

Lesson XI.

THE TEST OF ABRAHAM'S FAITH

March 16, 1913

Genesis 22 : 1-13. Study Genesis 22 : 1-19—Memory Verses, 12, 13.

Golden Text—I desire mercy, and not sacrifice ; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.—Hosea 6 : 6.

1 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt A'braham, and said unto him, A'braham : and he said, Behold, *here I am*.

2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son I'saac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Mori'ah ; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

3 And A'braham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and I'saac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.

4 Then on the third day A'braham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off.

5 And A'braham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass ; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.

6 And A'braham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon I'saac his son ; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife ; and they went both of them together.

7 And I'saac spake unto A'braham his father, and said, My father : and he said, Here *am I*, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood : but where is the lamb for a burnt offering ?

8 And A'braham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering : so they went both of them together.

9 And they came to the place which God had told him of ; and A'braham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound I'saac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood.

10 And A'braham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.

11 And the angel of the Lord called unto him out of heaven, and said, A'braham, A'braham : and he said, Here *am I*.

12 And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him : for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.

13 And A'braham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns : and A'braham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.

THE LESSON RETOLD

At last God's promise to Abraham came true, and he had a son whom he called Isaac. And Abraham loved the boy very dearly because he was the son of his old age.

We have heard that Abel offered up a lamb to God and that God was pleased with him for offering it. Noah also offered burnt offerings when he came out of the ark, and Abraham himself had built three altars in the land of Canaan and offered sacrifices upon them all.

But one day God spoke to Abraham and said, "Take now thy son whom thou lovest

and go into the land of Moriah, and on one of the mountains there which I will show thee offer him up to Me for a sacrifice." Abraham's heart was very sad, but he knew that he should always obey God and that God must have some good reason for telling him to do such a hard thing. So, early one morning, he saddled an ass, and taking two of his young men and Isaac, with wood for the sacrifice, he set out for the mountain of Moriah.

It was three days before they reached it. Then Abraham told the young men to remain