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Sunday School Lesson.

LESSON III.—OCTOBER 17, 1880

JACOB AT BETHEL.—Gen. 28: 10-22.

TIME.—B. C. 1760. Jacob was about 77 (or 57 according to Canon Cook and Dr. Kennicott) years old.

PLACE.—A spot near the city of Luz, 12 miles north of Jerusalem, which Jacob named Bethel, "the house of God," because of the vision he had there.

CONNECTION.

Esau hated Jacob for obtaining the birthright blessing in his stead, and determined to kill his brother as soon as his father should die. To avert the danger, Rebekah sent Jacob to her family at Haran. Isaac approved the plan, as securing a proper marriage for his son, to whom he repeated the blessing of Abraham, and sent him away to Padan-aram.

EXPLANATORY.

Jacob went out from Beersheba. In this journey of Jacob's the chief thing is his conversion, which then took place. Jacob before this time was of the earth, earthly. From henceforth the character of his life is changed; new colors appear in his destiny. This was conversion. Toward Haran. Computed to have been at least 450 miles distant from Beersheba. Through a country in many places desert and savage, and in others no less dangerous from hostile tribes. See chap II: 31, 32.

He lighted upon a certain place. The term means, "he fell upon the place," as the providential stopping place, incidentally coming upon it or coming up to it, as the lodging-place for the night. This place was about 48 miles from Beersheba, and eight miles north of Jerusalem, near the town of Bethel, and is defined as the place, from its being so well known in history. He may have been too late to enter the city, after the time for shutting the gates. It was common and comfortable to sleep out in the open air. He took of the stones for his pillows. Probably belonging to Abraham's altar. Often from a pillow of stones come the brightest visions of the soul. From weariness and pain and trouble arise the steps that lead to heaven. Stephen, when stoned by a mob, saw the heaven opened, and Jesus on the right hand of God. Paul from a Roman prison saw his crown of righteousness. Life's Pisgahs and mounts of transfiguration are built of the hard rocks of affliction and trial. This is finely expressed in the hymn, "Nearer, my God, to Thee."

He dreamed... behold, a ladder set up signifying heaven and earth joined, the gulf bridged over. It has been thought that this vision was suggested to Jacob as he lay upon his pillow of stones in the morning twilight, and saw the ranges of hills rising above one another, till the distant mountains touched the clouds and seemed to join the sky. All dark below, they grew brighter as they rose into the dawn rays, and the farthest peaks gleamed in the morning sunshine. Thus it is all the better picture of the Christian life, which is ever climbing over hills of difficulty, up from the darkness of earth to the purer life and glory of God. The top reached to heaven. Shall your ladder, standing on the earth, reach to heaven? or is your ladder in its whole length flat along the ground? I mean your plans in life: do they really go up and consciously take hold of the future and the spiritual? We be to him who lays out a plan which has nothing in it but this world! Your ladder must be long enough to reach and rest its top in heaven. The angels of God ascending and descending. God would teach him that Jacob's ladder expresses the connecting and living intercourse between heaven and earth. The ladder reaching down from heaven to earth designates the revelations, the words, and promises of God; the ladder reaching upwards from earth to heaven indicates faith, sighs, confession and prayer. The angels ascending and descending are messengers, and the symbols of the reality of a personal intercourse between Jehovah and his people.

And thy seed. Jacob's birthright privilege is here assured to him so that no wrath of Esau could deprive him of it. He promised to him the Holy Land, the numerous offspring, and the overruling dominion in a world wide kingdom under the promised seed, which is Christ. And here the covenant promise reaches to the spiritual blessings to come upon all families of the earth by Jesus Christ.

Behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee, &c. I will direct, help and support thee in a peculiar manner. The Lord assures him, that however he might be alien from his father's house, he should not be cast away from his presence, and that he would be his guide and guardian wherever he should go. We cannot be lonely, if God be with us. We cannot want, if he provide for us. We cannot err, if he guide us. We cannot perish, if he preserve us. And all this he will do for those that put their trust in him.

