

HOME STUDY LEAFLET.

LESSON 5.

FEBRUARY 4th, 1894.

1st QUARTER.

Beginning of the Hebrew Nation. Gen. 12: 1-9.

GOLDEN TEXT: "I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing." Gen. 12: 2.

COMMIT TO MEMORY verses 1-3. **LESSON HYMNS:** 127, 28, 252, 135.

PROVE THAT—Great benefits reward obedience. Isa. 1: 19.

SHORTER CATECHISM—Quest. 86. What is faith in Jesus Christ? Quest. 87. What is repentance unto life?

DAILY PORTIONS.

(The Selections of the International Bible Reading Association.)

MONDAY.	TUESDAY.	WEDNESDAY.	THURSDAY.	FRIDAY.	SATURDAY.	SABBATH.
Gen. 12: 1-9	Gen. 13: 14-18	Gen. 15: 1-7	Aots 7: 1-7	Gal. 3: 6-11	Mark 10: 28-31	Heb. 11: 6-12

To the Teacher.—Do not credit any Scholar with having prepared the lesson who does not at least try to answer the questions. Take the leaflet home and assign a value to each answer, announcing the result on the following Sabbath. *Take, or send, the Leaflet to absent scholars.*

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

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY.—The descendants of Noah re-peopled the world. Those of Shem remained in Mesopotamia and spread throughout Syria and Arabia; those of Ham settled in Phœnicia, Canaan and Africa; and those of Japheth wandered, in one direction, into India and, in another, into Europe. We are, of course, descended from Japheth.

In order to keep the human family together and increase its power, a great tower was built as a rallying centre. But God wished men to scatter themselves over the earth and form separate nations. So he caused the one language to break up rapidly into different ones, and all who understood each other (naturally those in groups related by family ties) were compelled to go away by themselves.

Then God chose Abraham and renewed his covenant with him; and all the rest of the Bible is but the history of God's fulfilment of his promise to him. The church of God began when Abram was called.

LESSON PLAN. I. God's Call. vs. 1-3. II. Abram's Obedience, vs. 4, 5. III. Taking Possession. vs. 6-9.

I. GOD'S CALL.—1. **Had said to Abram.**—God called Abram first when he was in Ur. He now continues his journey after a delay of some years in Haran. It was hard for him to leave all he loved and set out "not knowing whither he went," (Heb. 11; 13), but we cannot be true followers of Christ unless we are willing to do as much if he asks us to. Open your Bible and read what he says, Matt. 10: 37, 38; 16: 24; 6: 14. Why did God "call" Abram? So that one nation might be preserved from forgetting his promise of a Saviour, and keep alive in the world, for future ages, the true worship. Every nation, left to itself, became heathen. 2-3. Notice how many things God promises to Abram. **A great nation.**—The Israelites did become a great nation, especially under Solomon; and then the Ishmaelites, who are the Arabs of to-day, were descended from his son, and the Edomites from his grand-son, Esau; but all Christians may be counted as his spiritual children. Read Gal. 3: 29. **A great name.**—No other man has been so honored by his fellow men. Abram is as much revered by Jews and Mahometans as by us. **A great blessing.** Through Abram and his descendants we have a Bible, a Saviour and a gospel. From him Christ took his human nature. **A great ally.**—God becomes his friend. Read Jas. 2: 23. So Christ will stand by those who love him, read Matt. 10: 42; 25: 40. He is willing to be your friend, are you willing to have him?

Published weekly at 5 cents a year, for the Sabbath School Committee of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, by Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, M. A., Convener, St. John, N. B.

II. ABRAHAM'S OBEDIENCE. 4. Abram's father, Terah, died in Haran. (Can you point out Ur, Haran and Sichern on the Map)? An older brother, Haran, had died before they left Ur. He was the father of Sarai and Lot. Another brother, Nahor, remained at Haran. He was the grandfather of Rebekah, Isaac's wife, and the great-grandfather of Leah and Rachel, the wives of Jacob. All their substance—all their wealth, which consisted mainly of flocks, herds and servants, "the souls that they had gotten." Doubtless they made a very large caravan, and Abram was quite a powerful chief. A few years later he could muster an army and treat with kings. Read the interesting story I refer to. You will find it in chapter 14. Trace on the map the road Abram probably took, passing through Aleppo, Damascus and the "Hauran."

III. TAKING POSSESSION. 6. Sichern—This became a very famous town. See if you can tell some of the events which happened here. It is also called Sechem and Sychar. It lay in the valley between mounts Ebal and Gerizim. It was here that Jesus spoke with the woman of Samaria (John 4: 5). The "plain," or rather "Oak of Moreh," was likely named from its owner. There was also a "hill of Moreh" (Judges 7: 1). The Canaanites were descendants of Ham and would not give Abram a very cordial welcome. But God appeared to him and encouraged him. There is no comfort like the comfort God can give. We need not be cast down if wicked people try to do us harm. Vexations should only drive us to our Father. 7. Right there, in the midst of the heathen Cannanites, Abram built an altar and set up God's worship. Don't mind who is looking, do what is right, shew your colors and God will defend you. The whole land belonged to God, and Abram took possession of it in his name. 8. Abram then moved southward and pitched his tent between Bethel and Hai (same as Ai). When did Bethel get its name? (Gen. 28: 19). What was its ancient name? (Judges 1: 22, 26). What great battle was fought at Ai? (Joshua 7: 2). 9. Abram had to keep moving, like the ranchmen on our western prairies, as his cattle required fresh pasture, but wherever he went he built an altar and prayed. Sometime you may have to set out from home to another place to make your living, let Abram's God be yours and, all your life, give him your love and your service.

To the Scholar.—Study the lesson carefully, turning up the marginal references and reading the "Daily Portions." Then close your Bible and try to answer in writing the questions following *without accepting aid from any quarter* after you have begun to write. Then bring this leaflet to Sabbath School with you on the day of its date. If you cannot come, fill out the blank and send the leaflet (with the answers written out) to your teacher by some friend, or by mail, and you will receive credit for the work done as if you had been present. If your excuse is satisfactory, you will not lose in record of attendance.

- 1.—What was Abram's native city and where was it situated? (5)
- 2.—What did God bid Abram do? (3)
- 3.—What promises did he give him? (8)
- 4.—Who went along with Abram to Canaan? (3)
- 5.—Where did he first pitch his tent? (3)
- 6.—To what place did he next remove? (3)

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.