

hearts. Just as soon as we forget our duty to God, then idol worship begins. The children of Israel through forgetfulness and ingratitude toward God worshipped a golden calf, but *unbelief* and *pride*, and *selfishness* were set up in their hearts before they demanded an idol. We must beware of gilded idols. *The world* is a golden idol to many, and *pride* has its thousands of worshippers. If it were not for pride, multitudes would to-day become disciples of the meek and lowly Jesus; but they dare not humble themselves in the eyes of the world. He that humbleth himself shall be exalted. The idol of *self* creeps into the heart almost unawares, and with it *unbelief* gains a foothold. We are not in danger of worshipping idols such as the heathen worship, but without God's help the *golden idols* of worldly pleasure, sin, and *unbelief* will be set up in our hearts. "Little children, keep yourselves from idols."

Seed-Thoughts for Senior Scholars.

1. Did the people really suppose that Moses brought them up out of Egypt?

2. Did they now *design* to *ignore* or *overlook* Jehovah?

3. Had they really supposed Moses was lost or dead, would they have thus treated his memory?

4. If *gods* in the Hebrew is the plural of God, what must have been the intention of the people?

5. Which of the Ten Commandments, in that case, did they violate?

6. What are the people shown to have been in forgetting, in thirty days, the Decalogue and its sublime delivery?

7. Was Aaron a *willing* or *forced* agent in this case?

8. Did he boldly and nobly *oppose* the people?

9. Did Aaron think to thus honor God? (ver. 5.)

10. What is the general tendency of all *un-devout* minds when considering *spiritual* beings and subjects?

11. What connection is there between the abandonment of God's worship and corrupt amusements.

12. Of what was the breaking of the tables emblematical?

13. Was that from Moses' own or from a divine impulse?

14. How did he show the people their stupidity and the vanity of their idol?

The Primary Class.

Briefly notice what is stated between the twentieth chapter of Exodus and the thirty-second. Tell how Moses went up into the

mountain by command of God to receive the commandments written on two tablets of stone. Tell how the people having lived so long among those who worshipped idols became tired of worshipping a god they could not see. Moses, too, who promised to lead them, had strangely gone out of sight. Having often seen the Egyptians worship the ox, or the image of an ox, they thought if they could have the Egyptian gods they might get out of the wilderness. So they brought their golden jewels to Aaron, the brother of Moses, and he melted them and made an image of a calf, and all the people worshipped the golden calf. Show the wickedness of this, and ask what commandments these people broke when they did this. Then speak of the displeasure of Moses when he came from the mount and saw what had been done. He brake the two stone tables, and destroyed the golden calf.

There are many little children in the world who are taught to worship idols. Show how even children in Christian families and Sunday-schools may worship idols, not as the heathen do, but in a way equally displeasing to God. Any thing we love more than we love God becomes to us an idol. Try to impress the lesson that God is to be loved above every thing, and close by repeating the Golden Text.

Miscellaneous.

THEMES FOR BIBLE READINGS.

1. LAW AGAINST IDOLS. Exod. xx. 3-5; xxiii. 13; 1 John v. 21.

2. IDOLS ARE NOTHING. Acts xvii. 29; Isa. xli. 29; Psa. cxv. 4-8.

3. POWER OF IDOLATRY. Psa. cvi. 19, 20, 35, 36; 1 Kings xii. 28-32; Jer. ii. 11.

4. FOLLY OF IDOLATRY. Isa. xl. 18-20; lxvi. 6; xlv. 9, 10; Hosea xiii. 2; Rom. i. 21-23.

5. WARNINGS AGAINST IDOLATRY. Hosea x. 5; 1 Cor. x. 7; Ezek. xx. 7.

6. MODERN IDOLATRIES. 2 Cor. vi. 14-18; 1 John ii. 15-17; Rom. xii. 2; Matt. vi. 24.

7. APPEALS. Matt. v. 29-30; Luke ix. 23; John xvii. 15; Col. iii. 2; 1 Cor. xvi. 13.

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LESSON III.—The People Forgiven.

Exod. xxxiii. 12-20.

GOLDEN TEXT: Psa. cxxx. 4.

Berean Notes.

I. GENERAL STATEMENT.

Israel still encamped at Sinai. B. C. 1491.