

International S. S. Lessons.

18th March.

A BLESSING TO ALL NATIONS.

A MISSIONARY LESSON.

Les. Gen. 18 : 17-21. Col. Text, Gen. 18 : 18.
Mem. vs. 17-19. Catechism, Q. 94.

Most of your Sabbath School lessons follow in course some part of the Old or New Testament. This quarter you have been studying from the first book in the Bible, the beginning of man's history.

It is usual, once in each quarter, to turn aside from the course of history and take some special subject, either a Missionary lesson or a Temperance lesson. The Sabbath School Committee of the General Assembly of our own church has chosen for to-day this Missionary lesson. They have taken it from one of the lessons you have already had, the visit of the Angels to Abraham in connection with the destruction of Sodom.

The theme of the lesson is that Abraham was to become a blessing to all nations. The meaning of that was that from Abraham's descendants should come so far as his human nature was concerned, the Christ, in whom all nations were to be blessed.

How are the nations made blessed through Him? Look at heathen nations where there is no knowledge of Christ. The people are cruel. The poor are oppressed. The women are maidslaves. The little children are sometimes very cruelly treated. There is no safety or happiness.

Then see those lands when they hear of Christ and serve Him. What a change Christ's coming made in New Hebrides. Instead of murder and cruelty, killing and eating each other, there is on many islands, peace, safety and happiness. Take any heathen land and compare it with that same land when it became Christian, and you will see how that land has been blessed.

But better still they have learned something that will not only make them happy here but happy to all eternity. Without Christ they have no hope after this short life is done. With him they have the blessing of "Life forevermore."

Now comes the great point of the lesson for us. The way in which these heathen people are to know of Christ is by our telling them.

Christ commanded this. He said "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Tell them of me and how I can save and bless them.

Some can go and others can give money to feed and clothe those who go and thus all do their part. The cents and dimes and dol-

lars we give to missions are ways of telling the nations of Him whose coming will bless them.

Now to sum up the lesson there are three points to remember:

1. All nations who know and follow Christ are made blessed and happy in this life.
2. They are made blessed and happy forever.
3. Nothing but Christ can make men good and happy either in this life or the life to come.
4. Christ has commanded us to tell all nations about Him.
5. What are you doing to help in this work?

March 25.

REVIEW—A LONG BRIDGE.

Golden Text, Matt. 22:32.

This Review of the Quarter's lessons is like a great bridge, about 2222 years long, spanning a stream of time about 2222 years broad, that flows between Eden and Jacob's ladder at Bethel. (These four "twos" will help you to remember the time more easily).

The ten lessons which you have had on outstanding points of history may represent ten piers on which the bridge rests, and the spans between the piers are the spaces of time and history between the lessons. These spans are very uneven in length, some short, so we very long. Your work to-day in review is to tell something of the bridge, the piers and the spans between.

Starting at the first end of the bridge, we have the first lesson, the first Adam, and his surroundings; all the wonders of the new creation.

Travelling along the first, short span, we cannot tell how long it is, noting what we see by the way in the beauty of Eden, the holiness and happiness of its inmates, we come to a pier, your second lesson, the first great startling event after the creation of the race, viz., their sin and fall. You have that dark shadow, Adam's sin and the bright light over against it, God's grace and mercy. There are many things to make us linger around this lesson. Tell what you see in it.

Passing along a span a hundred and thirty years long, we see the first two boys of the human race grown up. And we come to the next pier, the third lesson, where another startling event meets us. Sin has developed, hate and passion are seen, leading to murder, the first murder in the world, and that of a brother by a brother's hand.

We now traverse another span, a long, long one, of more than fifteen hundred years. As we journey along it we see men getting worse and worse; until at length God sees there is no hope of their doing better, and he calls out the one good man Noah, and his family,