

Lesson IX.

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM

March 2, 1913

Genesis 15 : 5-18. Study Genesis, chs. 15 ; 17 : 1-8. Read Genesis, chs. 15 to 17. *Commit to memory vs. 5, 6.

GOLDEN TEXT—He is faithful that promised.—Hebrews 10 : 23.

5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them : and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

6 And he believed in the Lord ; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

7 And he said unto him, I am the Lord that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it.

8 And he said, Lord God, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it ?

9 And he said unto him, Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon.

10 And he took ¹unto him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each ²piece one against another ; but the birds divided he not.

11 And ⁴when the fowls came down upon the carcasses, ⁵A'bram drove them away.

12 And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep

Revised Version—¹ tell ; ² *Omit* unto ; ³ half over against the other ; ⁴ the birds of prey came ; ⁵ and ; ⁶ But ; ⁷ And ; ⁸ Amorite ; ⁹ flaming torch ; ¹⁰ these ; ¹¹ that day.

LESSON PLAN

I. The Stars and the Promise, 5-7.

II. The Sacrifices and the Night Vision, 8-18.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Secretary, 26 Old Bailey, London, England)

M.—God's covenant with Abraham, Gen. 15 : 5-18. T.—The covenant renewed, Gen. 17 : 1-8. W.—The covenant remembered, Ex. 6 : 2-8. Th.—A greater inheritance, 1 Pet. 1 : 1-9. F.—A call for praise, Ps. 105 : 1-15. S.—In remembrance of His mercy, Neh. 9 : 6-11. S.—He faileth not, 1 Kgs. 8 : 54-61.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 48. *What are we specially taught by these words [before me] in the first commandment ?* A. These words [before me] in the first commandment teach us, That God, who seeth all things, taketh notice of, and is much displeased with, the sin of having any other God.

The Question on Missions—9. What is the present population of Africa ? About 127,000,000, mostly Mohammedans and heathen. There are 2,729 missionaries, and 15,016 native preachers and teachers

fell upon A'bram ; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him.

13 And he said unto A'bram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not their's, and shall serve them ; and they shall afflict them four hundred years ;

14 And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge : and afterward shall they come out with great substance.

15 ⁶ And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace ; thou shalt be buried in a good old age.

16 ⁷ But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again : for the iniquity of the ⁸ Amorites is not yet full.

17 And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between ¹⁰ those pieces.

18 In ¹¹ the same day the Lord made a covenant with A'bram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of E'gypt unto the great river, the river Euphrat'es.

at work, and there are 378,561 Protestant church members.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise : 7 (Supplemental Lesson), 295, 301, 37 (Ps. Sel.), 546 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY), 221.

Special Scripture Reading—Ps. 72. (To be read responsively or in concert by the whole School.) It is expected that each scholar will have his or her Bible, and so be prepared to take part in this reading, which may form part of the opening exercises of School.

Lantern Slides—For Lesson., B. 1425, "And He brought him forth abroad." For Question on Missions, A. 19, Chart of Religious Divisions of Africa A. 236, A Pagan Tribe at the Present Day Waiting on the Gospel. (These Slides are obtained from the Presbyterian Lantern Slide Department, Weston, Ont., at \$2.00 a dozen.)

Stereograph—For Lesson, Ancient Tree Traditionally known as Abram's Oak, Near Hebron (Underwood & Underwood, Dept. D., 62 Adelaide St. East, Toronto), set of 12 Stereographs for this Quarter's Lessons, \$2.00. Four for March, 6c.; less than four in one order, 20c. each ; Stereoscopes, 85c. (postage paid in all cases). In ordering please mention THE TEACHERS MONTHLY.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

By Rev. Professor W. R. Taylor, Ph.D., Vancouver, B.C.

Time and Place—Soon after last Lesson ; Southern Canaan. The Oaks of Mamre, a part of the Hebron district, 20 miles south of Jerusalem, became the centre of Abram's wanderings for many years.

Connecting Links—In the preceding Lesson, we learned of Abram's kindly dealings with his nephew, Lot, and the recognition which his magnanimity won from God. Between the Lessons is the story of Abram's defeating Chedorlaomer and his allies, rescuing Lot and refusing any share of the spoil (see ch. 14).

I. The Stars and the Promise, 5-7.

Vs. 1-4 show that Abram was troubled with anxious thoughts concerning his welfare. Perhaps his defenceless position among the Canaanites combined with his childlessness to depress him. Great men are not always able to dwell in the height of hope and optimism. Abram needed encouragement. So God proceeds to deal with him. *Brought him forth abroad* ; took him out from his tent. *Tell (number) the stars*. Abram's vision was at night. The stars filling the sky are at once a striking proof of God's power (see Ps.

*The Scripture Memory Passages of the Supplemental Leaflets are recommended as a substitute for those here given Sabbath by Sabbath. Their recitation leads to the obtaining of a beautiful Certificate or Diploma.