

Lesson VI.

GOD'S COVENANT WITH NOAH

February 9, 1913

Genesis 9 : 8-17. Study Genesis 8 : 1 to 9 : 17. Read Genesis, chs. 8, 9. Commit to memory vs. 15, 16.

GOLDEN TEXT—I do set my bow in the cloud and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.—Genesis 9 : 13.

8 And God spake unto No'ah, and to his sons with him, saying,

9 And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you ;

10 And with every living creature that is with you, of the fowl, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth with you ; from all that go out of the ark, to every beast of the earth.

11 And I will establish my covenant with you ; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood ; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.

12 And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations :

Revised Version—Omit of ; of ; even every ; the.

LESSON PLAN

I. The Covenant, 8-11.

II. The Token, 12-17.

DAILY READINGS

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

M.—God saved Noah, Gen. 8 : 6-16. T.—God blesses Noah, Gen. 8 : 20 to 9 : 7. W.—God's covenant with Noah, Gen. 9 : 8-17. Th.—Wait patiently, Ps. 40 : 1-8. F.—God remembereth His covenant, Lev. 26 : 40-45. S.—A new covenant, Jer. 31 : 31-34. S.—God's kindness everlasting, Isa. 54 : 4-10.

Shorter Catechism—*Ques. 45. Which is the first commandment ?* A. The first commandment is, Thou shalt have no other gods before me. *Ques. 46. What is required in the first commandment ?* A. The first commandment requireth us to know and acknowledge God to be the only true God, and our God ; and to worship and glorify him accordingly.

13 I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.

14 And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud :

15 And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh ; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.

16 And the bow shall be in the cloud ; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.

17 And God said unto No'ah, This is the token of the covenant, which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth.

The Question on Missions—6. What kind of people did these explorers find in Africa ? Very cruel and ignorant people, who believed many false and foolish things. They were very unclean in their habits, and sold their children and young people into slavery. Before Livingstone went to Africa, 70,000 slaves were bought and sold every year.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise : 7 (Supplemental Lesson), 276, 289, 62 (Ps. Sel.), 482 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY), 313.

Special Scripture Reading—Luke 1 : 68-79. (To be read responsively or in concert by the whole School.)

Lantern Slides—For Lesson, B. 250, Noah Sacrificing After the Flood. For Question on Missions, M. P. 806, Slaves With Shackles, on Way to Coast. (Slides are obtained from the Presbyterian Lantern Slide Department, Weston, Ont., at \$2.00 a dozen.)

Stereograph—For Lesson, The Waters Assuaged ; Great Plains Left After Floods in Mesopotamia (Underwood & Underwood, see page 61).

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Time and Place—The events of the Lesson are represented as taking place soon after the disappearance of the waters of the flood. The scene of the Lesson is probably near Mount Ararat, ch. 8 : 4.

Connecting Links—In Gen. 6 : 18 we read that God promised to establish a covenant with Noah. In fulfilment of that promise the covenant is now made, and guaranteed by the giving of a sign.

Ch. 8 tells that the waters of the flood decreased until the ark rested on Mount Ararat. Noah sends forth, first a raven and then a dove, to ascertain if the waters are dried up from the lower levels. Finding that the earth is dry, Noah goes out of the ark with his family and the animals, and immediately builds an altar, on which he offers a sacrifice to the Lord. The Lord thereupon declares that He will not again smite all living things or disturb the course of nature as in the flood.

God blessed Noah and his sons, extending the permission of ch. 1 : 29 to include animal food, but forbidding the killing of man by man upon pain of death. Vs. 1-7.

I. The Covenant, 8-11.

V. 8. *And God spake unto Noah.* A direct divine communication is meant. *Noah, and . . . sons.* The covenant is not to be private and personal, limited to Noah, but is to include the whole human race.

V. 9. *I, behold, I ;* the Hebrew method of beginning a solemn affirmation. *Establish my covenant ;* "contract," an agreement between God and the new race, in which each party assumed certain responsibilities and obligations. Excavators in Eastern lands have found, in recent years, the remains of countless contracts made by business men and others centuries before Christ. And the manner in which the Biblical covenants are drawn up resembles as closely as possible the ancient contracts. We can see, therefore,