

Lesson IV.

GOD CALLS ABRAM

July 28, 1901

Genesis 12: 1-9. Commit to memory vs. 1-3. Read Genesis 11: 1 to 12: 9.

1 Now the Lord had said unto Ab'ram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

3 And I will bless him that bless thee, and I will curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

4 So Ab'ram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of his land.

5 And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran;

Revised Version.—1 The; 2 Be thou; 3 Him that

curseth thee will I curse; 4 The; 5 Went; 6 Shechem; 7 south.

6 And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Shechem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land.

7 And the Lord appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the Lord, who appeared unto him.

8 And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Beth'el, and pitched his tent, having Beth'el on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the Lord, and called upon the name of the Lord.

9 And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the

curseth thee will I curse; 4 The; 5 Went; 6 Shechem; 7 south.

TIME AND PLACE

According to the common chronology halfway between Adam and Christ, Abraham's birth dating 1996 B.C. and his migration 70 years later. The scene shifts from Ur of the Chaldees near the junction of the Euphrates and Tigris to Haran about 500 miles north of Hur and then to Palestine, which became Abraham's home.

LESSON PLAN

I. The Lord's Call, 1-3.

With the gracious promise of blessing.

II. Abram's Response, 4, 5.

Prompt and unquestioning.

III. In the Land, 6-9.

Sojourning and worshipping.

LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise, 588; 234; 74 (Ps. Sel.); 594; 245; 534.

GOLDEN TEXT

Gen. 12: 2. I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing.

DAILY READINGS

M. —Gen. 12: 1-9. God calls Abram.
T. —Neh. 9: 5-10. Found faithful.
W. —Acts 7: 1-7. Abram's obedience.
Th. —Gal. 3: 1-14. The blessing of Abraham.
F. —Heb. 11: 6-10. By faith.
S. —Mark 1: 14-20. Christ's call.
S. —Mark 10: 28-31. Leaving all for Christ.

CATECHISM

Q. 87. What is repentance unto life?

A. Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.

EXPOSITION

Connecting Links—In the lapse of time after the flood, the descendants of Noah peopled the earth, being separated into nations and speaking different languages. But wickedness again became painfully prevalent, demanding punishment. (Chs. 10 and 11.) Now, God, instead of destroying the people of the earth, chose one family to come into special saving relation to Himself. This marks another stage in the disclosure of God's plan. God passes the heinously wicked by, and treats the chosen family with special favor as His own people.

I. The Lord's Call, 1-3.

V. 1. *Now the Lord had said.* The name of God here used is the one specially associated with redemption. How long it was since He spoke to Noah we are not told precisely: at the lowest calculation four hundred and twenty years. We are now about half way between Adam and Christ. God spoke to Abraham first in his native Ur of the Chaldees. (Ch. 15: 7; Acts 7: 2, 3.) *Get thee out of thy country; an appeal to faith.* Abram is to be the father of the faithful.

He must leave his country; this was the widest circle of his interests and regard. *And from thy kindred.* This means the sundering of stronger ties, even those of blood. *And from thy father's house;* if they refuse to go. This was the inner circle of tenderest affection. Yet, he must leave all at God's summons. *Unto a land that I will show thee.* He was to go out, trusting in God's word alone, walking by faith, not by sight. (Heb. 11: 8.)

Vs. 2, 3. *And I will make of thee a great nation;* if his faith shall stand the trial and not fail. This is the first of the six particulars embraced in the great promise. They are given in the ascending order of importance. *I will bless thee.* Every personal benefit is summed up in this. *Make thy name great;* renowned, held in high favor. *A blessing to others;* as well as the recipient of blessings for himself. (Ch. 28: 4; Gal. 3: 14.) *I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee.* God identified the cause of Abraham with his own, and made him the hinge of destiny to many.