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Sunday School Lesson.

LESSON VI.—AUGUST 15, 1880.

ABRAM AND MELCHIZEDEK.—Gen. 14: 12-24.

TIME.—B. C. 1913. Five years after our last lesson.

PLACE.—Abraham lived in Hebron, 12 miles north of Jerusalem. The battle in which Lot was captured took place in the valley of Siddim, on the southern borders of the Dead Sea. Abram at Mamre or Hebron receives the news, and follows, overtaking them at Dan, and pursuing them as far as Damascus. On his return the king of Sodom, and Melchizedek king of Salem (afterwards Jerusalem) meet him in the valley of Shaveh, probably near Jerusalem.

EXPLANATORY.

And they took Lot, &c. "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise, but the companions of fools shall be destroyed," Prov. 13: 20. How many Christians, whilst they have looked at gain, have lost themselves! When we go out of the way of our duty, we put ourselves under God's protection, and cannot expect that choices made by our lusts should issue to our comfort. Particular mention is made of their taking Lot's goods, those goods which had occasioned his contest with Abram, and his separation from him.

Came one that had escaped. Probably one of Lot's retainers. Amorites. Dwellers on the summits, mountaineers—one of the chief nations who possessed the land of Canaan before its conquest by the Israelites. They are contrasted with the Canaanites, who were the dwellers in the lowlands; and the two tribes formed the main broad divisions of the Holy Land. Eshcol (the cluster of grapes) was in after times the name given by the children of Israel to a valley near Hebron, because of the bunch which the spies brought from thence. Confederates with Abram. The Amorites Mamre, and his two brothers, were named as confederates with Abram, because they assisted him now in the war, ver. 24.

His brother. Kin, relative. Strictly speaking, Lot was his nephew. He armed his trained servants. His proved servants, and practiced in the use of arms, especially those born in his own house. That the patriarchs carried weapons, is clear from Gen. 3: 25; 49: 5. Three hundred and eighteen. Which implies a following of more than one thousand men, women, and children.

He divided himself against them. He and his allies attacked from different quarters. By night. Chardin tells us, "that the manner of the Arabs making war, and pillaging the caravans, is to keep by the side of them, or to follow them in the rear, nearer or farther off, according to their forces, which it is very easy to do in Arabia, which is one great plain; and in the night, they silently fall upon the camp, and carry off one part of it before the rest are got under arms." He supposes that Abraham fell upon the camp of the four kings precisely in the same Arab manner, and by that means, with unequal forces, accomplished his design, and rescued Lot. Damascus. This is the first mention of this city in the Bible. It is one of the most ancient, and has at all times been one of the most important, of the cities of Syria. It is situated in a plain of vast size and of extreme fertility, which lies east of the great chain of Anti-Libanus, on the edge of the desert. It is still a city of 150,000 inhabitants.

The king... went out to meet him. The kings of the different cities go forth to congratulate them, and to thank them as the deliverers of their country. If Abraham had been one of those marauders whom he defeated, he would have followed up his victory, and made himself master of the country. But the principles by which he was governed as a servant of God prevented him from doing this.

Melchizedek; i. e., king of righteousness. There is something surprising and mysterious in the first appearance of Melchizedek and in the subsequent references to him. Bearing a title which Jews in after ages would recognize as designating their own sovereign, bearing gifts which recall to Christians the Lord's Supper, this Canaanite crosses for a moment the path of Abraham, and is unhesitatingly recognized as a person of higher spiritual rank than the friend of God. Disappearing as suddenly as he came in, he is lost to the sacred writings for 1,000 years; and then a few emphatic words for another moment bring him into sight as a type of the coming Lord of David. Once more, after another 1,000 years, the Hebrew Christians are taught to see in him a proof that it was the consistent purpose of God to abolish the Levitical priesthood. His person, his office, his relation to Christ, and the seat of his sovereignty, have given rise to innumerable discussions, which even now can scarcely be considered as settled. The most probable view of the true character of Melchizedek is that given by Josephus, viz., that he was a Canaanitish prince, a pious and religious man; a personage eminently raised up by God, whose genealogy was perhaps designedly veiled in mystery, that he might be in this as in other things, a type of Christ. He is mentioned elsewhere in the Scriptures only in the 110th Psalm and in the Epistle to the Hebrews (chaps. 5, 6, 7), where the apostle, aiming to show the pre-eminence of Christ's priesthood over that of Aaron, avails himself of the somewhat remarkable coincidences which subsist between what is here related of Melchizedek, and what he designed to affirm of Christ. As far as appears from the sacred record, Melchizedek was a priest, not by inheritance, but by immediate divine appointment. He derived his office from no predecessor, and delivered it down to no successor, but stands before us in the sacred record single and alone, constituting himself an order of priesthood. In this respect he was eminently "made like the Son of God;" who was also a priest, not after the manner of the sons of Aaron, by descent from their predecessors, but after the similitude of Melchizedek, that is, by an immediate, divine constitution. King of Salem.

