

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson III. Oct. 20, 1918.
Abraham giving Isaac to God.—Genesis 22: 1-14.

Commentary.—I. Abraham's faith tested (vs. 1, 2). 1. It came to pass—The inspired writer proceeds with the history of Abraham, and is about to present a most vivid and striking word picture of one of the greatest scenes in the annals of the human race. After these things—After the birth of Isaac—The word "tempt" is commonly used in the sense of solicitation to evil, but that is not the meaning here. A test was about to be made of Abraham's faith; and in the light of the oft-repeated promise made to Abraham of an abundant posterity and of the birth of Isaac, through whom the promise would be fulfilled, no greater test could be made. Here I am—Abraham was in such a state of devotion to God that he recognized his voice when he spoke and was ready to respond at once to what might be required of him. 2. Take now—thine only son Isaac—Isaac was the only son of Abraham and Sarah. Whom Thou lovest—This is the first time that the word love is used in the scriptures. Abraham loved Isaac, not only as his son, and the son of his old age, and the son through whom he was to become a great nation, but as the child of an especial promise. The land of Moriah—The prevailing opinion, which is doubtless the true one, is that it was one of the mountains upon which Jerusalem was later built, and the site of the temple, near to Calvary, where Christ was offered up. Offer him there for a burnt offering—There is nothing here, when the whole account is considered, to sanction the practice of offering human sacrifices. The command to offer up Isaac was given to test Abraham's faith, and when he stood the test, the order was countermanded, and a victim for sacrifice was at hand (v. 13). Abraham was not a stranger to the act of offering sacrifices to God, and he appeared to understand at once what was involved in the command that came to him.

II. Abraham's faith and obedience (vs. 3-8). 3. Early in the morning—Abraham did not delay in obeying God's command. An early start on a journey is all-important in the East. Thus would the traveller avoid the heat of the day in the sun, by traveling before the sun was up, and resting in the heat of the day.—Whedon, Sad-

died—Bound upon the beast of burden the baggage necessary for the journey. Young men—Servants. Clave the wood for the burnt offering—A supply of dry wood was provided. 4. On the third day—From Beer-Sheba to Mount Moriah was forty-five miles. The journey was made on foot, so that three days was none too long a time to reach the place and offer the sacrifice. Saw the place afar off—Some have supposed that the particular place was designated by a cloud or pillar of fire representing the divine glory, but this seems rather fanciful. The hill called Moriah can be seen at a distance of three miles by one travelling toward it from Beer-Sheba. 5. Abide ye there—The hill may have been difficult of access, so the ass was left at the base in charge of the servants; then, too, Abraham desired to be alone with Isaac on this most solemn occasion.

6. upon Isaac—It is probable that Isaac was twenty-five years old at this time an debtor able to carry the wood than was his father, who was one hundred years older. We are reminded of Christ's carrying the cross up the hill of Calvary, took the fire in his hand—Matches were not then invented and fire was carefully pre- this time and better able to carry the live coals in a brazier. 7. where is the lamb for a burnt offering—Isaac's appeal was tender and affectionate, and his father's heart must have melted and failed, had it not been for his faith that God was able to fulfill his word. The son's query was most natural. Wood, fire and knife had been provided, and stones were abundant, with which an altar could be built, but no provision had been made for a victim. 8. God will provide himself a lamb—The time had not yet come for Abraham to make known to Isaac his purpose in detail in going to Moriah. Abraham's answer was complete enough for truthfulness and guarded enough for the occasion. It expressed the great faith of his heart and went far beyond his knowledge. The word which Abraham here uses for God is "Jehovah-Jireh" (v. 14), which means the Lord will provide or the Lord will see, they went both of them together—Abraham went with implicit faith in God, and Isaac with full faith in his father and in his father's God. Both were being tested, but the testing of Abraham's faith was much more prominent and far-reaching.

III. Abraham's Fidelity Honored (vs. 9-14). 9. the place—God had made it perfectly clear where the offering should be made, built an altar—The actual preparations for the sacrifice of a son's life are being made by a fond father, but with full confidence that if Isaac's life should be sacrificed, it would be restored, laid the wood in order—No part of the preparation was omitted, bound Isaac his son—

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Please Mention This Paper.