Surely the Lord is in this place. Chal., "In very deed the glory of the Lord dwelleth in this place." Arab., "The light of God is in this place." He had laid him down to sleep, as on common ground; but he found that it was a consecrated place, hallowed by the presence of God himself in this blessed vision of the night. It seemed a lone and uninviting spot, but it had proved to him a magnificent temple. And I knew it not. That Jehovah is in his condescending mercy should be near to him even here, far away from his father's house and from the places consecrated to his worship—it was this which he did not know or imagine. Some chapters beyond the one where this incident is recorded, is a single verse which throws no little light upon this night of the vision. The account here reads as if God, unasked, revealed himself to Jacob in this wonderful way, and we could but guess at the feelings of Jacob on this eventful occasion. About 28 years afterwards he proposes to his family to go to Bethel, and build an altar there to God, "who answered me in the day of my dis-

truss." This vision was not a cheap gift because unsought, but an answer to prayer.

The gate of heaven. If it was a ladder for angels to traverse, it was also a ladder for men, the poor, humble, distressed sinner like himself. If it was a ladder for God to come down in the flesh, it was a ladder for men to go up to God, Jehorah at the top. It seems strange, at first thought, that the house of God should be dreadful, and the gate of heaven should fill him with a solemn fear. And yet it is just these places where the great decisions of life are made,—where the gate of heaven is revealed, and the choice is made to enter or refuse, a choice that lays hold on eternity,—that are filled with solemnity and awe. Life and death are in the balance. Two eternities are there, and it is fearful and solemn.

Took the stone... set it up for a pillar. This was an act of consecration. It showed that the spot was to be considered holy. Setting up the stone, merely, was the natural act of one wishing to identify the spot when he came that way again. But the pouring out of oil was at least a formal and devout acknowledgment of the fact commemorated, if it did not set apart the spot as one hereafter to receive an altar, and to become a place for sacrifices.

Called the name... Bethel. In doing this he called the place by a new name. It had been called Luz; but he named it Bethel—the house of God.

If God. This is not making any condition with God, for this is only a recital of the promise, and is more properly rendered, since—inasmuch as. It expresses no doubt or contingency. The order of what he desired is deserving of notice. It corresponds with our Saviour's rule to seek things of the greatest importance first. All that he asks is to be supplied with what is absolutely and indispensably necessary,—food, however hardly earned, so that it sustain life; clothing, however coarse, so that it but cover his nakedness,—so that he may be sure that he shall eventually return in peace to his father's house. What a chapter is this for those who go forth even in our own day to battle with the world!

These shall the Lord be my God. The grand and solemn expression of the soul's free, full, and perpetual acceptance of the Lord to be its own God.

I will surely give the tenth unto thee. Ten is the whole; a tenth is a share of the whole. The Lord of all receives one share as an acknowledgment of his sovereign right to all. Thus Jacob opens his heart, his home and his treasure to God. The spirit of power, and of love, and of a sound mind, has begun to reign in Jacob. There is clear evidence that Jacob was now a child of God. He takes God to be his God in covenant, with whom he will live. He goes out in reliance upon the divine promise, and yields himself to the divine control. This is the essence of all conversion.

The Orchard and Farm

HINTS FOR OCTOBER WORK.

Weeds in grass land may be very easily seen and destroyed this month by the use of the "spud," a broad chisel-blade attached to a handle like that of a spade or long-handled shovel, having a spur upon it for the foot to aid in thrusting it into the ground. A boy with an instrument of this kind can rapidly clear grass land of buttercups, daisies, and a multitude of other biennial and perennial weeds.

This month offers the most favorable time usually for the painting and repair of farm buildings, and putting them in order for the winter. A great part of this work may be well done during this month by the farmer and his boys.

Implement, put away for the winter, should be painted or protected in some way from the action of the air and moisture. Paint or varnish for the wood-work, and a varnish of two-thirds rosin and one-third mutton tallow is excellent for protecting iron or steel.

A little extra feed brings cattle and horse to the beginning of winter in good order. The tops of carrots, beets and turnips may be fed to good advantage, and there is a great deal of sweetens in the October pasturage. Where much corn is planted, there will always be soft ears and "nubbins" which are best fed to horses and pigs.

Pigs will fatten nearly as fast on potatoes this month as on corn next. They do best on cooked feed, and the grain ought to be ground.

Fruit cellars should be in readiness, but the fruit should be kept in sheds, etc., until cold weather comes, being careful to remove it to the cellars before being exposed to severe cold. The fruit cellars should be with ventilators so arranged that they can be readily thrown open.

