

## THE LESSON GRADED

This section embraces teaching material for the various grades in the School.

**For Teachers of Bible Classes**

To get the value of this Lesson it is necessary to study the intervening sections of Israel's history. Bring out the special features which were important factors in the development of their nationhood, as: (1) The battle of Rephidim (ch. 17:8-16), in which two factors became prominent: first, the value of military organization, second, the determining power of inspiration from God. (2) Civil and political organization of a very definite character, ch. 18. This prepares for the Lesson. On account of the importance of Mount Sinai take some time with the geography. Picture the wild, granite mountains, the broad, open plain. Guide discussion along the following lines:

1. *The necessity of man's response to God's purpose*, vs. 3-8. Dwell on: (a) The purpose of God. Discuss v. 5. Bring out the force of "I bare you on eagles' wings" (see Deut. 32:11). Illustrate from the recent history of Israel—the plagues in Egypt, the passage of the Red Sea, etc. Bring out the two demands in v. 5. Discuss the bearing of obedience to God's law upon the training of children, the training of the citizen and the training of the Christian, and urge the importance of keeping God's law, as the basis of true greatness. (b) The promise of permanence and privilege. Emphasize the meaning of "a kingdom of priests," a nation to bring other nations to God and teach them His will. Discuss holiness as a necessary qualification for the priesthood. (c) The people's acceptance of the covenant.

2. *The necessity of preparation for meeting God*, vs. 9-15. Bring out such features in this preparation as: (a) sanctification of life, symbolized by cleansing of person and apparel. Dwell upon the need of clean hands and a pure heart. (b) Separation from the mount where God was,—the demand for becoming reverence. Dwell upon the sacredness of truth and the penalty for transgressing it. Carelessness, neglect, irreverence, are all deadly foes of religion and morals.

3. *Manifestations of God's presence*, vs. 16-21. Bring out the following points: (a) that man, because of his sin, could not look upon the presence of God and live; (b) the tokens of God's presence filled the onlookers with awe; (c) the personality of God and His direct communication with Moses.

Dwell in closing upon Jesus as the perfect revelation of God and the duty of reverence and obeying Him.

**For Teachers of the Senior Scholars**

Question the class about the interesting incidents in the wilderness journey during the march to Sinai,—the first memorable battle (ch. 17:8-16), the friendly visit of Jethro, and his good advice, ch. 18. Discuss:

1. *Camping Before the Mount*, vs. 1, 2. Picture the scene,—a place of complete solitude where the people were alone with God. A man who spent a summer in a valley amongst the mountains of our Canadian west said that he did not know how any one could live under the influence of those mighty mountain peaks without being drawn nearer to God.

2. *Receiving Messages from God*, vs. 3-6. Emphasize the fact that God first reminds Israel of what He had done for them,—how good He had been to them in delivering them from the Egyptians, and in bringing them safely on their journey so far. Bring out the meaning of the beautiful figure of the eagles' wings, of God's strength and tenderness in dealing with Israel. (See Deut. 32:11.) Dwell upon God's promises for the future and the condition attached (vs. 5, 6), and make very clear that this is a promise which God makes to us, and that the conditions have not changed in all the ages.

3. *Meeting with God*, vs. 16-21. How many days did it take the people to prepare for this meeting? How much time do we give to the matter of preparing to meet with God in His house, or at His table? What a breathless hush of expectation there must have been on the morning of the third day when they knew that they were to meet with God. How did God manifest Himself that