

Golden Text—As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up : that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.—John 3 : 14, 15.



1 And *when* king Ar'ad the Ca'naanite, which dwelt in the south, heard tell that Is'rael came by the way of the spies ; then he fought against Is'rael, and took *some* of them prisoners.

2 And Is'rael vowed a vow unto the LORD, and said, If thou wilt indeed deliver this people into my hand, then I will utterly destroy their cities.

3 And the LORD hearkened to the voice of Is'rael, and delivered up the Ca'naanites ; and they utterly destroyed them and their cities : and he called the name of the place Hor'mah.

4 And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of E'dom : and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way.

5 And the people spake against God, and against Mo'ses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of E'gypt to die in the wilderness ? for *there is no bread, neither is there any water ;* and our soul loatheth this light bread.

6 And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people ; and much people of Is'rael died.

7 Therefore the people came to Mo'ses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee ; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Mo'ses prayed for the people.

8 And the LORD said unto Mo'ses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole : and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.

9 And Mo'ses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Now it happened that, as the Israelites remained near the borders of Canaan, a king of a region called Arad heard that they were coming into his country, and he came and fought against them and took some of them prisoners.

Then the Israelites saw that they could do nothing if God did not help them, and in their trouble they cried to Him and said, that if He would go with them, they could destroy all the cities of this heathen king. And God heard their prayers, and gave up the army of the king of Arad into their hands, and the Israelites destroyed all his cities and then went on their journey.

There was a country called Edom lying between them and Canaan, but the king of Edom had refused to allow so great a company to pass through his land, so they had

to travel all the way round it instead of through it.

But the Israelites became so tired of their weary traveling, that they became discouraged, and complained against God and against Moses, saying, "There is no bread here for us, nor water, and we hate this manna !" And God was very angry because the Israelites were so ungrateful, and sent serpents into the camp, whose bite burned like fire. Many of the Israelites were bitten by them, and whoever was bitten soon died.

Then the Israelites came to Moses, saying, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against God and against thee. But now, we are sorry. Pray to the Lord to take away these fiery serpents from us." And when Moses prayed for the people, God heard him, and said, "Take some brass, and make an image of a