

supernatural trance (compare ch. 2 : 21). **Horror**, etc.; preparing for the dark announcement of v. 13.

III. ABRAM'S DESCENDANTS.—13-16. **Thy seed . . . a stranger**; a sojourner, one dwelling for a time in a place. **Land . . . not their's**; Egypt. **Shall serve**; as slaves. **Four hundred years**; a round number (Ex. 12 : 40 says "four hundred and thirty years"). **Will I judge**; punish, a reference to the plagues of Egypt. **Substance**; wealth. **Go to thy fathers**; join them in the unseen world, not in the grave, since Abram's ancestors were buried in Ur and Haran. **Good old age**; 175 years it was, according to ch. 25 : 7. **Fourth generation**; each generation being reckoned as a hundred years. **Hither**; to Canaan. **Amorites**; a general name for the original inhabitants of Canaan. **Not yet full**. God would spare them longer, giving them time to repent. Vs. 17-21 tell of the completion of the ceremony, and describe the territory which God promised to give to the descendants of Abram.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON

Palestine lies between the Mediterranean and the desert. The land is disposed in four parallel bands,



running north and south: (1) The maritime plain; (2) The central range of hills; (3) The Jordan valley (1300 feet above sea level at the Dead Sea); (4) The eastern range. There are all varieties of climate, from the sub-tropical of the Jordan valley at its lower end, to the sub-Alpine at its upper end on the heights of Hermon. The products are equally various—palms in Jericho, and pine forests in Lebanon; vines and olives on the hills that rise from the coast plain, and wheat fields in the valleys that pierce the central range.

AN ORIENTAL SIDELIGHT

We see Abraham entering into "blood friendship" with God. This means, "that he is ready to make a complete surrender of himself to Him with whom he covenants." And to this day, all over the East, Abraham is known as "Khaleel-Allah," "the

Friend of God," or "Ibrâheem-el-Khaleel-Allah," "Abraham the Friend", the one Friend of God.

LESSON QUESTIONS

What promise did God renew to Abram? How is the number of his descendants described? Whither did Abram remove? What news was brought to him? How did he act? What did he give to Melchizedek?

1, 5-7 How often did God appear to Abram during his life? What reasons had Abram for discouragement? What did God announce Himself as being to him? How does Jesus say His followers will be rewarded? (Mark 10 : 29, 30.) On what ground did God reckon Abram righteous? How are we saved?

8-12 Explain the printing of "God" in capitals here. How was Abram's faith helped? Describe the making of the covenant. What signs has Christ appointed to set forth the blessings of salvation? (S. Catechism, Ques. 92, 93.) Where, in the New Testament, is God's oath referred to? (Heb. 6 : 17, 18.)

13-16 How long were Abram's descendants to dwell in Egypt? In what way were the Egyptians to be punished? Why did God not immediately drive out the people of Canaan? What is the purpose of God's long-suffering? (Rom. 2 : 4.)

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Has the promise of v. 5 been made good?
2. Of what use are the sacraments? (See Shorter Catechism, Ques. 92, for definition of a sacrament.)

A LESSON FOR LIFE

Just now, many towns and cities in Ontario are planning how they may use the electric power generated by the mighty Falls of Niagara, for lighting their streets and houses, and driving their machinery. God offers us His boundless grace and strength, that we may be able to live purely and righteously. Our faith is like the poles and wires that carry the electric energy. It brings into our lives God's almighty help.

Prove from Scripture—That God is faithful.

Shorter Catechism—Review Questions 44-47.

The Questions on Missions—8. Has the work in Korea been successful? Yes! Though the work is new, there are already 32 congregations, 22 church buildings, 500 church members, and 9 day schools. In all parts of Korea, under all missions, there is wonderful progress.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. Why did God confirm His promise to Abram by an oath?
2. Show from the Lesson that God is merciful to the wicked.
3. What does the Lesson teach about the way to be saved?