

Lesson III.

NOAH SAVED IN THE ARK

July 21, 1901

Genesis 8: 1-22. Vs. 15-22 only printed, as recommended by the International S.S. Lesson Committee. Commit to memory vs. 20-22. Read Genesis 6: 1 to 9: 29.

15 And God spake unto Noah, saying,
16 Go forth of the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons' wives with thee.

17 Bring forth with thee every living thing that is with thee, of all flesh, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth; that they may breed abundantly in the earth, and be fruitful, and multiply upon the earth.

18 And Noah went forth, and his sons, and his wife and his sons' wives with him:

19 Every beast, every creeping thing, and every fowl, and whatsoever creepeth upon the earth, after

their kinds, went forth out of the ark.

20 And Noah builded an altar unto the Lord; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

21 And the Lord smelled a sweet savour, and the Lord said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more everything living, as I have done.

22 While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

Revised Version.—10omit of; 20omit and; 21Move to; 22Families; 23The; 24That the.

GOLDEN TEXT

Gen. 6: 8. Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

DAILY READINGS

M.—Gen. 6: 5-18. Man's wickedness.
T.—Gen. 7: 13-24. The punishment.
W.—Gen. 8: 1-12. Noah saved in the ark.
Th.—Gen. 8: 13-22. God's covenant.
F.—Gen. 9: 8-17. A preacher of righteousness.
S.—2 Peter 2: 1-9. The lesson for us.
S.—Matt. 24: 34-42.

CATECHISM

Q. 86. What is faith in Jesus Christ?

A. Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel.

TIME AND PLACE

According to the common reckoning, the flood was ended 2348 B.C., or 1656 after the creation of man. Place, the mountainous region of Ararat.

LESSON PLAN

I. The Flood Abating, 1-5.

After prevailing for 150 days.

II. The Earth Dried, 6-14.

The raven and the dove returning no more.

III. The Exit from the Ark, 15-19.

All safe and sound.

IV. God's Purpose of Mercy, 20-22.

No such general destruction again.

LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise, 70; 67 (Ps. Sel.); 137; 560; 135; 238.

EXPOSITION

Connecting Links—A long time has elapsed since the last lesson, whose scene was in Eden. How many years we do not know exactly, for these early chapters record only the great events, the landmarks in the course of primitive history. Chapter 4 tells the tragic story of Cain and Abel, which shows how terribly the consequence of Adam's first sin was manifesting itself in his children. Chapter 5 traces the genealogy of the family of Seth to Noah, the family of Cain being rejected. Chapter 6 shows the deepening depravity that required a deluge to cleanse the earth and the appointment of Noah to build the ark. Chapter 7 describes the entry into the ark and the coming of the flood, Noah and his family and the animals which he had been instructed to gather together being safe in the ark.

I. The Flood Abating, 1-5.

V. 1. *And God remembered Noah.* The time had come for deliverance. There had been no cessation of the flood for 150 days. (ch. 7: 24; 8: 3.) *And God made a wind to pass over the earth;* to promote evaporation, and so hasten the drying up of the waters.

Vs. 2-5. *The fountains also of the deep and the windows of heaven were stopped.* Compare

ch. 7: 11. The waters had risen from below as well as fallen from above. *The waters returned from off the earth continually.* "Retreated by a continuous retreat." There may have also been a rising or falling of the earth's surface at different points, so as to change the physical features of Western Asia. Such changes of level have sometimes been very great, and sometimes sudden. *After the end of one hundred and fifty days the waters were abated.* Literally, "were cut off." They ceased to rise and began to fall. *The ark rested;* settled down upon. The ark had doubtless drifted a long way and in various directions. *The mountains of Ararat, in Armenia;* not necessarily upon the top. Indeed that is impossible, the peak being 17,000 feet above sea level and covered with perpetual snow. *The waters decreased continually until the tenth month.* "Were going and decreasing"; they subsided slowly.

II. The Earth Dried, 6-14.

Vs. 6-12. *At the end of forty days;* the same length of time as the great fall of rain had lasted, *Noah sent forth a raven;* a bird of prey, able to live on dead bodies, a bird of the mountain tops. Finding food and resting place it did not return. *Also he sent forth a dove;* a bird of the valleys, delighting in dry,