

First Quarter : The Patriarchs and Early Leaders of Israel

LESSON FOREWORD—Clothed with authority and power, Moses confronts Pharaoh. "Let my people go," says Moses. But the tyrant only increases his tyranny. Plague after plague falls on the Egyptians and now just before the last delivering blow,—the slaying of the firstborn—God institutes the Passover as a perpetual institution to commemorate this deliverance.

Lesson III.

THE PASSOVER

January 19, 1919

THE LESSON PASSAGE—Exodus 12 : 1-14.

1 And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying,

2 This month shall be unto you the beginning of months : it shall be the first month of the year to you.

3 Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house :

4 And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls ; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb.

5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year : ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats :

6 And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month : and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

7 And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.

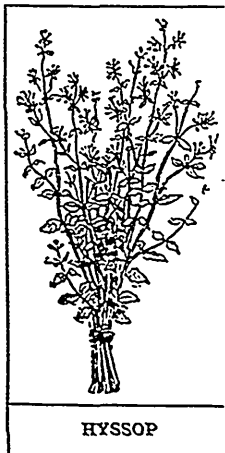
8 And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast

GOLDEN TEXT—Our passover also hath been sacrificed, even Christ.—1 Corinthians 5 : 7 (Rev. Ver.).

SENIOR AND HOME DEPARTMENT TOPIC—Value of Religious Festivals.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. PREPARATION FOR THE FEAST.—1. *Moses and Aaron*; Aaron, elder brother of Moses, and appointed by God to be a "mouth" for Moses. *Land of Egypt*; emphasizing that the feast dates back to the Egyptian bondage. Notice, also, that the feast was ordained when Israel was, as it were, to "go over the paragon" and leave Egypt. *This month*; Abib or Nisan, almost our April. *The beginning of months*.



HYSSOP

The new year would be associated with a great national deliverance.

with fire, and unleavened bread ; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.

9 Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire ; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof.

10 And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning ; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire.

11 And thus shall ye eat it ; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand ; and ye shall eat it in haste : it is the Lord's passover.

12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast ; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment : I am the Lord.

13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are : and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

14 And this day shall be unto you for a memorial ; and ye shall keep it a feast to the Lord throughout your generations ; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever.

Religious festivals should engrave the memory rather than impress the senses.

3-7. *Congregation* ; assembly. *Tenth day*. The tenth day seems to have been a specially significant day. *House of their fathers* ; meaning family. *If too little* ; waste to be avoided. Religion insists on gathering up the fragments. *Every man according to his eating*. The division was to be methodical and proportionate. Religion believes in method. *Without blemish* ; another note of true religion. It believes in the best,—unblemished lamb, beaten oil. *Keep it up* ; have it on hand. *In the evening*. The Hebrew words point to some time about sunset. *Take the blood . . . sprinkle* ; a most important part of the feast. *Lintel* (Rev. Ver.) ; cross-beam of the door.

II. OBSERVANCE OF THE FEAST.—8-11. *Roast with fire* ; not baked in the oven. *Unleavened bread* ; really biscuit. Leaven, in all offerings made to the Lord by fire, was strictly forbidden. Leaven was often used as a symbol of evil.