

false promise did he hold out? What sentence was pronounced upon him? What promise did it contain for man? God intended this world to be a place of preparation for a better one, man's fall did not change his plan, it only changed the character of the process by which man was made fit for heaven. It still remained true that "without holiness no man could see the Lord." Now that man had sinned and become unholy, God introduced a new plan by which his sin could be atoned for and righteousness be secured for him. The first words of the Gospel of the grace of God are spoken of in the serpent's curse. **H—eaven was lost by disobedience; it was regained by the obedience of Christ.**

The one condition of acceptance with God since the fall is faith in Jesus Christ. Why was God better pleased with Abel's offering than Cain's? (Golden Text). So Cain stands as the representative of the unbelieving world. Wickedness grows in strength until the whole world has become corrupt. Thus speedily we find manifest the **E—vil consequences of sin.**

II. NOAH. (IV). It seemed as though, if Noah should die, not one person would be left alive who served God. The only way then that the race could be preserved for redemption was by purifying it in the waters of the flood. Question on the facts of the Flood. To the new head of the race God renewed the covenant He had made with the first, and gave in addition a visible reminder and pledge that his plan of mercy should not fail, or be defeated by man's sin. What was this? (Golden Text). Every rainbow that spanned the thunder-cloud told men that although God was angry at sin yet he would "in wrath remember mercy." We may call this the **C—ovenant of the rainbow.**

III. ABRAHAM. (V, VI, VII, VIII). Again the world became utterly corrupt, but true to his promise, God did not send a second flood. He selects one man, Abram, and dismissing from covenant relationship all the rest of mankind, he renews once more the ancient promises to him. Where was Abram's native city? What command came to him there? At what place was he residing when this command was repeated? At what place did he build the first altar in Canaan? Where did he erect the second? What definite promises did God make to Abram? Why was this **O—ne family separated from all the rest of the world?**

God gave Noah the sign of the rainbow, so he gave Abram a sign when he made a solemn and formal covenant with him. What was it? (Gen. 17: 10). What has taken the place of circumcision? For whom was this covenant made with Abraham? (Gal. 3: 9, 29). What **V—ery precious promises** are given to those who are included in this covenant? Press again upon the scholars the claims which Christ has upon them in virtue of their baptism.

When God had promised not to destroy the world with a flood, he did not mean that he would overlook notorious wickedness. So when the cities of the Plain became noted for depravity and were a source of moral danger to their neighbors, he prepared to punish them as justice, and the welfare of the world demanded. Draw out by questions the story of Abraham's guests and the intercession of the patriarch. Illustrate by his **E—ntreating for mercy** for the Sodomites, the better plea which Christ presents for penitent sinners.

With Abraham a new dispensation, or plan of divine dealing with men for their salvation, began. It was necessary that he should exemplify in his own person the essential character of the relation which God established as the condition of inheriting the blessings. If he was to be the spiritual progenitor of the redeemed, he must attest the security of the foundation on which believers are to rest. If Abraham does not trust God's word, who will? If he stands the severest test that can be applied, then the world for all time will know that he was not a victim of delusion or enthusiasm but had indeed the voice of God to rest upon. What test did God apply? Review the story. There are many points in it that tempt us to linger, but the one thing for which Abraham is commended is his **N—ever doubting God's word**, that is, his implicit reliance upon what He had promised. Shew what is meant by "receiving and resting upon Christ alone for salvation as he is offered to us in the Gospel."

IV. JACOB. (IX, X, XI). The object of our lesson seems to be to trace the history of the covenant, so the life of Isaac is passed over and the first step in the transfer of the heirship from the elder son Esau to the younger, Jacob, is given. By questions, as usual, review the story of **A lost birthright;**

Jacob suffered for his treachery towards his brother, but God always intended that he should have the birthright, and would have given it to him had he waited. As soon as he was really penitent he confirmed it to him at Bethel. How did Jacob come to be there? What dream did he have? What did God promise him? What vow did Jacob make? He takes God to be his covenant God and promises a life of **N—ew obedience.**

As the covenant was made with Adam, not only for himself but for his posterity, so the covenant with Abraham was made full enough to embrace all mankind. We are assured