means "peace." By some thought to be Jerusalem. Melchizedek was a type of Christ. 1. He was a royal priest, a king; Heb. 7: 1, 2. 2. He was of the highest rank; Heb. 7: 4-10. 3. He was unique, without predecessor or successor; Heb. 7: 3. 4. He was priest of a better covenant; Heb. 7: 11-16. Bread and wine. Melchizedek brought forth bread and wine as the priest of the most high God. There seems to be an intimation that this was a priestly act, and accordingly the crowning part of a sacred feast. It was probably connected with the offering of a sacrifice. This view of his acts is confirmed by the blessing which he pronounces as the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him, and said, &c. That is, Melchizedek blessed Abraham, in doing which he performed one of the characteristic functions of a priest, whose duty it was "to bless in the name of the Lord forever." 1 Chron. 23: 13. Num. 6, 23: 27. He gave him tithes of all. Giving the tenth was a practical acknowledgment of the divine priesthood of Melchizedek; for the tenth was, according to the general custom, the offering presented to the Deity. Giving of our substance for the support of God's worship, and for his poor, is as old as the church, and grows with the church's true prosperity. The Hebrew word for tithes is derived from a word meaning both "ten" and "to be rich."

Lifted up my hand. A solemn confirmation of an oath. The most high God Abram solemnly and expressly identifies the God of himself and of Melchizedek in the presence of the king of Sodom.

Shoe-latchet. The thong that the sandal was tied with (John 1: 27); a most valuable thing. Let those say, I have made Abram rich. His conduct in this emergency affords a good hint to Christians. They are really so rich in their own inheritance, that it ill becomes them to crave the possessions of others.

The young men; of Abraham's family. Eaten; and which therefore I cannot return, of the flocks, &c., we have rescued. Portion, share of the spoil. Men. My allies. He would not enforce their offering of surrender of spoil.

Those who Lot like willingly associate with the sinners are like the river Taurus, which is a sweet and pretty river enough near its source; but in the great metropolis it has kept company with drains and sewers under the belief that its current was too powerful and too pure to be injured by them. It was meant that the river should purify the sewer; but, instead of that, the sewer has corrupted the river.

"ARE YOU SAVED, TEACHER?"

"Are you saved, teacher?" The question was artlessly put by a little girl in one of our Sunday-schools, but for an instant the lady sat silent with the Bible in her hand, startled by those simple words. And although she answered that "she hoped she was," and her young questioner seemed satisfied, the teacher's mind was still full of anxious thought, and a strange sensation of unrest. The child's few words bore blessed fruit, the teacher was led to consider seriously her own need of the Great Teacher, and when she next took her place at the head of the class, it was with a joyful confidence in her heart that, through the merits of the Redeemer, she could say that she was saved.

I am sure that those engaged in soul-winning will see in this little incident many useful hints for the guidance of Sunday-school teachers. We have, of late, read much valuable advice on what should be our qualifications in this respect, and the gratitude of every thoughtful worker is due to those who take such pains to teach the teacher, leading him to use all the powers within his reach for making him a fit laborer in the Master's vineyard. We can scarcely esteem too highly the value of this training; and, so far from there being any truth in the popular and ignorant notion that any one can teach a child, I am persuaded that there is no department of Christian work where more educated fitness, as well as natural aptitude, is required. Rightly to feed the opening mind of the young listener, destroying the growing heart-weeds of evil, and encouraging the development of every true and noble thought; to guide among the many rocks of temptation where the soul may make shipwreck; to lead into the green pastures of Divine love and consolation; and, above all, to be the instrument, in God's hand, of saving precious souls,—this is the teacher's mission to the young.

