

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Abram helping Lot.—Genesis 13; 5-11; 14; 16-16.

LESSON II. October 13, 1918.

COMMENTARY.—I. The beginning of strife (vs. 5-7). 5. Lot also—had flocks, and herds, and tents—Lot was Abram's nephew, in whom Abram took a hearty interest. Lot clung to his uncle and was enriched through Abram's care and ability. Their sojourn in Egypt was ended by Pharaoh's sending them out (Gen. 12: 20), and Abram was greatly enriched by him. He and Lot made their way in a northerly direction into the southern part of Canaan, taking with them all their retinue and their possessions. They had, in addition to their flocks and herds, wealth in silver and gold. They had enjoyed great temporal prosperity in the fertile regions of Egypt. After entering Canaan they moved forward in their journeys until they reached Bethel, a place about twelve miles north of the site of Jerusalem. Abram had been here before and had built an altar, as he had also built one at Shechem, his first stopping-place in Canaan. On his arrival on his return from Egypt he built another altar and worshipped the true God. He had reason for self-humiliation and for thanksgiving in view of his attitude toward God and God's mercies to him. Lot had shared the prosperity that had come to Abram must have been a blessing to him spiritually. 6. Their substance was great—From the fact that soon after this Abram was able to gather from his own attendants more than three hundred fighting men, it is supposed that his whole retinue, exclusive of Lot and his servants, must have numbered a thousand more. Their flocks and herds would require a wide range for pasturage, and a wider range, no doubt, because of the effects of the drought from which the land had just suffered. Since the land was already occupied, Abram and Lot could not occupy at will every part of the country that they might desire. 7. There was a strife—While Abram and Lot might themselves be on the most friendly terms, to their respective servants would be entrusted the care of the flocks and herds, and each would naturally seek the most favorable pastures for his master's animals. Not only pasture must be secured, but the flocks and herds must be supplied with water, and disputes would be likely to arise on this account between the two groups of servants. The Canaanites and the Perizzites dwelled then in the land—For this reason the territory of Abram and Lot was limited. The Canaanites, "lowlanders," were descended from Canaan, the fourth son of Ham, and the Perizzites, "highlanders," whose origin is obscure, occupied the elevated regions. Abram and Lot had a divine right to the country, but these nations had possession of large parts of it.

II. Lot's selfish choice (vs. 8-11). 8. Let there be no strife—Abram was the peacemaker in this affair. It cost him something to act successfully in this capacity, yet he was prepared to make the necessary sacrifice. Family strife or religious strife is a most distressing thing, and there are always Canaanites and Perizzites about to observe it and cast a reproach upon those engaged in it. We be brethren—They were not brethren in the sense in which we use the term, but were closely related, and were brethren in religion and worship. There was abundant reason why they should love and set as brethren. 9. Is not the whole land before thee—in this expression Abram gives Lot to understand that he grants him the privilege of choosing the part of the land that he desires. Separate thyself from me—Abram made this suggestion solely in the interests of peace, not because he had any ill feeling toward his nephew. 10. Plain of Jordan—This is one of the most remarkable depressions of the earth's surface. It lower extremity lies one thousand three hundred feet below the level of the sea. Before the Lord destroyed—Conditions in this valley were greatly changed by the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. The garden of the Lord—The Garden of Eden. Like the land of Egypt.—The valley of the Nile, from its being annually overflowed, was the richest land then known. As thou comest unto Zoar—Some scholars consider Zoar a region connected with the plain of Jordan, and others think it is the border land of Egypt with its fertile fields. 11. Then Lot chose—the plain of Jordan—The reasonable and civil thing for Lot would have been to say to Abram, as soon as the privilege of choosing was granted, that he, Abram, should take his choice inasmuch as he was older and had been Lot's benefactor during the years that were past; but Lot stopped to look the ground over, courtesy and reason were ignored and he chose the best there was in Canaan. Selfishness blinded his eyes to his best interests.

