

# For the Sabbath School.

International S. S. Lesson.

LESSON V.—FEBRUARY 4.—GEN. XII: 1-9.

(Beginning of the Hebrew Nation.)

**GOLDEN TEXT.**—"I will bless thee, and make thee great; and thou shalt be a blessing."—Gen., xii, 2.

The section of history belonging to this lesson includes Chapters xi. and xii.

**THE COURSE OF HISTORY.**—Adam, 4,004; Jared and Jabel, etc., 3,500; Enoch, 3,000; Noah (Ark begun) 2,500; Abraham born 1996, half way between Adam and Christ, 2,000; Moses, Exodus, 1,500.

**INTERVENING EVENTS.**—1. Re-population of the earth in the three lines, Shem, Ham and Japheth, to which the races of men and their languages are still traced. 2. The tower of Babel, the formation of different languages, and the dispersion. 3. The genealogy of Adam.

**TIME.**—Abraham entered the Promised Land, B.C. 1921; 427 years after the flood, and 470 years before his descendants took possession of it.

**CHRONOLOGY.**—Abraham was born B.C. 1996; i. e., A.M. 2008, almost exactly half way between Adam and Christ. Noah died two years before his birth. Abraham left Ur about B.C. 1926, aged seventy years. He left Haran and entered Canaan B.C. 1921, aged seventy-five. From this date is usually counted the 430 years to the Exodus. He lived in Canaan and vicinity about one hundred years B.C. 1921-1822.

**PLACES.**—Ur in Chaldea, on the lower part of the Euphrates. Haran, in Mesopotamia, or a branch of the Euphrates, and various parts of Palestine, then called Canaan.

**UR OF THE CHALDEES.**—The ruins of this city, called Mugheir, are six miles west of the Euphrates, near where it is connected with the Tigris, about 125 miles above its entrance into the Persian Gulf. Here there have lately been discovered bricks bearing the mark of an ancient king, Uruk.

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WORLD AFTER NOAH.**—The new race started on a much higher plane than the former one. They had learned many lessons from the old world. They had seen the effects of sin. They had records of God's dealings in the past. They stood on the plane of civilization and invention attained before the flood, but with better purposes and uses. The most notable story of this intervening time is that of the confusion of tongues at the tower of Babel, near the present site of Babylon. Languages; There are now about 3,000 languages and branches, besides lesser dialects. But the leading languages are less than 300. The Bible is now translated into over 300 different languages, into all the principal ones. The object was (1) to limit the spread of evil, to fence off the different nations from one another, and limit the power of violence. (2) It gave the opportunity for many different developments of civilization and language, so that finally there will come one language which shall include the best things in all. (3) It made, as it were, a fence and defence around Abraham and the new religious development. The gift of Pente-

cost was the reverse of Babel, a symbol of a better day when all men shall be brothers again, and as the world grows better the unity becomes more possible. See the progress by comparing Gen. 11, Acts 2, and Rev. 7: 9, 10. Writing was known in Abraham's time. There are, in various museums, inscribed bricks and cylinders of his age. In the spring of 1883 there were discovered at Tel-el-Amarna, one hundred miles south of Cairo, in Egypt, several hundred cuneiform tablets, which are letters sent to Egypt from Babylonia and Palestine, the most interesting ones to us being from the governor of Jerusalem, not far from the time of Abraham. There are also engraved bricks and cylinders from the ruins of Ur, taken from the stone library of the early king Lig-Bagas, whom Prof. Sayce puts at 3,000 B.C. "This ancient race were beyond most others given to reading and writing," so that it may well be true, in the words of R. Payne Smith, that "very probably Abraham carried with him bricks and cylinders inscribed with these ancient records." See *Library References*.

**THE FIRST CALL OF ABRAHAM.**—II: 31. ABRAHAM.

(1) *Name.* Originally Abram (high or exalted father); changed afterwards to Abraham (father of a multitude).