We are living in days when there cannot be a higher and nobler work than that of saving the generation springing up to fill our places in the future. From those little ones we must look for brave things to be done in times to come. Our lives are brief, and "as a tale that is told," but by leading a child to Christ we may add a life to ours, and another will take up the thread of our work when we pass away. But, if we are to be successful teachers, we must be content patiently to plod and pray, seeing, perhaps, little of the desired fruit. No impulsive flush of zeal will do permanent good; it is the step-by-step persistency that alone can overcome. Let us cheerfully and faithfully continue to labor; the Master is ever at our side; in the days of his flesh he trod the path of teaching we are treading now. He can sympathize with us, he will reward our toil; and, though we sow the good seed "carefully with tears," we shall, doubtless, come again bearing our sheaves with us.—The King's Messenger.

RHEUMATISM.

I have for some years been very much troubled with Rheumatic pain, and weakness in my knees, so that it was with great difficulty that I could walk about; and from the failure of every thing I had tried, I had despaired of ever finding any thing that could cure me; but, by the advice of a friend, I gave GRAHAM'S PAIN ERADICATOR a trial, one bottle of which has completely cured me, as I have not felt any return of that complaint since using this medicine, more than seven years ago. GURLAND COX, J. P. Canning, N.S., Dec. 6, 1879.

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SEE WHAT PHYSICIANS AND THE PEOPLE SAY ABOUT IT.

Messrs. Scott & Bowne: 66 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, palatable and efficacious. 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. Yours respectfully, A. H. SAXTON, M.D. Baltimore. October 12, 1879.

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 yours, J. SIMONAUD, M.D., New Orleans, La.

Messrs. SCOTT & BOWNE—Gentlemen—In September 1877, my health began to fail, and my physician pronounced 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, phlegm in sputa disappeared, strength returning, and my weight increased from 115 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 15 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 from that hour I commenced using it, and gradually increasing the dose; and strength rapidly. I have advised other parties to try it, and some two or three have already recovered. I am sure I shall entirely recover. I am yours, R. W. HAMILTON, M.D. For Sale by all Druggists at \$1 per bottle.

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 recovered. I am sure I shall entirely recover. I am yours, R. W. HAMILTON, M.D. For Sale by all Druggists at \$1 per bottle.

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THANKFUL.

the meadow, year-old try daisies, hearts of gold; by apron, applied hands; quiet she stands; lowers so pity? Did God? answer less nod.

her blossoms, red head, turned skyward, "God!" she said, planning (word I spoke) says "thank you" says I take.

teacher, of-praise! bright copy full's ways! bel murmur ever make, "say 'thank you' 'we take'."

VICTORY.

TE M. FRAYNE.

sh I had n't touched had left it on the top board where it was! Fartha say?" tell her, and she'll see it was you who

as if some real voice and looked eagerly to learn from whence

so much like Joe Si. he wanted me to tell st summer when he together."

traveled now that Joe Aunt Marthas certainly could not

oon Aunt Martha had on an errand, and occupant of the house re. The time seemed Harry sat rocking the sitting-room, his see this quaint old

Now, Harry had ough you know boys for such a degree of rls), still he wanted at candlestick, but of thought of breaking sudden, as he lifted it se shelf, down it came was broken in several

he voice suggested, ll; gather up the hem away where no you are going home and your aunt will notice its being gone besides Aunt Martha needlesome in you to en she is away." eat louder and more ight of the probabli- Martha's favor by the suggestions of a fair way to win, e, not nearly so bold, e, as that of his own ed to say, "Harry could you, tell a lie candlestick?" ar! I did n't think, "cried Harry, ner- ell if she asked me;

ou'd just act the lie, the last voice. ating a moment, and teon out bolder than on, you're a regu- little simpleton to roke it, when no one if your aunt gets up, she'll never like rain."

er comes of it," said ver impressively than ant:

unt Martha all about sure, and I'll do it." left off speaking, as does when the right eled, and Harry's for having obeyed r, conscience, which, o be the "voice of

Martha just how it of the two voices ainly that it seemed to be near him. She ry, and explained to voices; of how they when questions of me up for decision; Harry, I'm so glad ere enabled to obey ay you ever be thus d remember that the on the side of right, it costs, and that y will help you win."

—Exchange.

do right," said Mrs. s trust him." What ou think Johnny will man, like the good which was good and to be such a man as ng.