



FEAST OF TABERNACLES.

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WHAT a busy scene we have, men putting up booths, some carrying small boughs to make the top with, as well as ornament the posts; some putting up the poles to hold the roof; some driving in wedges; some giving directions; some walking about looking on; and others inside the booths enjoying themselves. This was called "The Feast of Tabernacles." It was kept fifty days after the Passover, and it was on this day, that when disciples were assembled together to keep it, that the Holy Ghost was sent upon them in flaming tongues of fire, which, we now call Whitsuntide, about fifty days after Easter. It is supposed that on the day which this feast commemorated, God gave the law to Moses, and on this feast of Whitsuntide which we keep, God gave the Gospel to us all.

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN JEWISH HISTORY.

B.C. 1491.] LESSON II. [July 14.
THE GOLDEN CALF.
Exod. 32. 1-8, 30-35. Memory verses, 7, 8.
GOLDEN TEXT.

Little children, keep yourselves from idols.
—1 John 5. 21.

OUTLINE.

1. The Sin of Israel, v. 1-8.
2. The Prayer of Moses, v. 30-35.

TIME.—B.C. 1491, the same year as the last lesson, but a little later.

PLACE.—The plain before Mount Sinai; what is now known as the Wady er Rahah before Ras Sufsafeh.

CONNECTING LINKS.

The chapters between the last lesson and this are nearly filled with special commands which were afterward woven into the great system of Hebraic law, the details of the Tabernacle, and the setting apart of Aaron and his sons for the priestly office. We are told of the terror of the people when they "saw the thunders, and lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking." Chapter 24 tells of a remarkable vision of the God of Israel given to Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel. It is astonishing how close together came the Ten Commandments on stone and the golden calf.

HOME READINGS.

- M. The golden calf.—Exod. 32. 1-8.
Tu. Intercession by Moses.—Exod. 32. 9-14.
W. The calf destroyed.—Exod. 32. 15-24.
Th. Punishment (part of lesson).—Exod. 32. 30-35.
F. Impressive reminder.—Deut. 9. 7-21.
S. Folly of idol worship.—Psalm 106. 16-27.
Su. Trust in a living God.—Psalm 115. 1-13.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. *The Sin of Israel*, v. 1-8.
What sinful demand did the people make? Why did they make this request?

How long was Moses absent?
See Exod. 24. 18.

What did Aaron require the people to do?

What offerings did the people bring?

What did Aaron make from the gold?

What did the people say when they saw the image?

What commandment had been broken?

What preparation for worship was made?

What was the next day to be?

What offerings did the people present?

What then did they do?

What command did Moses receive?

What sin had been committed?

What did Moses do when he saw the camp? Verses 19, 20.

What demand did he make of the people? Verses 26, 27.

2. *The Prayer of Moses*, v. 30-35.

What did Moses say to the people the next day?

What confession did he make to the Lord?

What prayer did he offer?

How did he show his anxiety for the people?

What did the Lord say about the sinners?

What did he bid Moses to do?

What did he promise to do?

What did the Lord do to the people?

What warning have we against like sin? (Golden Text.)

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where in this lesson are we shown

1. The corrupting power of sin?

2. That sin brings punishment?

3. The power of prayer?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Who made a calf idol for the Hebrews to worship? Aaron, the high priest.

2. Did they intend to worship another god? No; they worshipped an image of Jehovah.

3. Is there anything wrong in this? Yes: "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image."

4. What does the Golden Text say? "Little children, keep yourselves from idols."

5. What did Moses do? He prayed that the people might be forgiven.

6. What did God say? "Mine Angel shall go before thee."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The penalty of sin.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

What peculiar provision is made for spiritual fellowship among the Methodists?

They meet together in small companies for fellowship and mutual edification.

Why do the Methodist societies use the term Connexion?

Because many separate societies are connected or united into one.

"I SCRUBS."

"WHAT have my class done for Jesus since last we met?" asked the teacher of a large infant class one Sabbath morning.

One said, "I have earned some money for the heathen by doing errands;" another, "I tend our sick baby;" another, "I fetch hunchback Billy to school, with the boys laughing at me."

One after another told, in a half-bashful, half-exultant way, of the little activities and self-denials of the week.

At last a little four-year-old hand was stretched up, and moved hastily to and fro to attract the teacher's attention.

"Well, my dear what are you doing to please Jesus?"

The little eager face flushed with excitement as the unexpected reply came: "I scrubs, ma'am!"

Some of the other children tittered, but the teacher sobered them at once by saying:

"Yes, little Molly's share in the work my class is doing for Jesus is as important as any. If she tries to help her mother by scrubbing a bench or table, even if it has to be done over after her, she earns the same smile of love as the older ones who can do errands and earn money for the missionary box."

FOR A BOY OF FOURTEEN.

If you can, always play a game in preference to simply going through a lot of mechanical movements. A game exercises your head, rests your mind, and helps you immensely. Whereas, while pulley weights help you, they only help you to about half the extent that a game does. If, finally, you happen to be near a gymnasium, and cannot get any exercise out of doors, then go to the gymnasium.

Now to particularize a little on the special work of boys in special employments. Suppose you are not very strong, and you are so employed during the day that you have to sit down all the time. Of course you need exercise of the kind that will keep your body moving. I should advise you, then, to take ten minutes off just at night-fall. Put on light garments, say a pair of low shoes, a pair of drawers cut off at the knee, and an undershirt; nothing more. Then go out into quiet streets, or into the country roads, and, beginning slowly, run half a mile. Come in at once, run to a bath, and every soul on earth in civilized countries can have a bath if he really wants one. Then rub yourself down hard with a towel and dress yourself.

I say half a mile. Do that first. Soon you will be able to do five miles if you have time, but a good half-mile run each night of your life will save many a pain and ache, many a dollar in doctors' bills, and many a bad fit of the "blues."

Don't be afraid of going out in such clothes—unless you're afraid of the policeman, for I have seen many a sickly boy run in just such clothes on cold midwinter nights, with six inches of snow on the ground and a bad snowstorm raging. You can see the steam come out of your body when you come in. If you sat down outdoors five minutes you might take cold; but you will not do that; you will run all the time you are out, and as soon as you have had a bath and are dressed you are less likely to take cold than you were before you went out to exercise.—*Harper's Young People*.

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When we learn to prize them;
Not for their sake, but for his
Who grants them, or denies them.

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