

THE GOLDEN CALF—TEMPERANCE

LESSON

September 21, 1913

Exodus 32 : 15-20, 30-35. Study Exodus, ch. 32—Memory Verses, 19, 20.

Golden Text—My little children, guard yourselves from idols.— 1 John 5: 21.

15 And Mo'ses turned, and went down from the mount, and the two tables of the testimony *were* in his hand : the tables *were* written on both their sides ; on the one side and on the other *were* they written.

16 And the tables *were* the work of God, and the writing *was* the writing of God, graven upon the tables.

17 And when Josh'ua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said unto Mo'ses, *There is a noise of war in the camp.*

18 And he said, *It is not the voice of them that shout for mastery, neither is it the voice of them that cry for being overcome : but the noise of them that sing do I hear.*

19 And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing : and Mo'ses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount.

20 And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder, and strawed it upon the water, and made the children of Is'rael drink of it.

30 And it came to pass on the morrow, that Mo'ses said unto the people, Ye have sinned

a great sin : and now I will go up unto the Lord ; peradventure I shall make an atonement for your sin.

31 And Mo'ses returned unto the Lord, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold.

32 Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin— ; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.

33 And the Lord said unto Mo'ses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.

34 Therefore go now, lead the people unto *the place* of which I have spoken unto thee : behold, mine Angel shall go before thee : nevertheless in the day when I visit I will visit their sin upon them.

35 And the Lord plagued the people, because they made the calf, which Aa'ron made.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Again God called to Moses to come to Him up on the mountain, that He might give him two tables of stone with the Ten Commandments written upon them. So Moses went up again behind the darkness of the cloud, and he was there on the mountain with God for forty days and forty nights.

Besides the Ten Commandments, God gave Moses many other laws and rules by which His people must live if they would be His true children. He gave him also a command to make for Him a church or tabernacle there in the wilderness, that could be carried with them wherever they went and set up when they set up their tents.

Now all this time the Israelites were in their camp at the foot of the mountain, and they grew impatient when Moses remained away so long. They came to Aaron and said, "We do not know what has become of this man Moses who brought us away from Egypt. Let us make gods for ourselves which shall lead us." So Aaron, who was afraid of their anger, said, to quiet them, "Bring me the golden earrings and ornaments which your wives and daughters are wearing." When they had been brought, Aaron melted them together and made an idol in the shape of a calf. They all cried out that this calf was the god that had