

LESSON I—July 7th, 1895.

The Ten Commandments. EXODUS 20: 1-17.

(Commit to memory verses 3-17).

GOLDEN TEXT: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself." Luke 10: 27.

PROVE THAT—"Willing obedience will be rewarded." Isa. 1: 10.

SHORTER CATECHISM: Quest. 27. *Wherein did Christ's humiliation consist?* A. Christ's humiliation consisted in his being born, and that in a low condition made under the law, undergoing the miseries of this life, the wrath of God, and the cursed death of the cross; in being buried, and continuing under the power of death for a time.

LESSON HYMNS: *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 16, 72, 74, 116.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* The Ten Commandments. Ex. 20: 1-7. *Tuesday.* The Ten Commandments. Ex. 20: 8-17. *Wednesday.* The commandments written. Deut. 27: 1-10. *Thursday.* God's law perfect. Ps. 19: 7-14. *Friday.* Delight in the law. Ps. 119: 1-16. *Saturday.* Christ's summary. Mark 12: 28-34. *Sabbath.* Love proved by obedience. 1 John 2: 1-11. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. The scene of the giving of the Ten Commandments was the mountains at the southern extremity of the peninsula of Sinai. The peak of *Jebel Musa*, or "The Mountain of Moses," towers 2900 feet above a level plain shut in by precipitous crags. Such majestic scenery accorded well with the solemn occasion. The Ten Commandments are repeated in Deut. 5: 6-21.

LESSON PLAN. I. The Preface. vs. 1, 2. II. Duties Godward. vs. 3-11. III. Duties Manward. vs. 12-17.

1. **God spake**—The words were heard (Deut. 5: 4, 22; Heb. 12: 26). These words—They are called the "Ten Words" or "Commandments" in Ex. 34: 28 and Deut. 4: 13. *Decalogue* in Latin for "ten words."

2. **Which brought thee out**—He claims our love and obedience for a similar reason. See 1 Pet. 1: 18, 19.

3. **Before me**—He is to have supreme affection and service. Worshipping false gods is forbidden.

4. **Any graven image**—This forbids making any symbol, or representation of God as an "aid to worship." For instances of its violation see Exod. 32: 4; 1 Kings 12: 28; Judg. 17: 3, 13. Compare Acts 17: 24, 25; Rom. 1: 25.

5. **Visiting the iniquity**—Wicked parents are likely to have children who imitate them. But God punishes no one for the sins that he repents of and forsakes (Ezek. 18: 4-20. Compare Matt. 23: 32, 35).

6. **Unto thousands**—R. V. marg. "A thousand generations." The children of pious parents have many very precious promises (Ps. 102: 28; 112: 2; Prov. 11: 21; 12: 7; 13: 22; Isa. 44: 3-5; 65: 23; Acts 2: 39; 1 Cor. 7: 14).

7. **In vain**—God's name is not to be spoken lightly or thoughtlessly. This prohibits perjury, profanity, silly exclamations, (Matt. 5: 34-37), and irreverent treatment of sacred things.

8-11. **The Sabbath day**—"The day of rest." Disregard of the Sabbath day is often the first step in a career of wickedness (Lam. 1: 7; Ezek. 23: 38). Special promises are connected with keeping the Sabbath (Isa. 56: 2, 6, 7; 58: 13, 14; Jer. 17: 24, 25). Jesus kept the Sabbath (Mark 6: 2; Luke 4: 16, 31; 6: 6, 13; 10) and spent the day in preaching and healing. So we should occupy the time in religious duties and deeds of love.

12. **Honor thy father and thy mother**—The principle of this commandment extends to all who have any claim upon our respect and deference through relationship, age, social rank, or office (Jer. 35: 18, 19; Eph. 6: 2; Lev. 19: 32; Prov. 6: 20; 23: 22; Col. 3: 20).

13. **Kill**—Hatred is murder in the heart (Matt. 5: 21, 22; 1 John 3: 15).

14. **Adultery**—All kinds of impurity and immorality are forbidden, even in thought (Matt. 5: 27, 28).

15. **Steal**—Every kind of dishonesty is stealing no matter by what polite term it may be called.

16. **False witness**—Never speak evil of anyone, what you have heard may not be true (Ex. 23: 1; Eph. 4: 25).

17. **Covet**—This commandment covers all the rest. To desire to do what is wrong, or to have what belongs to another is the beginning and fountain of all wickedness (Prov. 4: 23; Mark 7: 21, 22; Jas. 1: 14, 15).

LESSONS. 1. God has redeemed us from the bondage of sin. 2. It will be easy to keep his commandments if we love him. 3. If we really love God, we will love our fellowmen too. 4. If we love others we will never willingly do them wrong. 5. We should watch our hearts, for in them a commandment is first broken.