

SCRIPTURE LESSONS FOR SCHOOL AND HOME.

BY THE REV. J. WYCLIFFE GEDGE, M.A., INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS FOR
WINCHESTER, ENG. (NOTES FOR TEACHERS.)

No. 1. ISHMAEL.

I. **ISHMAEL AT HOME.** (Read Gen. xvii. 20-27.) Picture the family and surroundings. Abraham a great chief—rich in cattle, silver and gold (xiii. 2)—held in high esteem—won a great victory over the kings of the Plain of Sodom—honoured by Melchizedek (xiv. 19)—but one great sorrow—no heir. One been promised, but not yet born, though Abram a hundred years old. Meanwhile had taken a second wife—Hagar, a bond-servant. Ishmael her child. What does God say about him? (Verse 20.) Showed that Abraham had (a) *Prayed for him*. The prayers of righteous man avail much—happy child for whom his father daily prays! More than that, he (b) *Dedicated him* to God by rite of circumcision. So far all went well. Ishmael lived happy life at home.

II. **ISHMAEL CAST OUT.** (Read xxi. 1-21.) A change in the home. Sarah's child born at last. He to be the heir. Must be honoured as such. A great feast held when Isaac weaned. All must come and rejoice. But what does Ishmael do? He now seventeen years old—perhaps amused at his name Isaac (laughter). Perhaps scornful at the honour done to the little baby. No wonder Sarah angry. What does she insist on Abraham's doing? Ishmael must leave home. Yes—but goes away under God's protection and with his father's blessing. No real harm can come to him.

So Hagar and Ishmael leave their home in Canaan—travel down south towards Egypt. But trouble soon

comes. Water spent—no wells near—journey long and tedious—sun scorching. What does Hagar do? Gives way to despair (verse 16). What does Ishmael do? He prays, for "God heard the voice of the lad." See the effect of early training, of being taught to pray. He called on the Lord in trouble, and was delivered. (Psa. xxxiv. 15.) Water was found—both were saved—Ishmael grew up a famous man—head of a great race still living in Arabia.

III. **LESSON.** (1) *Sin brings suffering.* Lesson to elder brothers and sisters as to the treatment of younger ones. Must set example of kindness instead of teasing, etc. (2) *Prayer brings relief.* Children often have to suffer—insufficient food, clothing, etc.,—sickness, trouble of various kinds. Let them early learn to pray. None ever called on God in vain.

TEXT. *When I was in trouble I called upon the Lord, and He heard me.*

No. 2. ISAAC.

I. **ISAAC PROMISED.** (Read xvii. 1-8.) Spoke of Abraham in last lesson. Had been called from his own country to live in Canaan (xii. 1-4). Had moved with large number of herdsmen, etc.,—crossed the great river Euphrates—hence called the "Heber" or "Hebrew," meaning the "man who crossed over." Now living in Canaan—settled peaceably among the inhabitants—but as yet no possession in the land. (Acts vii. 5.) Now God appears to him. What does Abraham do? *He worships—* falls on his face. *He listens. What*