Sabbath School

LESSONS BIBLE

Lesson. 4-July 24. Exod. 4: 27-31; 5: 1-4. MOSES AND AARON.

GOLDEN TEXT.

He sent Moses his servant; and Aaron whom he had chosen. -Psa. 105: 26. TOPIC.—Deliverance Demanded.

DAILY READINGS .- Monday, Exod. 4: 7.31; 5: 1-4. Tuesday, Gen. 28. 10-16. Wednesday, Acts 11: 5-11. Thursday, Luke 3: 7-18. Friday, Matt. 5: 13-20. Saturday, Acts 4: 8-18. Sunday, Acts 10:

NOTES BY PROFESSOR W. HENRY GREEN, D.D.

There is here recorded (Exod. 27.28) the meeting of Moses and Aaron, and their delivery of their message, first (vs. 21-31) to the people, who believe; next (5: 1-4) to

Pharaoh, who refuses to comply. Chapter 4: 27.—God's word to Moses finds a series of confirmations in the experiences that follow, which are intended, no doubt, to strengthen his faith, as in the case of Samuel's word to Saul (1 Sam. 10: 2-9.) The first of these is his meeting with his older brother Aaron (v. 14) who was appointed to be his spokesman, when Moses complained that he was himself "slow of speech;" that is, he lacked fluency or readiness of discourse, which Aaron possessed. Aaron, by divine suggestion, goes to meet Moses, who was on his way from the residence of Jethro to Egypt. He is simply bidden to go into the wilderness. In all likelihood, he knew where Moses had been living, and consequently knew the proper route to take, for there is no reason to suppose that Moses had held no communication with his friends through all these forty years. Or the direction may have been more specific than is here recorded. To meet. The Hebrew word is in usage little more than a preposition towards, and is quite different from that rendered met. which denotes the actual coming together. The journey, to which Aaron was divinely led, was so timed that affectionate embrace of these noble brothers betokens the union and harmony in which they were henceforth inseparably joined both in Egpyt and in the wilderness.

Vs. 28.—The Lord summoned Aa ron to meet Moses; but Moses was now the appointed organ of divine communication through whom God's revelations were to be made. Accordingly, the Lord did not himselfodeclare to Aaron his purpose on behalf of Israel, but left him to learn it from the mouth of Moses. So Cornelius. when visited by the angel, was direct. ed to Peter, for all needed instruction (Acts 10: 3-6). Thus God honors his own instituted means and agencies of grace. The words of the Lord: All that God had spoken to him at the burning bush, particularly his promise to deliver Israel, and the directions given respecting the method of procedure (chap. 3) Signs: called wonders (v. 21), and the two words are often joined together as descriptive of the same event (Deut. 4: 34; 6; 22; 26: 8); They are called wonders because of their miraculous character, and signs, as they are significant of the divine presence and interposition, and consequently of the truth of Moses' claims. The particular signs referred to are those recorded in vs

Vs. 29.—The age of Moses and Aaron at the time of entering upon their public work is stated (7:7). Elders: The Hebrew word properly means old men. The government in Israel was based on the patriarchal system, in which the chief authority was vested in men of superior age and experi-ence, in the heads of households. The "elders" are accordingly summoned pare Exod. 12: 3, 21; 19: 7, 8).

he instrumentality of Aaron (Acts

credit to the words, as it had been ed on their part, and perhaps, also, promised that they would (3:18; 4: that it was a descent from heaven.

8). This is not discredited by the representative one, but to him as the representative of the people, and on their behalf, and the despondency into which they tell(6:9), when instead of the experience of the e ell(6: 9), when instead of the ex-scarcely have sufficed to conduct so large a body even to Sinai, which was mly result of the coming of Moses, the place appointed for the service

this terrible strain, under which it tempted to practice a deception upon their heads. This rendering is based proper that they should leave the ence and homage, whether in the re-tilence . . . sword: God makes use 24: 48; Exod. 20: 5).

5: 1.—They next go to Pharaoh, attended by the elders of Israel, as may be inferred from 3: 18, who thus used the word " let" in the sense of show their faith by making the suit "hinder," as in Isa, 43: 13; Romans of Moses and Aaron their own, and 1: 13; 2 Thess, 2: 17; the Hebrew besides give to the deputation the impressiveness of numbers, and of being This demand for a religious holiday, supported by the most influential men of the nation. Their message is in motive than an indolent desire to get the first instance presented as the au- rid of work. Get you unto your thoritative demand of Jehovah, the burdens : Addressed to Moses and God of Israel. The expression "God Aaron, or to the elders who were of Israel" is here found for the first with them, or to both. time, with the single exception of Genesis 33: 20, when Israel had not yet acquired its national sense. Idolaters recognized the they met at the Mount of God (3:1), the spot where the revelation had just been made to Meses, and in which the recital to Aaron would therefore be most expressive. Kissed. The being and power of the deities of ple go: Literally, "set them forth, hingly effective, dismiss them. What is asked is not in such a manner a full and final dismissal, but merely results. a temporary permission to leave the country, as appears from the reason'

why it is solicited. This is immediately added. That they may hold a feast. The word is appropriated to religious festivals, and particularly to the three great annual festivals of Will cure the worst case of Scrofula. the Jewish worship. The same term is still perpetuated in the Arabic hall to go on a religious pilgrimage. In the wilderness, That journeys into the wilderness for such a purpose were not unknown to the Egyptians has been inferred from the rained temple at Surabit el-Khadim, which Dr. Robinson visited on his way from Suez to Sinai.

