

Teachers' Preparation Leaflet

LESSON 5.

FEBRUARY 4th, 1894.

1ST QUARTER.

Beginning of the Hebrew Nation. Gen. 12: 1-9.

GOLDEN TEXT: "I will bless thee, and make thy name great, and thou shalt be a blessing." Gen. 12: 2.

MEMORY VERSES, 1-3. LESSON HYMNS, 127, 28, 232, 135.

INTRODUCTORY DRILL—NOAH TO ABRAM.

The Bible is not an epitome of human history. The events which it records are connected with God's plan of saving men. The shameful story of Noah's intoxication is told because it gave occasion for the utterance of a prophecy which pointed out the part which each of the three great sub-divisions of the race was to take in the unfolding of God's purpose of grace to the world. Nor was Gen. 11: 1-9 written to satisfy the curiosity of philologists. It narrates how God frustrated man's impious design, and sent forth the nations to work out their several destinies, while the covenant line was specially safeguarded from the fate which had befallen the "sons of God" in the antediluvian world.

1. It is expressly stated in ch. 9: 19; 10: 32, that from the three sons of Noah the earth was re-peopled. The latest results of scientific research confirm the scriptural account and point to a common centre in Mesopotamia. From this the descendants of Shem spread over Syria and Arabia; the Hamitic races occupied Phenicia, Canaan and Africa; and the nations sprung from Japheth peopled Europe and India. After a short pre-eminence in Ninevah, Babylon, Phenicia and Egypt, the race of Ham sank into historical insignificance. To the Semites, through their representative family, the Hebrews, belongs the glory of preserving for the world the knowledge of Jehovah and of producing the Redeemer of mankind, "according to the flesh." The nations sprung from Japheth, Greeks, Romans and all modern Europe and America, have been specially "enlarged" by Providence. They have ruled the destinies of the civilized world, and led the van of human progress. On them too has come the blessing of Shem and they dwell, in a religious sense, "in his tents" as believers in the God of Abraham, (Read "The Ages Before Moses," by Rev. J. Munro Gibson, D. D., chapter vii.)

PROGENITOR.

LOCATION.

DESTINY.

Shem.

Mesop. Sy. Ar.

Religion.

Ham.

Ph. Ca. Af.

Servitude.

Japeth.

Eu. Ind.

Power.

2. The human race for some time after the flood spoke one language; the eleventh chapter explains how a diversity arose. There is no doubt that the language of any people will change somewhat in the course of centuries through the operation of "natural causes," and separation from the parent stem, especially if little intercourse is maintained, will result in tongues ultimately "foreign" to each other. But in this case there was no sufficient lapse of time and no isolation of tribes. The avowed object of the

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