

Lesson I.

THE BOYHOOD OF JESUS

January 3, 1904

Luke 2: 40-52. Commit vs. 49-51. Read Luke 1; Matt. 1: 18-25; Luke 2: 1-38; Matt. 2.

GOLDEN TEXT—And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.—Luke 2: 52.

40 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon him.

41 Now his parents went to Jeru'salem every year at the feast of the passover.

42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jeru'salem after the custom of the feast.

43 And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Je'sus tarried behind in Jeru'salem; and Jo'seph and his mother knew not of it.

44 But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance.

45 And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jeru'salem, seeking him.

46 And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the

doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.

47 And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

48 And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.

49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

50 And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.

51 And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

52 And Je'sus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

Revised Version—Omit in spirit; 2 And; 3 Omit to Jerusalem; 4 were returning; 5 and His parents knew it not; 6 for; 7 returned to Jerusalem; 8 for; 9 Omit that; 10 amazed; 11 his; 12 astonished; 13 Omit have; 14 in My Father's house; 15 he; 16 and; 17 advanced; 18 men.

DAILY READINGS

M.—The boyhood of Jesus, Luke 2: 40-52. T.—The Passover Feast, Deut. 16: 1-8. W.—A youthful seeker, 2 Chron. 34: 1-7. Th.—The principal thing, Prov. 4: 1-9. F.—Excellency of wisdom, Prov. 8: 1-17. S.—Wisdom from God, Prov. 2: 1-9. S.—Herod's cruelty, Matt. 2: 18-23.

Catechism—Ques. 1. What is the chief end of man?

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

LESSON PLAN

- I. The Child Jesus, 40.
- II. Jesus at the Feast, 41-45.
- III. Jesus in the Temple, 46-50.
- IV. Jesus and His Parents, 51, 52.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 521; 389; 57 (Ps. Sel.); 584; 519 (from Primary Quarterly); 477.

EXPOSITION

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Time and Place—March-April, 8 A.D., the birth of Jesus having taken place, it is generally reckoned, in December of 5 B.C.; Jerusalem, the capital of Judæa, and Nazareth, a town of Galilee.

Connecting Links—The Lessons for the present half-year are taken from the first three gospels, called the "synoptic" gospels (from a Greek word which means "seeing together"), because they have so much material in common. Matthew and Luke give accounts of the infancy of Jesus, who was sprung of the purest stock of Israel, His mother a woman of the sweetest piety Luke 1: 38, 46-55. His kinsfolk were of the faithful remnant of the people, and though of the royal line of David, dwelt in the quiet of a little village, and were in humble circumstances.

I. The Child Jesus, 40.

V. 40. *The child grew.* He was the Son of God, conceived by the Holy Spirit (ch. 1: 35), but Luke shows that He grew in a perfectly natural way. *Waxed* (grew) *strong* (Rev. Ver. omits "in spirit"); the knitting of the

physical frame. Jesus was a strong, sturdy, active boy, full of life and energy. *Filled with*; "becoming full of," growing in mind as well as in body. In His fifth or sixth year Jesus would begin to attend the school connected with the village synagogue, taught by a scribe, with the Bible as the chief lesson-book. At home, too, He would be carefully instructed in Bible knowledge, Deut. 6: 6, 7. *Wisdom.* As His mental powers grew, Jesus displayed marvellous insight into the things of God, and also into the minds of men and human affairs, John 2: 25. *Grace*; the favor and help of God, which kept Him from evil and produced in Him every beauty of character.

II. Jesus at the Feast, 41-45.

Vs. 41, 42. *To Jerusalem*; a distance of seventy miles from Nazareth. *Every year.* According to Ex. 23: 14-17; Deut. 16: 16, every male Israelite was required to attend the three great feasts, Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles. Women were not required, but only recommended, to go and their presence was regarded as a mark of special