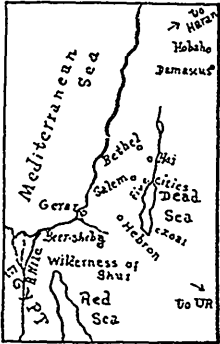


we may be, though, like children, we cannot understand the "why" of God's doings. **Not destroy it for ten's sake**; in answer to Abraham's sixth petition. Nothing will destroy a city or a nation so surely as wickedness, and those who do most for their real prosperity are the righteous people in them. **The Lord went his way**; merciful and patient, but the wicked must be punished. Ch. 19: 29, 30 tells how God at length answered Abraham's prayer by saving Lot, the one righteous man in Sodom, with his two daughters, whilst He destroyed all the wicked and their possessions.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON

THE FIVE CITIES OF THE PLAIN—It is not certain



whether they were situated at the north or at the south end of the Dead Sea. The geology of the region is similar to that of the oil regions of Canada and the United States. "In such soil great reservoirs of gas and oil are formed, and suddenly discharged by their own pressure or by earthquake. The gas explodes, carrying high up into the air masses of the oil, which fall back

in fiery rain." In this manner the wicked cities may have been destroyed. **HEBRON**—Near to which Abraham now lived, became his burial place, as also that of Isaac and Jacob.

AN ORIENTAL SIDELIGHT

"There is a Jewish story," says Professor McFadyen, "of a mother who had two sons, one a potter and one a gardener. The gardener asked her to pray for rain to water his plants, the potter asked her to pray for dry weather to dry his vessels. She loved them both: whom was she to pray for? The moral is that .. one could not deliberately pray for that which he knew would injure some other."

LESSON QUESTIONS

Whither did Hagar flee? Who appeared to her there? What was she told to do? To what was

Abram's name changed? Sarai's? What promise was made concerning her?

16-19 Whence did visitors come to Abraham? From what point may they have looked toward Sodom? How far from them was the Dead Sea? Who did One of the visitors turn out to be? Why did God reveal Himself so fully to Abraham? Who learn "the secret of the Lord"? (Ps. 25: 14.)

20-22 Explain "the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah." Why must Abraham's visitors "go down" in order to reach the Dead Sea? Show that God searches the hearts of men. (1 Chron. 28: 9.)

23-33 For whom did Abraham pray? How many times did he plead? When did Moses pray for his people? (Ex. 32: 32.) Where do we find our Lord's prayer for His followers? (John, ch. 17.) What was Paul willing to suffer for his countrymen? (Rom. 9: 3.) For whom does he bid us pray? (1 Tim. 2: 1, 2.) Why did the Lord finally go on His way?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Is a great disaster coming upon a person or community proof that that person or community has been specially wicked? (Consider John 9: 3 and Luke 13: 1, 2.)

2. Does God always answer true prayer?

A LESSON FOR LIFE

A cannon, it is said, must be a hundred times as heavy as the charge to be sent from it. And if our words are to have influence with God or men, they must have behind them a pure and upright life. It was because Abraham had been a good man, that there was such power in his prayers.

Prove from Scripture--That Jesus is praying for us.

Shorter Catechism--*Ques. 48. What are we specially taught by these words (before me) in the first commandment?* A. These words (*before me*) in the first commandment teach us, That God, who seeth all things, taketh notice of, and is much displeased with, the sin of having any other God.

The Question on Missions--9. Do the Koreans make good Christians? They have to endure great persecution; they give very liberally; they build all their own churches; they preach to their fellow-countrymen; they excel in Bible study; they live the gospel in their life.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. Who were the three "men" who visited Abraham?

2. With which One of them does he plead for Sodom? And on what grounds?

3. In what way was his prayer finally answered?