

## Lesson XI.

## THE TEST OF ABRAHAM'S FAITH

March 16, 1913

**BETWEEN THE LESSONS**—After the destruction of Sodom, Abraham moved south to Gerar. Here he deceived Abimelech as he had deceived Pharaoh regarding Sarah, and with the same results. After this we read of the birth of Isaac and the banishment of Hagar and Ishmael. Then Abraham covenants with Abimelech and abides at Beersheba.

**GOLDEN TEXT**—I desire mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.  
—Hosea 6: 6 (Rev. Ver.).

Memorize vs. 12, 13. **THE LESSON PASSAGE**—Genesis 22: 1-13. Study Genesis 22: 1-19. Read Genesis, chs. 22, 23.

1 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt A'braham, and said unto him, A'braham: and he said, Behold, here I am.

2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son, Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

3 And A'braham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.

4 Then on the third day A'braham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off.

5 And A'braham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.

6 And A'braham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together.

7 And Isaac spake unto A'braham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And

Revised Version—prove; 1 Here am I; 2 son, whom thou lovest, even Isaac; 4 Omit up; 5 he; 6 Omit then; 7 we will; 8 in his hand the fire; 9 the; 10 Omit My son; 11 my son.

Daily Readings—(By courtesy of I. R. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Secretary, 26 Old Bailey, London, England.)—M.—The test of Abraham's faith, Gen. 22: 1-5. T.—The test of Abraham's faith, Gen. 22: 9-19. W.—Israel's test, Deut. 8: 1-10. Th.—The faith of the patriarch, Heb. 11: 17-22. F.—The acceptable sacrifice, Micah 6: 6-9. S.—The perfect sacrifice, John 10: 11-18. S.—Faith and works, Jas. 2: 20-26.

## THE LESSON EXPLAINED

## I. GOD'S STERN COMMAND.

—1, 2. After these things; some considerable time after. God did tempt Abraham; tried, tested. God does not tempt men to evil (James 1: 13), but He does test their attitude towards evil. Said unto him; in dream or vision of the night. Abraham would naturally require strong evidence that such a command was from God. Thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest. The repetition seems to bring out the sternness of the demand. After the sending away of Hagar and Ishmael (ch. 21: 14), all Abraham's love, and hope of the fulfillment of the promises, centre in Isaac. Into the land of Moriah; literally, "the land of the Moriah." Moriah is mentioned only once again (2 Chron. 3: 1), in connection with the building of the temple. The word means, "the vision of Jehovah." Offer him . . . for a burnt offering. The practice of offering human sacrifice prevailed among the Chaldeans and Canaanites and even in later Israel, Judg. 11: 31, 39; 2 Kgs. 3: 27; 16: 3.



"ABRAHAM BUILT AN ALTAR THERE"

## II. ABRAHAM'S PERFECT OBEDIENCE.—3-10. And Abraham rose up early; to start, as

is the Eastern custom, before the hot sun comes. Saddled his ass; girded for carrying articles of travel, not persons. No hint is given of the anguish that Abraham must have felt. Saw the place afar off. Abraham recognized the place by some divine indication. I and the lad . . . will . . . come again; no deceit in saying that he and Isaac would return. Abraham still cherishes some faint hope. Wood of the burnt offering. Isaac carries wood for his own sacrifice. Took . . . fire. For the purpose of kindling fires glowing coals of fire were carried suspended by a chain. And . . . went both of them together; a strange picture, the father with anguish in his heart,

the son light-hearted and curious. Where is the lamb? Isaac perceives that the all-important thing has been omitted. God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering; literally, "see for himself." Again not deceit, but desperate hope. Built an altar. He would gather a few loose stones for the