The practice of picking the fruit and putting it in heaps for a few days until the skin toughens, before barrelling, is a good one. Put the fruit into the barrel with care, shaking it down when half full and again when full, so that the apples will fit closely when the head is pressed in by means of the barrelling press. The opposite head should be marked as the one to be opened. This season of abundant apples it may not pay to market any except the best fruit, and that in fine shape.—American Agriculturist for October.

St. JOHN, N. B. Dec 19, 1872.

MR. T. GRAHAM.—Dear Sir,—I have been for several years under particular obligation to you for a bottle of your PAIN EXPELLER. You no doubt remember having met me in Grand Manan about eight years ago, when I had been labouring about eighteen months under the distress of a very lame knee, the result of a severe fall. I had previously tried most all the popular remedies under the head of "Pain Killer," etc., but to no effect. Your one bottle cured me perfectly, and I always praise the bridge that carries me safely over.

Yours with gratitude, GEORGE GABREY, Pastor Christian Church, Duke St.

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SEE WHAT PHYSICIANS AND THE PEOPLE SAY ABOUT IT.

Messrs. Scott & Bowne: 86 West Thirty-sixth street, New York, Sept. 2, 1876. GENTS—I have frequently prescribed SCOTT'S EMULSION OF COD LIVER OIL with HYPOPHOSPHITES during the past year, and regard it as a valuable preparation in scrofulous and consumptive cases plethoric and effluviaceous. C. C. LOCKWOOD, M.D.

Messrs. SCOTT & BOWNE—Gentlemen—Within the last year I have used in my own family, and in my private practice prescribed very extensively SCOTT'S EMULSION OF COD LIVER OIL with HYPOPHOSPHITES and found it a most valuable preparation, especially in diseases of children. It is agreeable to the most delicate stomach; which renders it a very reliable agent as a nutritive remedy in consumptive and scrofulous cases. October 12, 1879. Yours respectfully, A. H. SEXTON, M.D. Baltimore.

Messrs. SCOTT & BOWNE—Gentlemen—Within the last two months I have fairly tried SCOTT'S EMULSION OF COD LIVER OIL with HYPOPHOSPHITES, and I candidly declare that it is the finest preparation of the kind that has ever been brought to my notice; in affections of the lungs and other wasting diseases, we consider it our most reliable agent, in a perfectly elegant and agreeable form. December 10th, 1878. Very truly J. SIMONAUD, M.D. New Orleans, La.

Messrs SCOTT & BOWNE:—Gentlemen:—In September 1877, my health began to fail and my physician pronounced it spinal trouble; under his care I got some relief from pain, but my general health did not improve, and early in the winter, I began to raise blood and rapidly grow worse. In May last I was taken with a violent bleeding which brought me to my bed and my life was despaired of for many weeks; violent symptoms appeared, night and morning coughs, night sweats, short breath, and a return of the spinal trouble. My physician stopped the bleeding and then ordered Cod Liver Oil and Lime: and I used various preparations, but they did me no good. I lost all hope of life, and was an object of pity to all my friends. Last September I purchased a bottle of your Emulsion, before it was all taken I was better. I then bought a dozen bottles and have taken all with the following results: Cough subsiding, night sweats stopped, appetite returned, pain in spine disappeared, strength returning, and my weight increased from 118 to 140 pounds in sixteen weeks. I have taken no other medicine since commencing with your EMULSION and shall continue its use until I am perfectly well. I frequently meet some friend on the street who asks, what cured you and I answer SCOTT'S EMULSION OF COD LIVER OIL, &c. I have a friend who has not spoken aloud for 16 months and he is getting better. I gave him a bottle, and he bought two more, then got a dozen and says that it is food and medicine for him. He was given up to die a year ago; but he is improving now wonderfully. My recovery is exciting the surprise of many people, and I shall do all I can to make known your valuable medicine. Very truly yours, H. F. SLOCUM, Lowell, Mass.

About the 25th of last April I got a bottle of your EMULSION, and at that time I was so prostrated that no one who saw me thought I could live but a few days at most. I could retain nothing on my stomach and was literally starving. I commenced the use of the Emulsion in small doses; it was the first thing that would stay on my stomach; I continued its use, gradually increasing the dose; and from that hour I commenced mending, and now am able to ride and walk and am gaining flesh and strength rapidly. I have advised other parties to try it, and some two or three have already tried it. I am sure I shall entirely recover. I am yours For Sale by all Druggists at \$1 per bottle. R. W. HAMILTON, M.D.

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