Vs.—The appeal was ineffectual as had been predicted (3: 19). Pharach scornfully and defiantly asks, Who is Jehovah? and what right has he to command me? It is plainly not a request for information; and when he adds in the same defiant strain 'I know not Jehovah," it does not imply that he had never heard his name (1 Sam. 25: 10; Hosea 4: 1). He knew of him as the God of Israel, a nation of slaves, but did not consider him entitled to his regard and obed-ience, who was the favorite of the nighty gods who had raised Egypt the supreme rank among the king-

doms of the earth.

Vs. 3.—Instead of manifesting displeasure at this rude and impious rebuff,—impious even from a heathan point of view,—or threatening the haughty monarch with the vengeance he was incurring, Moses seeks to molify him by softening the application from a demand to a request or a respectful petition; and in doing so he agreeably to tee divine direction (3:
16), as the official representatives of the people, and in vs. 30, 31, are spoken of as the people, in whose name and on whose behalf they acted (compare Eyed 12: 231, 10: 78) when those of another race were Vs. 30.—According to verses 16, 17, Aaron was to speak and Moses to act, which makes it probable that the pronoun should be supplied before the verb in the second clause. And he (that is, Moses) did the signs:

Although he may here, as subsequent before Pharach they acted through to him discovered to be paid by before Pharach they acted through to him discovered. Same 25, 19, 20 y before Pharaoh, have acted through to him elsewhere (1 Sam. 26: 19; 2 with us: Literally, was encountered Vs. 31. Believed. They were or happened down upon us, denoting convinced by the signs, and gave that it was unsolicited and unexpect-

seemed to give way, that it might be Pharaoh by asking his consent to so strengthened in the end, and that the brief an absence when the Lord had power and grace of God might more already announced to him his purpose conspiciously appear. Visited: A to bring Israel out of Egypt unto term repeatedly used in the Old Tes- Canaan. If Moses had gained Phatament to denote God's interposition, rach's consent to Israel's holding a whether to bestow help and blessing, festival in the wilderness, and Israel as in this instance (Gen. 50: 24; had availed themselves of it, and then Exod. 3: 16; Jer. 20: 10), or to marched on to Canaan instead of repuinsh (Exod. 32: 34; Psa. 89: 32). turning to Egypt after the festival most interesting Sunday-school pa-The corresponding word in the New was ended, they would have been pers and Lesson Helps published, free Testament is confined to a favorable guilty of a breach of faith. This, we of charge. Remember, you can get sense (Luke 1: 68, 78: 7: 16; Acts may be sure, the Lord would never everything you need for your school 15, 14). The past tense is here used have sanctioned or permitted. It is by writing to because God had already visited them vain to speculate upon what would in taking notice of their affliction have been done if Pharaoh had given with a view to their relief (Exod 3: the leave which was asked. The 16), and had so far interfered on their Lord knew beforehand that he would behalf as to reveal himself to Moses, refuse; and the request was put in who was one of themselves, and to this modest form in order to show send him with the power of deliver- more distinctly the tyrannical dispoance, although the full effect of this sition of the king, and that he would gracious visitation was not yet ac- refuse the oppressed people even this complished. Looked upon (2: 35) : slight favor. Desert: The same Literally, seen, as 8: 7. That God word that is translated "wilderness" saw the injustice with which his peo- (v. 1). Sacrifice: The Israelities ple were treated gave assurance that sacrificed animals, which were sacred he would apply a remedy. Bowed to the Fgyptians, and therefore it was on a false etymology; the word means country in order to do s (8: 26). Lest "they bowed themselves," as the first he fall upon us: Sacrifice propitiatact in the profound oriental prostra- ed the offended deity by presenting tion, and is invariably followed by a substitute for the life of the transthe stronger term, which here also gressor. If any refused to offer the immediately succeeds it. Worship required sacrifice, his guilt remained ped: Literally, prostrated themselves, on his own head, and he must expect an act significant of the deeper rever- to expiate it in his own person. Pesspect shown to men when it is render- of these judgments to chastise guilty ed "bow one's self down" (Gen. 37: nations (Ezek. 14: 11-21). The pes-10. Exod. 11: 8; Isa. 60: 14), or tilence was a frequent scourge in as here in religious adoration (Gen. Egypt, Deut. 7:15; 28: 60), and in Goshen (they were particularly exposed to invasion from the Asiatic side.

Vs. 4.-Let; Our translators here word properly means let loose, set free. seemed to the king to have no other

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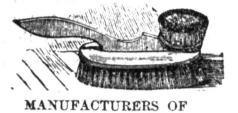
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