

II. THE FAITHFULNESS OF ABRAHAM. 19. (3) I know him. R. V. "I have known him." (Amos 3: 2; Hos. 13: 4, 6). When God is said to "know" a person it means that he has singled him out as the object of his love and favor. The reason why God had thus chosen Abraham is in order that he might train up a godly race of descendants. "The destruction of the cities would serve as an enduring monument in which Israel should have constantly before its eyes the destruction of the ungodly. God wished Abraham to understand clearly and to teach his descendants, that the dreadful catastrophe was not a violent outburst of natural forces only, but a punishment sent from God upon a sinful community. Also he taught him further that there was a point beyond which divine forbearance would not go. That the LORD may bring upon Abraham—His performance of these duties was the condition on which God would fulfil his promises. God helps him to be faithful.

III. THE COMPASSION OF GOD. 20. The cry of Sodom—The moral demand which sin makes for punishment. (Gen. 4: 10). We use the expression "a crying shame," meaning something peculiarly disgraceful. Compare ch. 13: 13; 19: 13. 21. I will go down—"I will examine fully whether the corruption of the people is as universal and hopeless as rumor says: in that case they must be exterminated; otherwise, I shall inflict a mitigated punishment." When God is represented as deliberating in this way, we are taught that he never punishes sin without being fully satisfied of the guilt of the sinner; that he does not send the final penalty before every hope of reformation is gone; that he gives a last opportunity for repentance ere the doom falls; that he invites his people to intercede for the transgressors. Ezek. 18: 23; Jer. 18: 7, 8. Compare ch. 11: 5; Ex. 3: 8; Job 34: 22; Ps. 14: 2; 90: 8; Heb. 4: 13.

As was the case with Sodom, so to-day, the "dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty." Heathen nations are as far from God as were the cities of the plain. He does not exterminate these degraded nations, because he is merciful and longsuffering. He is not willing that any should perish, and he bids us go and teach them the way of life that they may live. Can you tell where our church has established missions to the heathen?

To the Scholar.—Study the lesson carefully, turning up the marginal references and reading the "Daily Portions." Then close your Bible and try to answer in writing the questions following without accepting aid from any quarter after you have begun to write. Then bring this leaflet to Sabbath School with you on the day of its date. If you cannot come, fill out the blank and send the leaflet (with the answers written out) to your teacher by some friend, or by mail, and you will receive credit for the work done as if you had been present. If your excuse is satisfactory, you will not lose in record of attendance.

1—Whom did Abraham entertain? (2)

2—Towards what place were they going? (2)

3—What three reasons did God give for telling Abraham what He was going to do?  
(6)

4—How are all nations blessed in Abraham? (5)

5—What is meant by the "cry" of Sodom? (5)

6—What parts of the world to-day may be compared to Sodom; and why is God sparing them? (5)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Teacher,—Please excuse my absence from Sabbath School to-day, I cannot come because I have read the "Daily Portions" and answered the questions as well as I could. I have committed to memory verses in addition to the Golden Text, and Questions in the Catechism and have recited them to I was at church

I send with this my Weekly Offering of cents.