



The above map will be useful for reference, as it shows the position and relations of the countries mentioned in Old Testament history.

"Only."

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."—St. Matthew xxv. 40.

ONLY a word for the Master,
Lovingly quietly said;
Only a word!
Yet the Master heard;
And some fainting hearts were fed.

Only a look of remonstrance,
Sorrowful, gentle, and deep;
Only a look!
Yet the strong man shook;
And he went alone to weep!

Only one cry from the sinner,
Bitterly earnest and wild:—
"Help, Lord! I die!"
Rose in agony;
And the Saviour saved his child.

Only some act of devotion,
Willingly, joyfully done:
"Surely 'twas nought,"
(So the proud world thought);
But yet souls for Christ were won!

Only an hour with the children,
Pleasantly, cheerfully given;
Still seed was sown
In that hour alone,
Which would bring forth fruit for Heaven!

"Only"—but Jesus is looking
Constantly, tenderly down
To earth, and sees
Those who strive to please;
And their love he loves to crown.
—Charlotte Murray.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

B.C. 1898.] **LESSON IX.** [Feb. 27.

DESTRUCTION OF SODOM.

Gen. 19. 15-26. Commit to mem. vs. 15-16.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Escape for thy life. Gen. 19. 17.

OUTLINE.

1. Righteous Lot.
2. Wicked Sodom.

TIME.—1898 B.C. Immediately following the last lesson.

PLACE.—Sodom. Gomorrah. Zoar.

EXPLANATIONS.—*Daughters which are here*—Some think Lot had other daughters married living in Sodom. *The Lord being merciful*—The mercy is shown by God's angels taking by their hands each of the reluctant four and leading them forth. *That he said*—One of the angels said. *City . . . is a little one*—Lot pleads that God will not destroy Zoar, because, as it has but few inhabitants, it cannot be so terribly wicked. *The Lord rained . . . from the Lord*—A poetic expression, probably to make the assertion

strong, that the destruction was from the Lord Jehovah himself. *Brimstone and fire*—What is meant is not surely known. The country is now and was abundant with bitumen, and God may have kindled it to burning in any of many ways: some think by lightning, and others by volcanic eruption. Of the destruction there can be no question. *Pillar of salt*—Overwhelmed in her delaying by the noxious vapors, she falls and is covered by the storm with the incrustation which made the pillar of salt.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where, in this lesson, are we taught—

1. God's care for the righteous?
2. God's tenderness with the wayward?
3. God's anger with the wicked?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Who came to Sodom to warn Lot and his family? *Two angels of God.* 2. How did they show God's mercy to Lot and his family? *By dragging them out of the city.* 3. What did they say to Lot in the GOLDEN TEXT? *"Escape," etc.* 4. What took place after Lot went out of Sodom? *God rained fire upon it.* 5. What came upon Lot's wife when she stopped and looked back? *She became a pillar of salt.* 6. What are we taught in this lesson? *To escape from wicked companions.*

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The mercy of God.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

10. Did God create you? Yes; he made me, both body and soul. Psalm c. 3. Know ye that the Lord He is God: it is he that hath made us. [Job x. 11; Numbers xvi. 22; Hebrews xii. 9.]

B.C. 1872.] **LESSON X.** [March. 6. ABRAHAM OFFERING ISAAC.

Gen. 22. 1-14. Commit to mem. vs. 10-15.

GOLDEN TEXT.

God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt-offering. Gen. 22. 8.

OUTLINE.

1. Offered.
2. Delivered.

TIME.—1872 B.C. This date is based upon Josephus's statement as to Isaac's age at the time of the trial.

PLACE.—The land of Moriah. Many think this was the same as Mount Moriah, where, centuries after, Solomon built the temple. The place was then called Jebus, or Salem.

EXPLANATIONS.—*God did tempt*—Better, God did test or prove Abraham. *Thine only son*—Isaac was the only son by Sarah, the only son of promise, and now really the only son left in his father's house. *Two of his young men*—simply servants of his family. *I and the last will go . . . and come*—Abraham had the promise that Isaac should be the father of a mighty nation. He knew the sacrifice was death, but he also knew or believed, as in Heb. xi. 17. *The place which God had told him of*—This was, not improbably, the mountain in which afterward the temple was reared for God's worship. *Bound . . . his son*—After the manner of all Oriental sacrifice. *Angel of the Lord*—The covenant Jehovah, the Eternal Word, in the after ages our incarnate Lord, Jesus, the Son of God. *Jehovah-jireh*—The Lord will provide. The whole scene is full of prophetic

suggestion and many see pictures of the suffering and death and resurrection of Jesus here foreshadowed.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where, in this lesson, are we taught—
1. That God requires obedience?
2. That God loves to be trusted?
3. That God will provide help in need!

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What did God command Abraham? *To offer up his son Isaac.* 2. What was the purpose of this command? *To try the faith of Abraham.* 3. How did Abraham receive God's command? *He prepared to obey the command.* 4. How was Isaac saved from death? *By a voice from heaven.* 2. What did Abraham say to Isaac on the way to the altar in the GOLDEN TEXT? *"God will," etc.* 6. Of what was this prophecy? *Of Jesus Christ the Lamb of God.*

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The Lamb of God.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

11. Does God care for you? I know that He cares for me, and watches over me always by his Providence.
12. What is the Providence of God? The Providence of God is his preservation of all His creatures, His care for all their wants, and His rule over all their actions.

THE CARE OF CLOTHING.

The care of clothing is an important matter, and is thus discoursed upon by the *Golden Rule*:

"It makes a great difference in the looks and wear of a hat or coat whether it is thrown down on the lounge or chair when taken off, or carefully hung up. With two boys the expense of their clothing is often nearly one half in difference, mainly, as we think, because one of them will always hang up his clothes carefully, while the others may be found anywhere—when they can be found at all! Properly brushing and cleaning clothes, and mending them as soon as required rather than waiting until the thread ravel out or the tear has grown too large to be neatly repaired, add greatly to their durability. When they get a little seedy have some tailor, who does the work cheaply and well, give them a good cleansing and pressing. This may be done several times to a good suit, and each time it will 'look as good as new.' Here is where true economy comes in, in the care of clothing and proper attention to repairing and cleansing. More than half the expenses can be saved in the bill for the year if pains are taken to secure material worthy of such care."

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