(2) *Parentage.* He was the son of Terah, of the line of Shem. (3) *Birth.* He was born at Ur of the Chaldees, B.C. 1996, two years after the death of Noah, through whom his father could easily have gained a knowledge of the true God. "With him begins a new chapter in the history of the race. His surroundings at Ur. In Abraham's time the city of Ur, though now over one hundred miles from the sea, was on the shores of the Persian Gulf. Abraham, no doubt, often walked upon the sands of the seashore, to which the number of his descendants was compared.

**THE CALL.**—Ten generations and more than four hundred years have passed since the flood: Again man goes astray, and falls into idolatry and wickedness. There is danger that the truth will again be lost from the earth, and the race ruin itself through sin. Another method of redeeming man, from that of our last lesson, is now undertaken, whose beginnings are recorded in to-day's lesson.

**THE METHOD OF THE CALL.** (1) Stephen says that "the God of glory" appeared to him. (2) Whether audibly, as man speaks to man; or by spiritual revelation, no likeness seen, no audible voice heard, substantially the results would be the same.

**THE DEPARTURE FROM UR.**—Abraham was called because he was a fitting instrument for God's purpose, and was willing to listen to the voice of God. Part of Abraham's family went with him, and a large company of servants with flocks and herds. They moved northward along the Euphrates till they came to Haran in the Modern Aleppo district. Here his father Terah died.

**THE SECOND CALL.**—V. 1. For some unknown reason Abraham and his company remained at Haran for a number of years instead of going on to Canaan. But Abraham did not know that he was going on to Canaan (Acts 7: 3; Heb. 11: 8).

**THE FIRST PILGRIM FATHER.**—Vs. 4-9. So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him. This is the record of Abram's overcoming faith. The command of God entailed no little cost and self-denial.

## INTERNATIONAL SCHEME OF SABBATH-SCHOOL LESSONS

ADOPTED BY THE SABBATH-SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

1894		FIRST QUARTER.				1894	
1894.	BIBLE LESSON	PROVE THAT	COMMIT TO MEMORY				
			PROOF.	GOLDEN TEXT.	CATECHISM.		
Jan. 7	The First Adam.....	Gen. 1: 26-31; 2: 1-3	Man was created truly noble.....	Ps. 8: 5	Gen. 2: 27	82	
" 14	Adam's Sin and God's Grace.....	Gen. 3: 1-13	Our hearts are deceitful.....	Jer. 17: 9	1 Cor. 13: 12	81, 84	
" 21	Cain and Abel.....	Gen. 4: 1-13	God accepts only heart worship.....	John 4: 24	Heb. 12: 4	85	
" 28	God's Covenant with Noah.....	Gen. 9: 1-17	God fulfils His promises.....	Heb. 10: 23	Gen. 9: 13	86	
Feb. 4	Beginning of the Hebrew Nation.....	Gen. 12: 1-9	Great benefits reward obedience.....	Isa. 1: 19	Gen. 22: 8	87	
" 11	God's Covenant with Abram.....	Gen. 17: 1-9	The pious family is blessed.....	Pro. 3: 33	Gen. 22: 6	88	
" 18	God's Judgment on Sodom.....	Gen. 18: 22-32	We should pray for all men.....	1 Tim. 2: 1	Gen. 18: 23	89	
" 25	Trial of Abraham's Faith.....	Gen. 22: 1-13	Faith subdues difficulties.....	Matt. 21: 21	Heb. 11: 17	90	
Mar. 4	Selling the Birthright.....	Gen. 25: 27-34	Godless people make bad bargains.....	Isa. 59: 3	Luke 22: 23	91	
" 11	Jacob at Bethel.....	Gen. 28: 10-22	Angels help the righteous.....	Heb. 1: 14	Gen. 28: 13	92, 93	
" 18	A Blessing to all Nations.....	Gen. 28: 17-22	Good men are great blessings.....	Matt. 5: 16	Gen. 28: 18	94	
" 25	REVIEW		God is a Father to his people.....	1 Cor. 6: 18	Matt. 23: 34	REVIEW.	