

Lesson III.

MOSES CALLED TO DELIVER ISRAEL

July 20, 1913

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—There is no break between Lesson II. and Lesson III.

GOLDEN TEXT—Blessed are the pure in heart : for they shall see God.—Matthew 5 : 8.

Memorize vs. 13, 14. THE LESSON PASSAGE—Exodus 3 : 1-14. Study Exodus 3 : 1 to 4 : 20. Read Exodus, chs. 3, 4.

1 Now Mo'ses kept the flock of Jeth'ro his father in law, the priest of Mid'ian : and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, ^{even} to Horeb.

2 And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush : and he looked, and behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.

3 And Mo'ses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.

4 And when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Mo'ses, Mo'ses. And he said, Here am I.

5 And he said, Draw not nigh hither : put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.

6 Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Mo'ses hid his face ; for he was afraid to look upon God.

7 And the Lord said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters ; for I know their sorrows ;

8 And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of Egypt.

Revised Version—¹ was keeping ; ² back of the wilderness ; ³ unto Horeb ; ⁴ Canaanite (and so on) ; ⁵ And now, behold ; ⁶ moreover I have seen ; ⁷ the.

Daily Readings—(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Secretary, 26 Old Bailey, London, England.)—M.—Moses called to deliver Israel, Ex. 3 : 1-14. T.—Moses instructed, Ex. 3 : 15-22. W.—Moses encouraged, Ex. 4 : 1-9. Th.—An ungracious excuse, Ex. 4 : 10-17. F.—The master's encouragement, Matt. 10 : 24-31. S.—The call of Isaiah, Isa. 6 : 1-8. S.—The call of Jeremiah, Jer. 1 : 7-19.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. THE CALL.—1, 2. Moses kept the flock. For forty years Moses had been a shepherd. Of Jethro ; also called Reuel, ch 2 : 18. To... the desert ; inland from the coast of the Gulf of Akaba, where the Midianites dwelt, to the higher country, where there was moisture and therefore grass. The shepherds of to-day do the same thing when summer comes on. Mountain of God ; a sacred mountain. Horeb ; also named Sinai (See Geography Lesson.) Angel of the Lord ; the Lord Himself in human form.

Flame of fire ; an emblem of God, who purifies the good and consumes the evil. Bush ; some kind of thorny shrub, perhaps the acacia, sometimes 15 or 20 feet high, with a trunk 2 feet thick. Not consumed ; nor would Israel, though now in a very furnace of affliction, be

destroyed by the sufferings they had to endure.

3-6. Turn aside, and see. God's world is full of wonders for the eyes that can see. God called. It was no freak of nature, then, which Moses had seen, but a revelation of God. Moses, Moses ; lest he should approach without due reverence. Put off thy shoes ; still in the East a customary mark of respect on entering a mosque or other holy place. Holy ground. Sacred because of God's presence. God of thy father ; and also thy forefathers, Abraham... Isaac... Jacob ; their friend and guide and helper. The One whom they worshiped,—should not Moses also trust and serve Him ? Afraid ; filled with trembling awe.

II. THE COMMISSION.—7-10. Seen the affliction. Israel's sufferings had touched God's heart. Taskmasters ; literally "hard pressers" or "drivers." the Egyptian superintendents of the Hebrew labor gangs (see ch. 1 : 11). To deliver them. The time for delay had passed, and God's hour for saving His people had struck. Land flowing with milk (an important article of food in the East) and honey (not only bee honey, but also *dibs*, a very sweet syrup made by boiling down grape juice much used in Palestine) ; a common expression for great fertility. Canaanite (Rev. Ver.), etc. : tribes then inhabiting Palestine. I will send thee ; a poor shepherd against the mighty Pharaoh ; but God's sending included being filled with God's power.

III. THE CONFIDENCE.—11, 12. Who am I... ? One whose life had been threatened by Pharaoh (ch.



SANDALS: Showing the "Latches"