

Lesson IV.

WORSHIPPING THE GOLDEN CALF

July 27, 1902

Exodus 32: 1-6, 30-35. Study Ex. 32: 1-35. Commit to memory vs. 30-32.

Read Ex. chs. 32-34.

1 And when the people saw that Mo'ses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto A'aron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Mo'ses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.

2 And A'aron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me.

3 And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto A'aron.

4 And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf; and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

5 And when A'aron saw this, he built an altar before it; and A'aron made proclamation, and said, To-morrow is a feast to the Lord.

6 And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered

burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings: and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.

30 And it came to pass on the morrow, that Mo'ses said unto the people, Ye have sinned a great sin: and now I will go up unto the Lord; peradventure I shall make an atonement for your sin.

31 And Mo'ses returned unto the Lord, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold.

32 Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin—; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.

33 And the Lord said unto Mo'ses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.

34 Therefore now go, lead the people unto the place of which I have spoken unto thee: behold, mine Angel shall go before thee: nevertheless in the day when I visit I will visit their sin upon them.

35 And the Lord plagued the people, because they made the calf, which A'aron made.

Revised Version—1 From the mount: 2 Know not: 3 Rings; 4 It; 5 And made it; 6 This; 7 Shall be; 8 Omit an; 9 And now go; 10 Angel with small a; 11 Smote.

GOLDEN TEXT

Ex. 20: 3. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

DAILY READINGS

M. —Exodus 32: 1-14.
T. —Exodus 32: 15-24.
W. —Exodus 32: 25-35.
Th. —Exodus 34: 1-14.
F. —Deut. 9: 7-21.
S. —1 Kings 12: 25-33.
S. —Psalm 106: 7-23.

Worshipping the golden calf.

The second tables.

Remember!

A king's sin.

Forgetting God.

CATECHISM

Q. 32. What benefits do they that are effectually called partake of in this life?

A. They that are effectually called do in this life partake of justification, adoption, and sanctification, and the several benefits which, in this life, do either accompany or flow from them.

TIME AND PLACE

Some time in July, B.C. 1491, and six or seven weeks after the giving of the Law; toward the close of Moses' forty days on Mt. Sinai. The place Mt. Sinai and the plain at its foot.

LESSON PLAN

I. A Nation of Idolaters, 1.
They forgot all that God had done for them.

II. An Irresolute Ruler, 2-6.
He allowed the crowd to control him.

III. A Genuine Patriot, 30-32.
He was ready even to die for his people.

IV. A Deserving Punishment, 33-35.
The natural outworking of the people's sin.

LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise, 72 (Ps. Sel.); 22; 516; 533; 539; 90.

EXPOSITION

Connecting Links—The Ten Commandments, though the greatest, were not the only laws which Moses received on the mount. The chapters connecting 20 with 32, are filled with other laws of various kinds. This accounts for the long absence of Moses (ch. 24: 18), under which the people grew more and more impatient, till at length they committed the sin of which this chapter is the record.

I. A Nation of Idolaters, 1.

V. 1. *Unto Aaron.* The people naturally address Aaron as the man next in importance to Moses, and as responsible for the worship. *Up, make us gods.* The people, who have not yet been able to acustom themselves to the idea of a spiritual God, long for some symbol of God's presence. So long as Moses was with them, they felt that

they had all they needed. He was in constant communication with God; and when he was near, it was not hard for them to believe that God was near. But when he was gone, what then? They make their request to Aaron, because they feel their need of a symbol of the divine presence.

II. An Irresolute Ruler, 2-6.

V. 2. *Break off the golden earrings . . . and bring them unto me.* At first we are puzzled that Aaron should so readily agree to their request. He seems to share their belief. Moses then is the only man among all the people who understands the spiritual nature of God. So Aaron calls for the golden earrings of the women and children; few if any men would wear them.

V. 4. *A molten calf;* or rather, bull. It is likely that the inner part was made of wood,