

Lesson IX.

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM

March 2, 1913

Genesis 15 : 5-18. Study Genesis, chs. 15 ; 17 : 1-8—Memory Verses, 5, 6.

Golden Text—He is faithful that promised.—Hebrews 10 : 23.

5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them : and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

6 And he believed in the Lord ; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

7 And he said unto him, I *am* the Lord that brought thee out of Ur of the Chal'dees, to give thee this land to inherit it.

8 And he said, Lord God, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it ?

9 And he said unto him, Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon.

10 And he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst ; and laid each piece one against another : but the birds divided he not.

11 And when the fowls came down upon the carcases, A'bram drove them away.

12 And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon A'bram ; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him.

13 And he said unto A'bram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a

land *that is not their's*, and shall serve them ; and they shall afflict them four hundred years ;
14 And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge : and afterward shall they come out with great substance.

15 And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace ; thou shalt be buried in a good old age.

16 But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again : for the iniquity of the Am'orites is not yet full.

17 And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces.

18 In the same day the Lord made a covenant with A'bram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of E'gypt unto the great river, the river Euphra'tes.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Some time after Lot had settled near Sodom, four kings who were enemies came with their armies to fight against the city. And they took it and carried away captive the people who lived in it and all their possessions. Among those who were carried away were Lot and his family, who were thus punished for having chosen to live near such a wicked place.

When Abram heard what had happened he armed a great band of his servants and followed hard after the armies of the four kings. At night he came upon them suddenly and frightened them so that they fled away leaving most of their captives and spoils behind them. So Abram brought back all the people of Sodom and their belongings, as well as Lot, in safety.

The king of Sodom felt very grateful to Abram for this, and told him he might take all the spoil as his reward. But Abram refused to take even a thread lest the king would one day boast that it was he who had made Abram rich. Afterwards Abram began to be afraid lest perhaps the kings he had fought would return to punish him. But the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Fear not, Abram, I will shield thee from all harm and will greatly reward thee."

"But, Lord," said Abram, "why shouldst Thou give me more possessions, seeing that I have no son to inherit my riches after me." Then God brought Abram out into the night and said, "Just as thou canst not count the stars in the sky, so shalt thou not be able to