

LESSON II—July 14th, 1895.

The Golden Calf. EXODUS 32: 1-8, 30-35.

(Commit to memory verses 7, 8).

GOLDEN TEXT: "Little children keep yourselves from idols." John 5: 21.

PROVE THAT: God only should be worshipped. Rev. 19: 10.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 28. *Wherein consisteth Christ's exaltation?* A. Christ's exaltation consisteth in his rising again from the dead on the third day, in ascending up into heaven, in sitting at the right hand of God the Father, and in coming to judge the world at the last day.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 1, 11, 94, 10.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* The Golden Calf. Ex. 32: 1-8. *Tuesday.* Intercession by Moses. Ex. 32: 9-14. *Wednesday.* The calf destroyed. Ex. 32: 15-24. *Thursday.* Punishment. Ex. 32: 30-35. *Friday.* Impressive reminder. Deut. 9: 7-21. *Saturday.* Folly of Idol worship. Ps. 106: 16-27. *Sabbath.* Trust in a living God. Ps. 115: 1-13. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. Moses was summoned alone into the Divine presence and continued in the mount with God forty days (Ex. 24: 18). During this time he received instructions regarding the priesthood, the tabernacle and the Sabbath. Two stone tablets were also given him upon which God himself had written the Ten Commandments (31: 18). The parallel narrative is found in Deut. 9: 11-21.

LESSON PLAN. I. Sin. vs. 1-6. II. Wrath. vs. 7, 8. III. Intercession. vs. 30-35.

1. **Moses delayed**—He was detained forty days (Ex. 24: 18). Gathered themselves to Aaron—in a tumultuous manner. Moses had made Aaron his deputy (24: 14). Make us gods—R. V. marg. "a god,"—A violation of the Second Commandment. This Moses—They spoke of him slightly. The symbols of God's presence still enveloped the mountain and they might have known that both Moses and the people were "under the shadow of the Almighty." 2. **Earrings**—These were worn by men as well as by women. The word stands also for rings in the nose. They were massive and of solid gold. 4. **He fashioned it**—Made a wooden model of the image to be used as a mould, or overlaid with gold plates. A **molten Calf**—The idea was borrowed from the worship of the sacred bull in Egypt. These be thy gods—"This is thy God." It was a symbol of Jehovah (1 Kings 12: 28; Isa. 42: 8). 5. **A feast to the Lord**—Calling it worship did not change the character of the service, nor relieve Aaron of the guilt, any more than washing his hands did Pilate (Deut. 9: 20). 6. **Rose up to play**—Not innocent games, but disgusting and shameless excesses (verse 25). There is no mention of sin-offerings, penitence was no part of their new religion, hence its attractiveness (1 Cor. 10: 7). 7. **Thy people which thou**—Since the people have rejected

God he rejects them and their representative is dismissed from the Divine presence. Moses, however, cannot go until he has interceded for them and obtained some hope of pardon.

30. **Ye have sinned**—They had been severely punished and were now very sorry for what they had done (1 Sam. 12: 17-25; Luke 15: 18). **Make an atonement**—I shall plead with God for you and perhaps secure your forgiveness. 31. **Gods of gold**—"A God of gold" (Ex. 20: 23). Moses has no excuse to plead for the people. He is overwhelmed with horror at the enormity of their guilt (Deut. 9: 18). 32. **If thou wilt**—It seems too much to ask for, he dares only hint at it (Compare Luke 19: 42). **Blot me**—He would rather die with his people than survive them, even to be the founder of a new Israel (Compare Rom. 9: 3). **Thy book**—Ps. 56: 8; 139: 16; Dan. 12: 1; Phil. 4: 3; Rev. 3: 5; 17: 8; 21: 27; 22: 19. 33. **Whosoever hath sinned**—The nation as a whole will not be destroyed (Ezek. 18: 4). **Mine angel**—The angel of the Covenant, the Son of God. This was a gracious promise (Ex. 23: 20; 33: 2, 14; 20: 16; Josh. 5: 13-15; Isa. 63: 9. **I will visit their sin upon them**—Future backslidings were treated as repetitions of their first offence, and as aggravations of it.

LESSONS. 1. We should never compromise with sin. 2. God knows everything we do and is angry at wickedness. 3. The prayers of the righteous often secure mercy for the transgressors. 4. Every one must answer for himself before God. 5. God is ready to pardon sin, but he chastises the sinner so as to make him hate it.