

THE DESTRUCTION OF SODOM— TEMPERANCE LESSON

March 9, 1913

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—In the eighteenth chapter, we read of Abraham's pleading with the angel of Jehovah, that Sodom might be spared, if it should contain but ten righteous men. Lot, who is now a leading citizen in Sodom, extends hospitality to the two angels who visit him in the form of men. Lot's guests see something of the awful state of Sodom. This Lesson reveals the full meaning of Lot's selfish choice in Lesson VIII.

GOLDEN TEXT—Come ye out from among them, and ye be separate, saith the Lord, and touch no unclean thing. —2 Corinthians 6 : 17 (Rev. Ver.).

Memorize vs. 15, 16. THE LESSON PASSAGE—Genesis 19 : 12-17, 23-29. Study Genesis 19 : 1-3, 12-29. Read Genesis, chs. 18 to 21.

12 And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides ? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place :

13 For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the Lord, and the Lord hath sent us to destroy it.

14 And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place ; for the Lord will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law.

15 And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here ; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.

16 And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters ; the Lord being merciful unto him : and they brought him forth, and set him without the city.

17 And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life ; look

Revised Version—¹whomsoever ; ²the ; ³Omit the face of ; ⁴But he lingered ; and the men ; ⁵Plain (capita P) ; ⁶came unto ; ⁷had ; ⁸land.

Daily Readings—(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Secretary, 26 Old Bailey, London, England.)—M.—The destruction of Sodom, Gen. 19 : 1-3, 12-16. T.—The destruction of Sodom, Gen. 19 : 17-29. W.—The doom pronounced, Gen. 18 : 16-22. Th.—The patriarch's prayer, Gen. 18 : 23-33. F.—Fate of the ungodly, Ps. 1. S.—Our Lord's warning, Luke 17 : 22-32. S.—Be ye separate, 2 Cor. 6 : 11-18.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. LOT WARNED.—12-14. And the men ; two of the angels who appeared to Abraham under the oaks of Mamre, ch. 18. Hast thou here any besides ? Lot's selfish choice had involved others in peril. Bring them out of this place. Lot cannot be saved in Sodom ; he must leave the thing he chose. The Lord hath sent us to destroy it. The angels clearly distinguish themselves from Jehovah. Lot . . . spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters ; Rev. Ver. Margin, "sons . . . which were to marry his daughters." The story shows plainly that Lot's daughters were still living at home. But he seemed as one that mocked. God was nothing to them, perhaps because Lot, while a good man, had not shown that God was much to him in these latter days in Sodom.

II. LOT HASTENED.—15-17. The angels hastened Lot. Little wonder that Lot's words did not convince. He is only half persuaded himself. Lot can endure the iniquity of Sodom more easily than he can believe the words of the angels. Lest thou be consumed in the iniquity. Rev. Ver. Margin reads "punishment," in place of "iniquity." While he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand. The angels are patient with Lot. Instead of leaving him to his doom, they add mild force to warning. The Lord being merciful unto him ; literally, "in the mercy or gentleness of Jehovah unto him." Brought him forth, and set him without. What

not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain ; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.

23 The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zo'ar.

24 Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven ;

25 And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.

26 But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

27 And Abraham gat up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the Lord :

28 And he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and beheld, and lo, the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace.

29 And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in the which Lot dwelt.



From a Photograph by Wilson.

ABRAHAM OAK NEAR HEBRON

Lot could not decide to do for himself, the angels do for him. Abroad ; Hebrew, "outside," that is, the city walls. He said, Up to this point, it has been "the men" or "they," Now it is "he." Probably the angel of Jehovah who remained behind to talk with