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**AT THE CHURCHES**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL.**

Lesson X.—Third Quarter, For Sept. 7, 1913.

**THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES.**

Text of the Lesson, Ex. xx, 1-11. Memory verses, 1-11—Golden Text, Luke x, 27—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

"And God spake all these words." Sometimes when those whom we call heathen hear of the true God who made heaven and earth, and that He is a God of Love and sent His Son to die for sinners, and that there is a book which tells what He said and did, they spare neither time nor money that they may possess such a book. In contrast to this, how little do many in so called Christian lands appreciate the word of God or give any heed to such words as these: "The mighty God, even the Lord hath spoken." "Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth, for the Lord hath spoken." "Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak, and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth." "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son" (Heb. 1: 1; Isa. 1: 2; Deut. xxxii. 1; Heb. 1: 1).

Repeating these words of the Ten Commandments in Deut. v, Moses said concerning them: "These words the Lord spake unto all your assembly in the mount out of the midst of the fire, of the cloud and of the thick darkness with a great voice, and He added no more. And He wrote them in two tables of stone and delivered them unto me" (Deut. v, 22). "The tables were written on both their sides, . . . and the writing was the work of God, and the tables were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, graven upon the tables." "Tables of stone written with the finger of God" (Ex. xxxii. 15, 16; xxxi. 18). See also Deut. ix, 10; x, 4. There never were tables like these nor writing like this, and as He spoke to and wrote for Hebrew people it must have been in the Hebrew language, the only language of which we have any record as being spoken from heaven to man (Acts xxvi. 14). He gave as a reason for the ten words who He is and what He had done, "I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."

Note two of the many repetitions of this great saying and His great longing that they would give heed to Him that He might do all that was in His heart for them (Deut. v, 6, 29; Ps. lxxxii. 10-16). Note in the ten words the fourfold repetition of "the Lord thy God" (verses 5, 7, 10, 12). They suggest at least this—Jehovah, thy Redeemer, who is also thy Creator. We have for our meditation in this lesson the first four of the ten words or commandments, and they are summarized by our Lord in these words in His reply to the lawyer: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" (Matt. xxii. 37).

We all need to confess, "O Lord our God, other lords beside Thee have had dominion over us" (Isa. xlv. 13). The rich young ruler who thought that he had kept all the commandments from his youth up was proved guilty of breaking the first one when he preferred his great possessions to eternal life (Matt. xix. 21, 22). It is not necessary to bow down to the work of men's hands to break the first of the commandments, for if anything, however lawful it may be, occupies our hearts more than our Creator Redeemer we are guilty, and breaking one breaks all, according to Jas. ii, 10. The worship of sun, moon or stars or the likeness of anything in heaven or earth is forbidden by the second command. See the matter more fully stated in Deut. iv, 15-19.

This command, like the others, may be broken by our thoughts, for God sees the pictures we hang up and bow down to in the chambers of our imagery (Ezek. viii. 12), and He desires for our good that He should be supreme even in the imagination of our thoughts, all being brought into captivity to the obedience of Christ (1 Cor. x, 5). He is called a jealous God just seven times (Ex. xx. 5; xxxiv. 14; Deut. iv. 24; v. 9; vi. 15; Josh. xxiv. 19; Nah. i, 2), and some light is given upon it by Isa. xlii. 8, "I am Jehovah—that is My name—and My glory will I not give to another, neither My praise to graven images." He desires us all for Himself that He may fully reveal Himself to us and through us. As to not taking His name in vain, the positive form is, "Hallowed be Thy name," and all that tends to exalt our name instead of His or that says by word or act, "Let us make us a name" (Gen. xi, 4), breaks this com-

mand.

The fourth command concerns the Sabbath day and takes us back to Gen. ii, 1-3, and onward to the rest of the kingdom, when the Lord alone shall be exalted and His name great among all nations, from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same (Isa. ii, 11, 17; Mal. i, 11, 14, l. c.). Until that time He has set apart one day in seven as a special opportunity for Him to reveal Himself to us that we may become increasingly occupied with Him and filled with His fullness of peace and joy.

The great adversary is always at work seeking to pervert Scripture and bring into bondage and has led many to believe that to honor the first day of the week, on which our Lord rose from the dead, is all wrong. The reply to all such is found in Col. 3, 16, 17.

**Church Locals and Notices**

The Hamilton G. A. R. quartette, who pleased so many at Chautauqua this year, will be at the Methodist church Sunday evening, and will have charge of the service.

This quartette is very popular among the churches of Portland; we promise you a treat Sunday evening. Special invitation to old soldiers.

(For all churches who hold regular services in this city. The proper authorities are requested to send in their announcement early each week.)

**SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST:** Third Street. Regular services of Sabbath Day, 10:30 a. m. Sabbath School; 11:30 a. m. church services. Missionary meeting Sunday evening 8 p. m. Prayer meeting Wednesday evening 8 p. m. A cordial invitation extended to all.

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL:** Rev. D. T. Thomas, pastor. Bible School 9:45 a. m., Morning Worship 11 a. m., Junior C. E. 3 p. m., Intermediate C. E. and Y. P. S. C. E. 7 p. m., Evening Service, 8 p. m. Thursday mid-wk prayer meeting. Visitors are heartily welcome.

**FIRST METHODIST:** Hiram Gould pastor. Sunday School 9:45 a. m., Mr. Schramel, Superintendent; Preaching Services 11 a. m., Epworth League 7 p. m., Evening Preaching Service 8 p. m., Prayer Meeting Thursday evening. All are cordially invited to these services.

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH:** First and Third street, J. B. Holmes, pastor. Sunday School 10 a. m., J. A. Parker superintendent. Communion and preaching at 11 a. m.; Christian Endeavor 7 p. m., Kennard Dixon, president; evening sermon at 8 p. m. Week day services: Officers and teachers' meeting on Tuesday evening 8 p. m.; chorus drill, Mr. George Jackson, leader, each Wednesday evening; prayer service each Thursday evening; the ladies of the church meet each Wednesday afternoon at 2:30; the C. W. B. M. meets the first Tuesday afternoon of each month; the board of officers meet on the first Monday evening of each month. A cordial invitation is extended to all to share in these services.

**ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH:** Rev. J. R. Buck, pastor. Services: Forest Grove: Mass on the first and fourth Sundays of the month at 8:30 a. m.; Mass on the second and third Sundays of the month at 10:30 a. m.; every week day at 8 a. m. Benediction with sermon every Sunday 7:30 p. m. Cornelius: Mass on the first Sunday of the month at 10:30 a. m.; Mass on the second and third Sundays of the month at 8 a. m. Gaston: Mass on the fourth Sunday of the month at 10:30 a. m. (Note: A fifth Sunday in a month occurring, the time and place for the masses will be announced.) Catechism: In Forest Grove on Friday at 3 p. m.; in Cornelius on Saturday at 4 p. m. Confession: Saturday at 4 and 7 p. m. Altar Society: A general meeting of the society will be held on the first Wednesday of January April, July and October. Sermons are always in English at both masses on every Sunday. Ev ryone, regardless of creed, is cordially invited to all services.

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