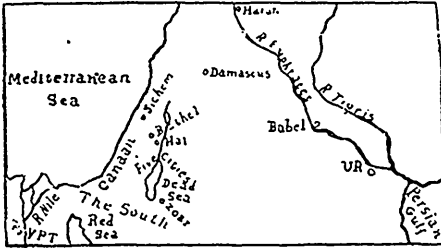


a city at the southeast corner of the Dead Sea.

IV. THE CHOICE. — 11-13. Chose . . the plain; unable to resist the attraction of the prosper^t Not to speak of the utter selfishness of the choice, it was a breach of Eastern etiquette so promptly to accept an offer like this. **Pitched his tent**; made his encampment. **Toward Sodom**; heedless of the character of his new neighbors. **Sinners before the Lord**; against the Lord. V. 13 emphasizes Lot's indifference towards everything save outward gain, prepares the way for the story of the destruction of Sodom in ch. 19, and illustrates God's care over Abram in preserving him from association with the wicked.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON

EGYPT—In ancient times, the country watered by the Nile, from the Mediterranean Sea as far as the first cataract, including also a series of oases in the



western desert. The country is divided by nature into a narrow valley running from south to north, and the extension of the valley into a delta; and, owing to the annual overflow of the Nile, was less subject to famine than neighboring countries which depended upon rainfall. It was in Egypt, separated from Canaan by 150 miles of desert, that Abram's descendants were to sojourn for four hundred years.

AN ORIENTAL SIDELIGHT

There is a fanciful Eastern tale, that Abram on his many journeys found it necessary to carry Sarai with him, in a chest. One day he was stopped by an Egyptian tax-gatherer, who demanded a tenth of all Abram carried with him. When the officer came to the chest in which Sarai was held, Abram said, "Suppose it filled with silk, and let me pay for the tax accordingly." But the officer insisted on opening the box, and was so dazzled with Sarai's beauty, that he hastened to the king, reporting what had happened.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. How had Abram shown distrust of God?
2. What proof does the Lesson contain of his repentance?
3. Contrast Lot with Abram in the division of the land

LESSON QUESTIONS

Whither did Abram journey from Bethel? Why did he leave Palestine? To what country did he go? Who went with him? Why was Egypt so free from famine? Of what sin was Abram guilty in Egypt?

1-5 How had Abram's riches been increased? Explain "journeys". To what place did Abram return? What was the first thing he did there? What is God's promise to those who return to Him?

6, 7 Why was it impossible for Abram and Lot to dwell together? Who began to quarrel? About what? How are wells regarded in the East? Where does Jesus offer living water? (John 7: 37, 38.) What hymn refers to this offer? (Hymn 138, Book of Praise.)

8-10 What offer did Abram make to Lot? Explain "land", v. 9. Where is the "plain of Jordan"? To what is it compared, v. 10? Where are Sodom and Gomorrah? Zoar? What companion of Paul's made a worldly choice? (2 Tim. 4: 10.)

11-13 What is the purpose of v. 13?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Is falsehood ever justifiable?
2. Standing up for our rights. (Should we follow Abram's example in his dealing with Lot?)

A LESSON FOR LIFE

Lot "pitched his tent toward Sodom". Daniel kept his "windows . . open toward Jerusalem" (Dan. 6: 10), praying openly to God, in spite of the king's prohibition. In the story of these two men we see the choice placed before us. We must decide whether we shall give our hearts to the world or to God. With loving eagerness God awaits our decision. Many have been sorry because they chose the world; no one was ever sorry for choosing God.

Prove from Scripture—*That we should not covet.*

Shorter Catechism—*Ques. 47. What is forbidden in the first commandment?* A. The first commandment forbiddeth the denying, or not worshipping and glorifying the true God as God, and our God; and the giving of that worship and glory to any other, which is due to him alone.

The Question on Missions—7. Who are our missionaries in Korea? Mr. Foote, Dr. Grierson, Mr. McRae, Mr. Robb, and their wives; Miss McCully, Dr. Kate McMillan, Miss Robb, Miss Mair, Mr. L. L. Young (under appointment).