

# THE Teachers' Preparation Leaflet

LESSON 4.

JANUARY 28th, 1894.

1ST QUARTER.

God's Covenant with Noah. Gen. 9: 8-17.

GOLDEN TEXT: "I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and earth." Gen. 9: 13.

## INTRODUCTORY DRILL—INTERESTING AND DIFFICULT QUESTIONS.

**THE STATE OF SOCIETY IN THE ANTEDILUVIAN WORLD.** The Scripture narrative gives no countenance to the view that man has developed from a state of savagery into civilization. In the childhood of the race we find, not wild hunters and fishers, but farmers and shepherds; cities are founded; musical instruments are well known; and implements of brass and iron are in common use. At least one scrap of song has come down to us. The extraordinary age to which men survived gave room for an accumulation of talent and skill such as our brief "three score years and ten" can never acquire.

For some time, doubtless, the descendants of Cain dwelt apart, heirs of their father's curse. But, as population increased, the uninhabited regions which at first intervened, would become settled and the two divisions of the human family would more or less intermingle. The time came when intermarriages became common. The result of this was, as it would be now, that the race of Seth became corrupted (2 Cor. 6. 14) and only Noah, the grandson of Methusaleh and great grandson of Enoch, remained true amid the almost universal lawlessness and lust. It is interesting to notice in these brief chronicles of the antediluvian world, the expression given to the strongest instincts of human nature. We have seen Eve fondling her babe as "God's gift," and comforting herself in Seth whom the same divine Giver had "put" in Abel's place. Revenge finds its apologist in Lamech, of the evil race of Cain, while his namesake, the Sethite, erects an imperishable monument, in the name of his son (ch. 5: 29) to the "rest" and satisfaction which right minded men, weary with the day's toil, ever take in the sweet surroundings of the family circle.

**SONS OF GOD AND DAUGHTERS OF MEN.** Only two views need be considered. (1) "Sons of God" mean angels. But angels "neither marry nor are given in marriage." There could be no such alliance between bodyless spirits and "flesh and blood." If such an enormity had been possible, it would not have been tolerated for 120 years, but would have been stamped out at once. (2) "Sons of God" means descendants of Seth, and daughters of men? descendants of Cain." The terms appropriately distinguish those who acknowledged their obligations to a superhuman power and those who lived wholly for the world and refused subjection to God's law. In contracting these marriages the Sethites disregarded all higher interests and followed the impulse of their unrestrained fancy. Their children became notorious for their lawless and violent conduct. They were the "Ishmael-

THE TEACHERS' PREPARATION LEAFLET is published weekly by the General Assembly's Sabbath School Committee, Presbyterian Church in Canada, at 35 cents a year, or 25c. if four or more copies are sent to one person. Address Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, 107 Hazen Street, St. John, N. B. Editing Committee: Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, Jas. Turnbull and Principal Kirkland.