

THE

# Teachers' Preparation Leaflet

LESSON 8.

FEBRUARY 25th, 1894.

1st QUARTER.

**Trial of Abraham's Faith.** Gen. 22: 1-13.

**GOLDEN TEXT:** "By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac." Heb. 11: 17.

**COMMIT TO MEMORY** verses 11-13. **LESSON HYMNS**, 58, 26, 144, 86.

**PROVE THAT**—Faith subdues difficulties. Matt. 21: 21.

**SHORTER CATECHISM**—Quest. 90. How is the word to be read and heard, that it may become effectual to salvation?

## DAILY PORTIONS.

(The Selections of the International Bible Reading Association.)

MONDAY.	TUESDAY.	WEDNESDAY.	THURSDAY.	FRIDAY.	SATURDAY.	SAABBATH
Gen. 22: 1-13	Gen. 22: 14-19	Jas. 1: 1-12	1 Pet. 4: 12-19	Jas. 2: 17-23	Phil. 3: 7-14	Heb. 11: 13-19

## PRELIMINARY DISSERTATION.

If you can get the books, read the chapters on Abraham's Trial in Newman Smythe's *Old Faiths in a New Light*, and Canon Mozely's *Ruling Ideas in Early Ages*, and chapter XII in the senior text-book, Deane's *Abraham, His Life and Times*.

There can be no question of the right of the Creator to make this demand upon Abraham. The life of Isaac belonged to God and he alone could dictate the means by which his career upon earth was terminated. We have no right to say that it was a cruel command in view of the happy termination of the trial. It is always good to inflict temporary pain for a sufficiently desirable end. The question is one of degree only, and the result amply justifies all that was suffered in the present case. If there was no doubt that God gave the command, it became a most solemn duty to obey.

Abraham was satisfied that God spoke to him, and if God spoke to any of us, commanding a similar sacrifice, our duty would be the same. But what evidence would satisfy a Christian jury, of ordinary level-headed men, that a man was divinely instructed to slay his son, so that they would not convict him of murder, or send him to an insane asylum? We can conceive of none. Note the following points in explanation of this.

(1) According to the ideas of Abraham's time and even of classic nations, the parental right extended even to the life of the child. He was a mere chattel. Now, an infant which has drawn but one breath has such a right to his own life that he who takes it is a murderer in the eyes of the law. God would not test men in a way that outraged this conception of the value of the individual life. He does not drag men back to barbarism. (2) Human sacrifices were common among surrounding nations

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