

First Quarter : The Patriarchs and Early Leaders of Israel

LESSON FOREWORD—From Rephidim, the Israelites passed to Sinai. There Moses met with God. God told Moses that Israel was his peculiar treasure. His presence was made manifest to the people by thunders and lightning and thick cloud. There God gave the Ten Commandments.

Lesson VII.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

February 16, 1919

THE LESSON PASSAGE—Exodus 20 : 1-17.

- 1 And God spake all these words, saying,
- 2 I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.
- 3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
- 4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth :
- 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them : for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me ;
- 6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.
- 7 Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain ; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.
- 8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- 9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work :
- 10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord

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 neighbour as thyself.—Luke 10 : 27.

SENIOR AND HOME DEPARTMENT TOPIC—The Commandments in Modern Life. **ADDITIONAL MATERIAL**.—Deut. 5 : 1-22.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED



MOSES : By Michelangelo
The horns in the forehead are the emblems of power

thy God : in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates :

11 For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day : wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

12 Honour thy father and thy mother : that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

13 Thou shalt not kill.

14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

15 Thou shalt not steal.

16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

I. OUR DUTIES TO GOD.—I-II. *God spake.* The commandments are of divine origin. *Thy God . . . out of Egypt.* God is deliverer before he is lawgiver. Israel's obedience is a debt of love and gratitude not an exaction of tyranny. *No other gods before me ;* in front of me. One great truth that Israel is to give to the world is the oneness of the Godhead. *Not make any graven image ;* a likeness fashioned out of wood or metal. *Or any likeness of any thing.* The heathen made likenesses of birds, fishes, animals. *Bow down nor serve ;* neither worship nor offer sacrifice. True worship is spiritual, not material. Idol worship is forbidden to-day. Men worship power, money, glory, which are all material. *A jealous God.* There is a jealousy of love as well as a selfish jealousy. Love is jealous on behalf of, selfishness is jealous against, its objects. God saves from idolatry because of what it means not to him, but to his people. *Iniquity . . . fourth generation.* Sin has long consequences—one great reason why we should avoid it. It involves our children. *Mercy unto thousands ;* thousands of generations. The reach of God's mercy is greater than the reach of sin. *Name of . . . God in vain ;* not to be used