Every act in this series must have been full co-operation of the son with the father at this point. Isaac was doubtless superior to his father in physical strength, and could easily have resisted his father's efforts to blind him and place him upon the altar. We may see in Isaac a type of Christ as a sacrifice for sin. 10. stretched forth his hand—So far as Abraham's consecration of Isaac to God as a sacrifice had concerned it was complete. The sacrifice had virtually been made, and the end that God had in view was reached. Abraham's faith and obedience had stood the test. 11. here am I—Abraham's recognition of the voice of God and his response were immediate. He had responded to that call more than once. 12. lay not thine hand upon the lad—No human sacrifice was demanded, nor would it have been pleasing to God, now I know—God speaks after the manner of men. He knew all the time what Abraham was, and what he would do. This was all for Abraham's benefit and the benefit of succeeding ages. It shines out as an illustrious example of faith. 13. a ram caught in a thicket—It was alive and fit for sacrifice, hence it had not been there long. God had his capture perfectly timed. 14. Jehovah-jireh—Abraham's faith as expressed v. 8 in answer to Isaac's question was signally honored, for God had provided a sacrifice. The Lord hereupon renewed again his promise to Abraham that he would make him a great nation.

Questions.—What was Abraham's dwelling-place now? What command did God give to him? Where was Mount Moriah? Describe the journey to the mountain. What question did Isaac ask his father? What was the reply? What occurred after Abraham and Isaac arrived upon the mountain? What purpose had God in making the

demand upon Abraham? In what ways is Abraham's faith in God shown?

PRACTICAL SURVEY.

Topic.—The higher conception of sacrifice.

I. Abraham's testing.

II. Abraham's triumph.

I. Abraham's testing. Mountain ranges record great convulsions in nature; so great characters are inseparable from great crises in the experiences of life. "And it came to pass that God did prove Abraham" (Gen. 22: 1, R. V.). The test must be commensurate with the attainment. The peerless faith of the patriarch could be disclosed and developed only in the presence of a supreme demand. Secure footing had been assured in the divine declaration, "I am the Almighty God." The requirement was, "Walk before me." The standard was, "Be thou perfect." The faith rewarded by fatherhood must be perfected by the surrender of its most cherished realization, and the son of promise be restored to the giver, in a spirit of consecration to be expressed only by sacrifice. No test of faith can exceed that in which the divine command appears to contravene the divine promise. The faith which "staggered not" in the presence of natural impossibilities must surmount even greater obstacles in the path of highest moral attainment. The plowshare of divine requirement left no tendrils of human affection untouched. "Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest." Here we meet the climax of sacrifice. Love and loyalty could find no higher expression. The perennial principle embraced is that God demands our best. Even divinely bestowed good must be held subservient to the purpose and choice of God. Every human affection must be secondary. Isaac could never occupy the same place after the experience of Moriah, not less loved, but held with a conscious recognition of a higher claim to which paternal love must yield.

II. Abraham's triumph. Faith embraces two elements, submission and trust. It has a twofold foundation, promise and obedience. The basis of the patriarch's transcendent triumph of faith was laid first in the spirit of filial submission with which the requirement was received. "In the midst of domestic delight, the desolating word fell; but on a submissive and unrepining heart. The confidence which had been unflinching through the long pilgrimage from Ur to Canaan found its highest expression in the final and crucial test. Prompt obedience was rendered. "Abraham rose up early in the morning." Delay would have been fatal. There comes a time when duty becomes plain, and hesitation invites confusion and culminates in disobedience. Faith is not contrary to, but outreaches, reason. Complete preparation was made, and Abraham started on the three-days' journey—a sadder never—prepared for complete fulfillment of duty, assured of the "Almightiness" back of the stern demand, and hoping still in the delivering mercy of God, even though a resurrection might be required. We will "come again to you" With the very earth rolling under his feet, faith brought assurance and divine interposition and deliverance. "God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering; so they went both of them together." It is at the point of uttermost sacrifice that it becomes possible. The surrendered good was restored, and the covenant renewed, enlarged and confirmed. "Now I know that thou fearest God." Human loyalty has had no severer test, and faith achieved a triumph never exceeded.—W.H.C.

MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS.

DAIRY PRODUCE.

Butter, choice dairy	0 50	0 55
Do., creamers	0 55	0 60
Margarine, lb.	0 35	0 37
Eggs, new laid, doz.	0 60	0 65
Cheese, lb.	0 35	0 35
Do., fancy, lb.	0 35	0 35
Do., fancy, lb.	0 35	0 35

DRESSED POULTRY.

Turkeys, lb.	0 40	0 40
Fowl, lb.	0 34	0 34
Spring chickens	0 38	0 38
Roosters, lb.	0 23	0 25
Ducklings, lb.	0 35	0 35

FRUITS.

Apples, basket	0 34	0 60
Do., bbl.	3 50	4 50
Crabapples	0 50	0 75
Grapes, 6-qt. baskets	0 50	0 75
Pears, 6-qt. basket	1 00	1 25
Do., 11-qt. basket	0 75	1 00
Do., 11-qt. basket	1 00	1 50
Plums, 11-qt.	1 25	1 40
Melons, basket	0 50	0 60
Do., each	0 05	0 15

VEGETABLES.

