

INTERNATIONAL S. S. LESSONS.**June 23. Luke xlv: 44-53.**

"An open mind, an eager intellect" are steps on the stairs that lead to the Temple of Wisdom. The Christ must open the mind (nous) of the disciple before he can understand, and since as the lightning shining from the east even unto the west is His presence, so the bigot and the dogmatist must widen his narrow portals and ever be ready for the King of Glory to enter in. Repentance and the sending away of sin is the message to the nations and those who are witnesses to it, martyrs, mayhap, have the promise of the Father sent forth upon them. Yet must they wait until they can "go in" the power from on high, the power with which we must all be endued, I. Cor. xv: 43. The narrative of the Master's parting from his disciples is very simple. Mark does not give it. The ancient manuscripts generally omit the passage "was carried up into heaven." He simply parted from them. He went elsewhere on the mission of the Great Lodge.

June 30. Review.

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith. Heb. xii: 2. This Golden Text, severed from its context, is apt to give an impression which the passage does not convey. The teaching of salvation irrespective of self-effort is not here justified. We have to run the race set before us by the Captain or chief leader of our faith, and faith is only that which impels us to effort. We "look away" to Him, the perfect man, whose leadership constitutes Him the perfecter or finisher of our faith. But the race must be undertaken; to faith add strength, to strength science (gnosis); to that self-control; to that endurance; to that piety; to that love of brotherhood; to that Love itself. Then comes the epignosis, the super-science, the over-knowledge of the Christ. II Peter i: 5-8.

July 7. Exodus xx: 1-17.

The Decalogue is often spoken of as the very foundation and primary revelation of all morality and ethical practice. A moment's consideration will convince one that it can only be regarded as the codification of principles, already recognized elsewhere, for the benefit of the Jewish nation whose low state of development

required the somewhat crude statement of moral requirements thus brought to their attention. People recognized these laws before Sinai. The Egyptians had penalties for theft as Genesis xlv indicates. Joseph was not guided by a table of stone in his dealings with Potiphar's wife. Murder and false witness were already condemned. The code of the Egyptians thousands of years before this was full and elevating; also that of various eastern religions in India, Persia, etc. If we accept the history of the Israelites as an allegory of the soul's pilgrimage we see the accuracy of the idea which conceives of the soul's recognition of the moral law when it first attempts to escape from the Land of Egypt, the plane of darkness and materiality. The division into four divine and six human commands is abandoned by the Roman church for the more mystical division of three and seven. The trinity or triad of the higher planes is thus placed in contrast with the seven of the manifested cosmos.

July 14. Exodus xxxii: 1-8, 30-35.

The calf which Aaron set up was undoubtedly the image of Taurus, the Assyrian bull, the Egyptian Osiris symbol which the Hebrews were familiar with, the ox of the Evangelist. The desire for visible representation of the unknown is the most striking feature of all exoteric religion, and, accepting the narrative literally, the Lord Jehovah makes the concession to this feeling of commanding the erection of a similar image, Numbers xxi, the worship of which was continued down to the days of Hezekiah, II Kings xviii: 4. Moses' desire to be a vicarious substitute for the people is notable, but no such sacrifice was permitted, and he himself bore the penalty of his own act afterward as though in illustration of the principle.

FOR THE OCCULTISTS.

The best advice I ever found was: 1st, Use your predominant gifts to the best advantage. 2nd, Do not impede your fellow in so using his. 3rd, Follow the methods of Nature: find a current or a nucleus, and work in it, no matter whether it seems perfect to you or not. Leave results to the Law. But if no nucleus is found, become yourself a centre. The Divine will enter and work through you. -- "Tea-table Talk," *The Path*.