

HOME STUDY LEAFLET.

LESSON 4.

JANUARY 28th, 1894.

1st QUARTER.

God's Covenant with Noah. Gen. 9: 8-17.

GOLDEN TEXT: "I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth." Gen. 9: 13.

COMMIT TO MEMORY verses 11-13.

PROVE THAT—God fulfils his promises.— Heb. 10: 23.

SHORTER CATECHISM—Quest. 85. What does God require of us, that we may escape his wrath and curse due to us for sin?

DAILY PORTIONS.

(The Selections of the International Bible Reading Association.)

MONDAY.	TUESDAY.	WEDNESDAY.	THURSDAY.	FRIDAY.	SATURDAY.	SABBATH.
Gen. 9: 8-17	Ps. 51: 10-19	Heb. 11: 1-6	Mat. 5: 17-24	1 John 3: 10-15	Eph. 4: 25-32	Heb. 12: 18-29

Always bring your Bible and Shorter Catechism to the Sabbath School.

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. The human race seems to have deteriorated morally with great rapidity. The godly race of Seth ("sons of God") intermarried with the godless descendants of Cain ("daughters of men") and the result was the same as it would be, now. The former were dragged down to the level of the latter (see 2 Cor. 6, 14). Mighty men, of strength and prowess, were leaders in deeds of violence and famous by reason of their infamy. The whole earth was corrupt and God had but one witness for righteousness, as far as the narrative relates. There was but one course left if the race was to be preserved from utter extinction, by evil and God's plan of redemption carried out. A new beginning must be made. Accordingly God announces to Noah his intention of bringing a flood of water upon the earth to destroy mankind. The covenant is to be established with him, and through him with a new humanity. Ample warning is given to the wicked, for 120 years Noah preaches and warns; but when the appointed time has come, God shuts the door of the Ark upon his faithful servant and his family (eight persons) and the creatures with him. (Compare the Parable of the Ten Virgins).

The Ark was large enough to hold an immense cargo. It was 450 feet long, 75 wide and 45 high, and could easily have contained all the animals which would be unable to escape from the rising waters to safer regions, for only that portion of the earth inhabited by man was covered. No wild beasts are mentioned as being in it. (Murphy). The following table may be called

THE ARK'S LOG-BOOK.

Noah's age	Month.	Day.	Events.	Reference.
600	2	17	Entered the Ark. The flood begins	7: 11
"	3	27	Raining for 40 days. The Ark floats.	7: 17
"	7	17	Drifting about for 110 days. Ark grounded (no entry for 10 weeks and 3 days).	8: 3, 4
"	10	11	Tops of mountains visible.	8: 5
"	11	11	The raven sent out.	8: 6, 7
"	"	18	The dove sent out and returned.	8: 8, 9
"	"	25	The dove sent out and returns with leaf.	8: 10, 11
"	12	2	The dove sent out and does not return. (no entry for four weeks).	8: 12
601	1	1	Water gone, ground appears to be dry. (no entry for 8 weeks).	8: 13
"	2	27	All disembark. Log-book closed	9: 14-19

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I. THE PROMISE. 8. NOAH. The language takes a fresh start from him. 9. **My covenant**—Referred to in ch. 6: 18. The covenant of redemption through the promised seed. It is always conditioned on faith, which in Noah's case was not wanting. (Heb. 11: 7). God deals with Noah as the representative of the race. He frequently refers to this covenant, Gen. 17: 7; Lev. 26: 42; Isa. 54: 9, 10; Jer. 31: 35, 36; 33: 20. 10. The inferior animals are to share in man's blessing as they have suffered through his fall. Ps. 45: 9. **From all that go out of the ark to every beast of the earth.** This would seem to imply that there were animals in the earth which did not come out of the ark. But some explain it by adding, "to every beast of the earth that shall proceed from them in the future," a promise is given to the seed of inferior animals as well as to the seed of Noah. The R. V. reads "of all that go out of the ark, even every beast of the earth," which is more in keeping with the context. (Gen. 6: 19; 7: 14; 8: 1). The writer of this narrative does not take into consideration the rest of the world where man did not reside, and says nothing about its animals. 11. 2 Pet. 3: 6. God's plan of redemption will be carried to completion without another interruption. His covenant is "established" with the descendants of Noah.

II. THE TOKEN. 12, 13. **I have set my bow** (R. V. marg.)—It was placed there when rain and sunbeams first kissed each other, long ere Adam was made. It is God's bow, a symbol of peace not of war. **It shall be for a token**—A visible remembrancer. Compare circumcision, water in baptism, bread and wine at the Lord's supper. See other memorials, Gen. 28: 18; Ex. 28: 12; 1 Sam. 7: 12. God's bow appears again in Ezek. 1: 28; Rev. 4: 3; 10: 1. "As it lights up the dark ground that just before was discharging itself in flashes of lightning, it gives us an idea of the victory of God's love over the black and fiery wrath; originating as it does from the effects of the sun upon the sable vault, it represents to the senses the readiness of the heavenly light to penetrate the earthly obscurity; spanned between heaven and earth, it announces peace between God and man; arching the horizon, it proclaims the all-embracing universality of the covenant of grace." (Delitzsch).

1—What was the state of the world at the time of the flood? (5)

2—How long did the flood last? (4)

3—What promise did God make to Noah when he came out of the Ark? (3)

4—What token did he give that he would keep this promise? (2)

5—In what other places in the Bible is the rainbow mentioned? (5)

6—What other signs, or tokens, has God given by which to remember his promises? (6)

Name

Dear Teacher.—Please excuse my absence from Sabbath School to-day, I cannot come because I have read the "Daily Portions" and answered the questions as well as I could. I have committed to memory verses in addition to the Golden Text, and Questions in the Catechism and have recited them to I was at church
I send with this my Weekly Offering of cents.