Beans, small measure	0 20	0 20
Beets, new, dozen	0 15	0 15
Carrots, new, dozen	0 25	0 25
Corn, dozen	0 15	0 30
Cucumbers, basket	0 50	0 60
Cucumbers, dozen	0 50	0 50
Cabbage, each	0 05	0 10
Cauliflower, each	0 10	0 25
Celery, head	0 05	0 10
Egg plant, each	0 10	0 15
Gherkins, basket	1 00	1 50
Lettuce, head, bunch	0 05	0 10
Mushrooms, lb.	0 40	0 50
Onions, 75-lb. sacks	2 00	2 00
Do., basket	0 50	0 60
Do., green, bunch	0 03	0 05
Parsley, bunch	0 10	0 10
Pumpkins, each	0 10	0 25
Potatoes, bag	2 50	2 50
Radishes, 3 bunches	0 10	0 10
Rhubarb, 3 for	0 10	0 10
Sage, bunch	0 05	0 05
Savory, bunch	0 05	0 10
Spinach, peck	0 20	0 25
Squash, each	0 15	0 25
Tomatoes, basket	0 30	0 50
Veg. marrow, each	0 05	0 10

MEATS—WHOLESALE.

Beef, forequarters	\$16 00	\$17 00
Do., hindquarters	22 00	25 00
Carcasses, choice	20 00	21 00
Do., common	15 00	17 00
Veal, common, cwt.	13 00	15 00
Do., medium	20 00	23 00
Do., prime	25 00	27 00
Heavy hogs, cwt.	19 00	21 00
Shop hogs	26 50	28 00
Abattoir hogs	26 00	28 00
Mutton, cwt.	20 00	24 00
Lamb, Spring, lb.	0 24	0 26

OTHER MARKETS.

WINNIPEG GRAIN EXCHANGE.

Fluctuations on the Winnipeg Grain Exchange yesterday were as follows:

	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
Oats—				
Oct.	0 82	0 82	0 80 1/2	0 81
Dec.	0 78	0 78	0 78 1/2	0 76 1/2
Flax—				
Oct.	3 69	3 69	3 62	3 62
Nov.	3 54 1/2	3 55 1/2	3 52 1/2	3 52 1/2
Dec.	3 48	3 48	3 43 1/2	3 44 1/2

MINNEAPOLIS GRAINS.

Minneapolis—Flour not quoted. Barley, 86 to 91c. Rye, \$1.57 1-2 to \$1.58 1-2. Bran, \$23.77. Flax, \$3.72 to \$3.76.

U. S. CHEESE BOARD.

Utica, N. Y.—At the session of the Utica Dairy Board of Trade to-day 800 boxes of cheese were sold at 31 3-4c. There was no butter offered.

The Germans shouldn't count their plots before they are hatched.

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Black River Falls, Wis.—"As Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound saved me from an operation, I cannot say enough in praise of it. I suffered from organic troubles and my side hurt me so I could hardly be up from my bed, and I was unable to do my housework. I had the best doctors in Eau Claire and they wanted me to have an operation, but Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound cured me so I did not need the operation, and I am telling all my friends about it."—Mrs. A. W. BINZER, Black River Falls, Wis.

It is just such experiences as that of Mrs. Binzer that has made this famous root and herb remedy a household word from ocean to ocean. Any woman who suffers from inflammation, ulceration, displacements, backache, nervousness, irregularities or "the blues" should not rest until she has given it a trial, and for special advice write Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co., Lynn, Mass.



RULER OF THE KING'S NAVY.

Sir Eric Geddes, First Lord of the Admiralty, who has arrived in the United States on an official visit to Washington. He is the first holder of his office to visit America during his tenure of that post.

The Plain Truth about Shoe Prices

LEATHER is scarce and is growing scarcer. A large part of the available supply must be used for soldiers' boots. Importations have practically ceased and we are forced to depend upon the limited quantity of materials produced in Canada.

The cost of everything which goes into a pair of shoes is high, and is going higher. Workmen by the thousands have joined the colors, and labor is increasingly hard to get. It is not merely a matter of high prices, but of producing enough good quality shoes to go around.

These conditions are beyond the control of any man, or any group of men. They fall on all alike. No one is exempt—neither the manufacturer, the dealer, nor the consumer.

You must pay more today for shoes of the same quality than you did a year ago. Next Spring, prices will be higher still.

These are hard facts. They will not yield to argument. They cannot be glossed over. We cannot change them, much as we would wish to do so.

But you, as a wearer of shoes, can help to relieve them if you will exercise prudence and good judgment in purchasing. See that you get real value for your money. Spend enough to get it, but spend nothing for "frills."

See that the manufacturer's trade-mark is stamped upon the shoes you buy. High prices are a temptation to reduce the quality in order to make the price seem low. But no manufacturer will stamp his trade-mark upon a product which he is ashamed to acknowledge. Remember this, and look for the trade-mark. It is your best assurance of real value for your money.

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