

4. There is ruin coming for sin. God has provided a Refuge, even Jesus. He bears along with men, pleading with them to turn from sin. If they do they may be saved. If not, they must share in the destruction that is coming upon sin.

5. Even the men who worked for Noah, helping to build the ark, perished with the others because they would not take advantage of it. Let us not be like them, giving the gospel to others and neglecting it ourselves.

Feb. 4.

BEGINNING OF THE HEBREW NATION.

Les. Gen. 12: 1-4. Gol. Text., Gen. 12: 2.
Mem. vs. 1-3. Catechism Q. 87-88.

Five hundred years had passed since the flood. The family of Noah had greatly multiplied. But they too began to go astray. They forgot God and set about to build the great tower of Babel to make themselves a name. But their language was confounded, they were scattered and their plan came to nought. God's plan for having the world filled with a good race of people seemed to have failed.

And now another plan was tried. Most of these people had forgotten Him, but there was one family that was very faithful, and God chose Abram, as he had chosen Noah five centuries before. But he did not destroy the others. He simply left them to take their own course and called to Abram to come out to another land away from old companions and there start a new nation who should be God's own people.

It would be a great trial to Abram to leave home and friends and country and go away to a strange land where he did not know the people, nor their customs, nor language, but to encourage him God made him a great promise, and told him that he would become a great nation and that one of his children in the future days should be a blessing to the whole world.

We do not know in what way God told him this, but Abram believed what God said and obeyed him, and when seventy five years old, he left the old land in the valley of the Euphrates, taking with him his possessions, and in time he reached Canaan.

He would feel lonely and homesick, for he could get no letters from the old home and there were no newspapers. And no doubt he had a good deal to discourage him, but he builded an altar and worshipped; he did not forget to worship wherever he went, and then God sent an angel to cheer him again with the promise that the land in which he now was should be given to his children.

This was the beginning of the Hebrew nation, which was for so many centuries God's own peculiar people, and of whom, in the fulness of time, Christ came.

LESSONS.

1. It was a trial for Abram to leave home and friends, and go to a strange land among strange people, but he obeyed. Where duty calls we should obey.

2. Abram had no doubt many difficulties in following the path of duty, but God was with him. So God will be with us in all duty.

3. God makes promises to us of a "better land" and wants us to turn our backs upon all sin that we may gain that land.

4. We can be a blessing to others just as Abraham was, and we will, if we trust and follow Christ.

5. All nations can be blest in Christ only as they hear of Him. What are you doing to make Him known to them?

Feb. 11.

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAM.

Les. Gen. 17: 1-9. Gol. Text., Gen. 15: 6.
Mem. vs. 7-8. Catechism, Q. 89-90.

The story of Abram, between last lesson and this one, is told in Chapters 13-17. Tell what you know about that story.

You remember that God made a covenant with Adam, when the human race started, then with Noah, when the race started once more, and now with Abram, who was to be the father of a new chosen people.

Thirty years had passed since God called him, and twenty-five years since he had entered Canaan, and his prospects did not seem very bright, but God came to him when he was ninety-nine years old and cheered him by greater promises than before, telling him again that he should be a father of many nations.

This promise, God called a covenant or agreement, and, just as men, when they make an agreement, affix a seal to it to make it binding, so God, when he made this agreement with Abraham gave him a seal called circumcision, that was to be an outward sign that God was pledged to him, and he to God.

One great thing that young people should remember about this covenant is that they have a direct part in it, and for the following reasons:

1. Abraham's children were to be included in that covenant, and so Isaac was circumcised when he was eight days old. This was an outward sign that God was pledged to him and that he was pledged to God, as well as his father was.