

Exodus 12 : 21-30—Memory Verses, 26, 27.

Golden Text—When I see the blood, I will pass over you.—Exodus 12 : 13.

21 Then Mo'ses called for all the elders of Is'rael, and said unto them, Draw out and take you a lamb according to your families, and kill the passover.

22 And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the bason, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that is in the bason ; and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning.

23 For the LORD will pass through to smite the E'gyptians ; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you.

24 And ye shall observe this thing for an ordinance to thee and to thy sons for ever.

25 And it shall come to pass, when ye be come to the land which the LORD will give you, according as he hath promised, that ye shall keep this service.

26 And it shall come to pass, when your children shall say unto you, What mean ye by this service ?

27 That ye shall say, It is the sacrifice of the LORD's passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Is'rael in E'gypt, when he smote the E'gyptians, and delivered our houses. And the people bowed the head and worshipped.

28 And the children of Is'rael went away, and did as the LORD had commanded Mo'ses and A'aron, so did they.

29 And it came to pass, that at midnight the LORD smote all the firstborn in the land of E'gypt, from the firstborn of Phar'aoth that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of the captive that was in the dungeon ; and all the firstborn of cattle.

30 And Phar'aoth rose up in the night, he, and all his servants, and all the E'gyptians ; and there was a great cry in E'gypt ; for there was not a house where there was not one dead.

THE LESSON RETOLD

When Moses obeyed God's command, and returned to the land of Egypt, he met on the way his brother Aaron, whom God had sent to be with him; and they went back together. The Israelites were very glad when they heard that God was going to deliver them from their enemies. But, when Moses and Aaron asked Pharaoh to let them go, the king was very angry, and would not. Then God first sent nine dreadful plagues, one after the other, upon the Egyptians, to show them that he was stronger than Pharaoh, and was able to make him do whatever He commanded; but still Pharaoh would not let God's people go.

At last God sent the most terrible plague of all. He said to Moses one day, "On a certain night I will come into every house in Egypt, and kill the first-born of every family; only My people of Israel shall not be killed." And God told Moses what they must do to be saved.

So Moses went out and gathered all the chief men of Israel together, and gave them God's message, which was: "Let the head of

each family take a lamb, without any spot on it, and kill it, and eat it with his family. And let him take the blood of the lamb, and sprinkle of it over the door and upon the side posts, to be a sign to the Lord ; for He will pass through the land of Egypt to kill the eldest son of every house, except those which have the blood upon the door. And afterwards you must always keep up this feast once a year; and when you are living in the beautiful land which God has promised to you, and your children ask the meaning of this strange feast, tell them that it is the feast of the Passover which you are keeping, so that you may never forget God's goodness in saving you on the night He passed over the land of Egypt."

So the Israelites did as God commanded. They killed young lambs, and roasted and ate them, standing round the table, dressed ready for a journey, and they felt safe, because they had put the blood of the lamb upon the door.

And at midnight, in every house except those with the blood upon them, the first-