KEEP YOUR STOVE BRIGHT



III. Abram's helpfulness (vs. 14-16).

14. Abram heard, etc.—Four kings of the East formed an alliance and made war upon five kings that held sway over regions about the lower part of the Jordan valley and were victorious, subduing these peoples and taking much spoil. Abram was undisturbed by the invading army in the seclusion of the territory that fell to him as a result of Lot's selfish choice. The news came to him that his nephew Lot had been a sufferer from this invasion and he showed his loyalty to him and his magnanimity in his prompt efforts to help him. Three hundred and eighteen—The fact that Abram had among his servants this number of men capable of bearing arms shows his greatness and prosperity in temporal affairs. Pursued them unto Dan—Abram's efforts to rescue Lot led him to the northern limits of Canaan and beyond. He allowed none of Lot's past conduct to keep him from exerting himself to the utmost to rescue him and restore to him his possessions. Lot had not only chosen the rich and well-watered plains of the south, but he had pitched his tent toward Sodom, a most wicked city. 15. Divided himself against them—Abram so divided and arranged his forces that he might do the most effective work in the rescue of his nephew. By night—The attack was made by night so as to take the captors as unprepared as possible. Pursued them—Abram's plans were successfully carried out and the enemy was put to flight. Unto Hobah—There is a place three miles north of Damascus, called Burzeh, where tradition says that Abram stopped and gave thanks to God for the victory he had gained. On the left hand of Damascus.—The place lies to the left as one faces the east. 16. Brought back all the goods—The kings of the East had succeeded in taking much spoil, but Abram recovered all that had been taken. He also liberated his nephew Lot and his household, together with other captives. As a reward for his exploit the king of Sodom offered him the spoil which he had recovered, but Abram refused to take it, for he would not have it said that the king had made Abram rich. Abram did not engage in the effort to rescue Lot with any thought of gaining wealth, but purely from his devotion to a kinsman.

Questions.—Where did Abram and Lot go from Canaan? Tell of Abram's doings in that country. Tell of the return to Canaan. What temporal prosperity did Abram and Lot have? Who inhabited the land of Canaan? Why was there strife between the herdsmen of Lot and those of Abram? What course was taken to prevent strife? What choice did Lot make? What led him to make the choice he did? In what respects was Lot wrong in his choice? What trouble came to Lot? How did Abram show his loyalty to him?

PRACTICAL SURVEY.

- Topic.—The Greatness of Unselfishness.
1. Abram's surrender of his rights.
 2. Assisting his afflicted kinsman.
 3. Blessing accepted and reward refused.
- I. Abram's surrender of his rights. Perhaps in nothing is the true greatness of Abram's character more clearly disclosed than in the events connected with the lesson. Abundance of blessing made the separation of the householders imperative. Their herdsmen could not agree. By respect of age Abram was entitled to the choice of place. By the greater claims of covenant supremacy the choice should have been his. This he greatly and graciously yielded in the interests of harmony, antedating the apostolic injunction, "Follow peace with all men." The unselfishness of Abram stands in impressive contrast with the opposite characteristics of his self-centered nephew. In nothing is true greatness more clearly expressed than in its power of relinquishment.
- II. Assisting his afflicted kinsman. Selfishness is certain of retribution, and unselfishness assures reward. Lot's unworthy choice placed him in the path of judgment, from which he escaped bankrupt and bereft only through the intervention and intercession of his nobler kinsman. It is always unsafe to place material concerns only in the balance, and ignore the higher interests of moral opportunities and influences. The plains were inviting, but the people were profligate. The estate was rich, but the neighborhood was degenerate. "The men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly." Into these contaminating associations Lot plunged himself and his household, for the sake of increasing his already abundant wealth. It is not an old story. Men are doing the same to-day. The material is placed above the moral, and gold supplants God. Abram's self-effacement found the place of safety. In the mount of vision and visitation. He "entertained angels," and offered the first intercessory prayer on record. Lot discovered that the "well watered plains" were desired by others as covetous as himself, and the thrifty householder was marched off a prisoner of war, with all his prized possessions in the hands of his confederated captors. His dishonored kinsman was his deliverer.
- III. Blessing accepted and reward refused. At this point appears for the first and only time the kingly priest whose name and person are enshrouded in a divinely woven veil of mystery. For an instant he appears and vanishes finally into the invisible from whence he came. Conjectures are unsatisfactory and unseemly. The allusions of the scripture are to be respected. He belonged to the prior and permanent order of priesthood, of which our "great high priest" is the

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antetype and fulfillment. "Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek" (Psa. 110: 4). Like our intercourse with the divine, the approach was from the higher sphere. Abram acknowledged the superiority of person and office, for himself and his descendants, by paying tithes of the battle spoil and by receiving his blessing. The apostle tells us that, "without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better." In the path of sacrifice and service we meet unanticipated and divine visitations. Melchizedek appears for a moment, but "Christ abideth forever." Communion with God unflinches us for the fellowship of the world.

W. H. C.

Sleep is the great nourisher of infants, and without peaceful sleep the child will not thrive. This cannot be got if the infant is troubled with worms. Miller's Worm Powders will destroy worms and drive them from the system, and afterwards the child's rest will be undisturbed. The powders cannot injure the most delicate baby, and there is nothing so effective for restoring the health of a worm-worm infant.



