.

47 And all that heard him were ⁵ astonished at his understanding and ⁶ answers.

48 And when they saw him, they were ⁷ amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I ⁸ have sought thee sorrowing.

49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be ⁹ about my Father's business?

50 And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.

51 And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and ¹⁰ was subject unto them: ¹¹ but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

52 And Jesus ¹² increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and ¹³ man.

Revised Version—¹ Omitt in spirit; ² And; ³ Omitt to Jerusalem; ⁴ were returning; ⁵ and His parents knew it not; ⁶ for; ⁷ returned to Jerusalem; ⁸ for; ⁹ Omitt that; ¹⁰ amazed; ¹¹ his; ¹² astonished; ¹³ Omitt have; ¹⁴ in My Father's house; ¹⁵ he; ¹⁶ and; ¹⁷ advanced; ¹⁸ men.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Time and Place—March-April, S.A.D., the birth of Jesus having taken place, as is generally reckoned, in December of 5 B.C.; Jerusalem, the capital of Judaea, and Nazareth, a town of Galilee.

Connection—The Lessons for the present half year present the life of Jesus Christ as given in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. They are called the "synoptic" gospels (from a Greek word which means "seeing together") because they have so much material in common. For the first New Testament announcements of the coming Saviour see Matt. 1:18-23; Luke 1:26-33 and compare Isa. 7:14. For the story of His birth see Matt. ch. 2; Luke 2:1-38. He is now twelve years of age, a growing boy.

I. THE CHILD JESUS.—40-44. Grew and waxed (grew) strong; referring to bodily growth. (Rev. Ver. omits "in spirit.") Jesus was a healthy, vigorous child. Filled with wisdom; "being filled," the mind of Jesus as well as His body grew. His schoolroom was the village synagogue; His teacher a scribe; His chief lesson-book the Bible, in which also he was carefully taught at home, Deut. 6: 6, 7. Wisdom; including the knowledge of God and the understanding of men and things, John 2: 25. Grace of God; God's favor and help. This it was that kept Jesus from evil and formed in Him a character so beautiful and strong.

II. JESUS AT THE FEAST.—41-45. To Jerusalem; the holy city and capital. It was a journey of 70 miles. The law of Moses required every man to attend the three great Feasts every year—the Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles, Ex. 23 : 14-17; 34 : 23;

Deut. 16: 16. Women were not required to go, and their attendance was considered a mark of special piety. Passover; so called because it marked the "passing over" of the houses of the Israelites when the firstborn of Egypt were destroyed, Ex. 12: 27. Twelve years old; the age when a Jewish boy took upon himself to keep the law and to attend the feasts with his father. At this age, too, he began to learn a trade, in the case of Jesus, that of a carpenter, Mark 6: 3. An Eastern boy at twelve is as mature as one of fifteen in Western lands. Fulfilled the days; the seven days of the Passover Feast, Ex. 12: 15; Lev. 23: 6-7 Deut. 16: 3. Knew not of it. The boy Jesus was so trustworthy that He was

allowed to go about at will among the company who travelled together to and from the feasts. Turned back again to Jerusalem; looking for Him as they went as well as after they got there.

III. JESUS IN THE TEMPLE.—46-50. After three days; including the day out, the day back, and the day of the finding. In the temple; one of the rooms beside the temple used for teaching. Doctors; teachers. Hearing . . . asking . . . questions; the usual method of teaching in those days. It does not show any forwardness on the part of Jesus, Wist; know. About my Father's business (Rev.

Ver., "in my Father's house"); the first recorded words of Jesus. They teach that Jesus knew Himself to be the Son of God.

IV. JESUS AND HIS PARENTS.—51, 52. Nazareth; a town in Galilee hidden amid lofty hills, yet near the main roads along which travellers to Jeru-



Carpenter's Shop in Nazareth