

# Notes on the Lessons.

## LESSON V ← February 3rd.

### The Transfiguration. LUKE 9: 28-36.

(Commit to memory verses 29-31.)

#### GOLDEN TEXT.

"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him."  
Matt. 17: 5.

#### PROVE THAT

We also may be transfigured. 2 Cor. 3: 18.

#### SHORTER CATECHISM.

Quest. 7. *What are the decrees of God?* A. The decrees of God are his eternal purpose, according to the counsel of his will, whereby, for his own glory, he hath foreordained whatsoever comes to pass.

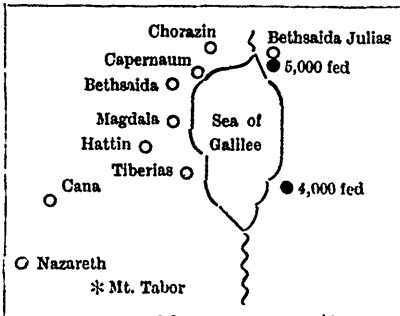
#### LESSON HYMNS.

CHILDREN'S HYMNAL, Nos. 59, 62, 69, 192.

**DAILY PORTIONS.** *Monday.* The Transfiguration; Luke 9: 28-36. *Tuesday.* The Voice from Heaven; Matt. 3: 13-17. *Wednesday.* Witness of the Father; John 5: 31-39. *Thursday.* The Glorified Name; John 12: 23-33. *Friday.* Glory of the Lord; 2 Cor. 3: 7-18. *Saturday.* The Glorified Saviour; Rev. 1: 9-18. *Sabbath.* Peter's Testimony; 2 Pet. 1: 16-21. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

### NOTES AND EXPLANATIONS.

**INTRODUCTORY.** The events of our lesson occurred just one week after the discourse with



the disciples concerning the crucifixion. Matthew and Mark say six days after; Luke calls it eight days, evidently including the first and last in his reckoning. The traditional Mount of Transfiguration is Tabor. But the summit of Tabor was then occupied by a fortified town and would not have afforded the solitude implied in the expression "high mountain apart" *i. e.* "by themselves" (Matt. 17: 1), and by Peter's bewildered proposal to build there three tabernacles. Besides, Mark 9: 30 implies that they did not return to Galilee until after the Transfiguration. The tradition referred to cannot be traced back to less than 400 years after Christ. The common opinion now is that the mountain mentioned in the

lesson was one of the southern spurs of Hermon near Caesarea Philippi. Parallel passages, Matt. 17: 1-3; Mark 9: 2-13.

**LESSON PLAN.** I. Heavenly Companions. vs. 28-31. II. Earthly Disciples. vs. 32, 33. III. The Father's Approval. vs. 34-36.

**I. HEAVENLY COMPANIONS.** 28. About eight days—Matthew and Mark say "after six days," not counting the first and last. There were six full days between. These sayings—The confession of Peter, and the announcement of his own sufferings and death. Peter and John and James—These three were specially favored on other occasions (Mark 5: 37; 14: 33). They were "the flower and crown of the apostolic band; Peter, who loved him so much, John, whom he loved so much, and James, who should first attest that death could as little as life separate him from his love." (Trench.) "It is noteworthy that these three are the foremost afterwards in sin-

cere, though frail, devotion; one offering to die with him, and the others desiring to drink of his cup, and to be baptized with his baptism." (Chadwick.) Probably they understood Jesus better than the others and he found more comfort in their sympathy. They were also needed as witnesses of the Transfiguration. The other nine remained at the foot of the mountain (Mark 9: 14-29). The mountain (R. V.)—The tradition which points to Tabor as the scene of the Transfiguration is of very early date, and is difficult to account for if erroneous. It is proved that Tabor was inhabited and fortified from time immemorial (Josh. 19: 12), and also 200 years before Christ