BURBANK'S SUPER WAR WHEAT

After experiments extending over 11 years, Luther Burbank, the California horticulturist, has evolved a "super wheat," containing over 14 per cent. gluten, a most astounding improvement in this grain, especially as wheat in California runs to starch more than to gluten. As a matter of fact, millers are found it necessary in the past to mix California and northern wheat in order to produce a bread-making flour. The new type of wheat is somewhat similar in appearance to the prize "Marquis," but has a very large, white flinty kernel, and produces a very white flour. It may be grown from Hudson Bay to Patagonia, and is intended to replace the California variety.

The new wheat, according to Mr. Burbank, is an exceedingly early wheat, being the earliest of some four or five hundred varieties which he has been growing. It has been tested alongside of 68 of the best wheats of the world, and has exceeded them all in yield, uniformity, and all other desirable characteristics. The growth is strong, being four feet on good ordinary soil, it tills unusually well, and on ordinary valley soil, without special cultivation, care or fertilizing, produced this summer at the rate of 49.88 bushels per acre, every plant and every kernel being uniform, as this wheat was originally grown from one single kernel. Even at present prices



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of ordinary wheat for milling purposes, it will be seen that the crop of each acre would purchase an acre of the best wheat land.

Like all other wheats grown in California, the new wheat is a winter wheat, and Mr. Burbank thinks should probably be treated as such. In planting the wheat he advises that it should be well protected from birds, which is best done by drilling or planting rows by hand. Too rich soil or heavy manuring is not advisable for the wheat, he says, as it is more apt to lodge and the crop is not generally increased, especially on naturally good ground. On poorer soils some good complete fertilizer will increase the yield, 40 to 50 pounds of seed per acre, one-half to one inch deep, giving the best results.

A test of the new wheat shows the following:

CHEMICAL EXAMINATION.	
Per cent. moisture	11.60
Per cent. total protein	14.20
Per cent. N. G. protein	1.42
Per cent. G. protein	12.78
Glutenin No.	31
Per cent. gliadin	8.82
Per cent. ash	.63

BAKING TEST.

Yeast	.....	Fleischman's
Per cent. absorption	.....	62.0
Per cent. wet gluten	.....	38.2
Color of gluten	.....	Very good
Quality of gluten	.....	Very soft
Time of rise	.....	1.49
Time to bake	.....	.25
Expansion	.....	574
Weight of dough	.....	574
Weight of loaf	.....	518
Loss	.....	56
Loaves per barrel	.....	301
Vol. of loaf	.....	2225
Color	.....	Excellent
Texture	.....	Excellent

RAVAGES OF PEACH CANKER.

In passing through the peach orchards of Niagara Peninsula, or elsewhere in Ontario where peaches are grown, one constantly meets with large, dark, gummy lesions on the trunks or limbs of the trees. This diseased condition of the branches was formerly given the name of "gummosis," on account of the gum exudations which are so regularly associated with it, but a closer study of its nature indicates that this disease clearly belongs to the type of affection known as canker, for which reason the latter name is now adopted, according to Mr. W. A. McCubbin, M. A., Assistant in charge of Fruit Diseases of the Dominion Plant Pathological Laboratory, St. Catharines, Ont., in bulletin No. 37, second series, entitled "Peach Canker" that can be had free on application to the publications branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa. Mr. McCubbin proceeds to give a description of the disease, some account of the extensive damage caused by it, its prevalence in the Niagara Peninsula, Lambton, Essex, and Kent, Ont., the nature of the trouble, steps that should be taken to control and remedy the evil. The bulletin, which is both timely and exhaustive, contains six full pages of plates, showing exactly the progress of the canker, with explanatory rates of each stage.

SELECT POTATOES FOR SEED.

Recent investigations have shown that lack of vigor in the seed potatoes planted has been the cause of poor yields and inferior quality in the resultant crop. It has also been found that seed from New Brunswick or New Ontario gives better yields in older Ontario than home-grown seed. It may not be convenient for every farmer to purchase seed grown in New Brunswick or New Ontario, but a process of selection can be conducted which will materially increase yields and profits. Usually the best potatoes are found in the hills which have the strongest and most vigorous tops. These should be marked before they die down in the autumn and kept separate at digging time for seed the following year. This will not cost anything except a little time and it will be time profitably spent.

While conducting illustration work on farms, the Commission of Conservation has noted increases in yield as high as 33 per cent. from the selected seed over the seed from the common bin. Select enough now, for a seed plot next year.—F.C.N.

NOTES.

At the Missouri Experiment Station it recently has been shown that little or no root action takes place with fall-planted trees until the surface of the ground has begun to freeze, and the trees planted early in the fall may begin root action the vitality before they are dormant.

Cull potatoes make profitable pork. The sooner manure is worked into the soil the better. This is where it should rot. Manure is more effective when worked into the soil than when used as a top dressing. Daily application of manure to level fields is preferable to poor storage, no matter what season of the year.

Fall plowing means early sowed oats, and experience has convinced us that it is useless to sow oats unless the seed can be put into the ground early in the spring.

An experienced orchardist says he would not plant pears as fillers in an apple orchard. If fillers are to be made use of he advises planting all apples.

For Burns and Scalds—Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil will take the fire out of a burn or scald more rapidly than any other preparation. It should be at hand in every kitchen so that it may be available at any time. There is no preparation required. Just apply the oil to the burn or scald and the pain will abate and in a short time cease altogether.

MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS.

FARMERS MARKET.

Dairy Produce—		
Butte, choice dairy	.....	\$0 48 \$0 52
Do., creamery	.....	0 50 0 55
Margarine, lb.	.....	0 35 0 37
Eggs, new laid, dozen.	.....	0 58 0 65
Cheese, lb.	.....	0 30
Do., fancy, lb.	.....	0 31
Dressed Poultry—		
Turkeys, lb.	.....	0 40
Fowl, lb.	.....	0 34 0 36
Spring chickens	.....	0 38 0 40
Roosters, lb.	.....	0 23 0 25
Ducklings, lb.	.....	0 35
Fresh Meats—		
Hogs, per lb., dressed	.....	0 26 0 27
Calves, per lb., dressed	.....	0 22 0 24
Spring lamb, lb., dressed	.....	0 23 0 24
Fruits—		
Apples, basket	.....	0 45 0 60
Do., bbl.	.....	3 50 4 50
Crabapples	.....	0 50 0 75
Grapes, 6-qt. basket	.....	0 50 0 60
Pears, 6-qt. basket	.....	0 60 0 75
Do., 11-qt. basket	.....	1 00 1 25
Peaches, 6-qt. basket	.....	0 75 1 00
Do., 11-qt. basket	.....	1 00 2 00
Plums, 11-qt. basket	.....	1 25 1 40
Melons, basket	.....	0 50 0 60
Do., each	.....	0 05 0 15
Vegetables—		
Beans, small measure	.....	0 20
Beets, new dozen	.....	0 25
Carrots, new, dozen	.....	0 25
Corn, dozen	.....	0 15 0 30
Cucumbers, basket	.....	0 50 0 60
Cucumbers, dozen	.....	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. sack	.....	2 00
Do., basket	.....	0 50 0 90
Do., pickling	.....	0 50 1 50
Do., green, bunch	.....	0 03 0 05
Parsley, bunch	.....	0 05 0 10
Pumpkins, each	.....	0 10 0 25
Potatoes, bag	.....	2 50
Radishes, 3 bunches	.....	0 10
Rhubarb, 3 for	.....	0 10
Sage, bunch	.....	0 05
Savory, bunch	.....	0 05 0 10
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	.....	24 00 27 00
Carcases, choice	.....	20 00 21 00
Do., common	.....	17 00 20 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

SUGAR MARKET.

Wholesale prices to the retail trade on Canadian refined, Toronto delivery, are as follows—

Acadia granulated 100 lb. bag	.....	\$10 04
St. Lawrence gran 100 lb.	.....	9 79
Lantic gran 100 lb.	.....	9 79
Redpath gran 100 lb.	.....	9 04
Acadia yellows—		
No. 1 yellow differential from gran.	.....	0 20
No. 2 do.	.....	0 50
No. 3 do.	.....	0 60
St. Lawrence yellows—		
No. 1 yellow differential from gran.	.....	0 30
No. 2 do.	.....	0 40
No. 3 do.	.....	0 50
Atlantic yellow—		
No. 1 yellow differential from gran.	.....	0 30
No. 2 do.	.....	0 50
No. 3 do.	.....	0 60
Redpath yellow—		
No. 1 yellow differential from gran.	.....	0 40
No. 2 do.	.....	0 50
No. 3 do.	.....	0 60
Barrels—5c over bags.	.....
Cases—20 5-lb. cartons, 60c and 50	
2-lb. cartons, 70c over bags. Gunnies,	
5-20, 40c; 10-10-lb. 50c over bags.	

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A stenographer has devised a novel way of making a hit with her employer, displaying genius that promises great success for her in the business world. When the boss dictates a letter containing a word she does not know how to spell she does not make the usual guess at it. She looks it up in the dictionary.—Kansas City Star.

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