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THE SUNBEAM

Vol. I.

AUGUST 21, 1880.

No. 16.

NOAH'S DOVE.

IT took one hundred and twenty years to build the ark, but when it was completed God commanded Noah to take some of every kind of beasts, birds, insects, etc., with him into the ark, and to provide food for them while they should be confined there. These all followed Noah into the ark, for God made them gentle and obedient. Then God told Noah and his family, eight persons in all, to enter the ark, and an angel shut the door. But it did not commence to rain until seven days had passed. This gave the wicked people outside a chance to ridicule still more, and to think they were quite right in their unbelief. At the end of seven days it began to rain, and the rain increased till it poured in torrents, for the "windows of heaven were opened."

After the rain ceased it was one hundred and fifty days before the waters were dried away. At length the ark rested upon one of the mountains of Ararat, in Asia. Nearly three months later the tops of the mountains could be seen. Forty days after, Noah opened the window of the ark and sent out a raven. The raven is a fierce bird, and not liking the confinement of the ark, though there were no trees to be seen, it did not return. Then Noah chose a dove, and put it out of the window. The dove is



a gentle, lovable bird, and finding nothing but water, it soon came again to the ark, perhaps pecked at the window, and Noah put forth his hand and took it in.

He waited seven days more, and then sent out the dove again. In the evening the dove returned, and when Noah took it in, lo! he saw in its beak an olive-leaf which it had plucked. This made Noah glad, for now he knew that the waters were nearly dried away, and soon he could step forth upon the green earth. How they all must have loved the gentle dove, that had brought them such glad tidings.

After waiting seven days more, he sent forth the dove again. This time it did not return, so Noah knew that the waters were drying away; but he waited patiently till God told him to go out of the ark. To show his joy and thankfulness, Noah made a heap of stones for an altar, and offered a sacrifice to God. This sacrifice also reminded him of the promised Saviour, who would give his life a sacrifice for the world. God was pleased with this act of Noah, and promised him that he would never again bring a flood to destroy all creatures. To remind Noah and all who should live after him of this promise, he gave him a token. What was this token? It was the rainbow. When we look upon the clouds after a rain, and see this bow of beautiful colours, it should call to mind God's kind promise to Noah, and to us his descendants.

But though God will never again destroy the earth by a flood, he has plainly told us that some day he will destroy it by fire. 2 Peter 3: 6, 7, 10, 12, 13. Our Saviour has told us that the days just prior to his second coming will be like the days before the flood. Matt. 24: 37-39. Only a few will believe, and watch for the signs that proclaim his coming, while many will follow the example of those who lived before the flood. In which class will we choose to be found?

“Oh, tell me how the nations passed
The day before the flood;
Oh, did they know it was the last?
And did they call on God?”

“In merriment their time is spent;
They sing and play, and dance away;
They eat and drink, and little think
They stand on endless ruin's brink.

“Behold just Noah safely ride
Upon the mighty deep;
While all who once God's word defied
Beneath the waters sleep.

“Sudden as that tremendous day,
The Judgment hour will come;
Thousands shall then be swept away,
And meet an awful doom.

“Let me not count these words a dream,
And still refuse to hear;
However far the time may seem,
Each hour it draws more near.”

NELLIE F. HEALD.

The Sunbeam.

TORONTO, AUGUST 21, 1880.

GOING TO SCHOOL.

LITTLE Nelly is on her way to school, and very cheerful and happy she seems about it too. In one hand she carries her slate, and in the other a bunch of flowers for her teacher. How beautiful and sweet and pure are God's fair handiwork, the flowers:

As if on living creatures,
Where'er my eye doth fall,
On Bluebells and on Daisies,
I say "God bless you all."

Take the summer blossoms
From the hills and fields;
See what bounteous treasures
Mother Nature yields.

Take them with thanksgiving
From the grassy sod,
Always with remembrance
That they come from God.

Take them to the children
In the city street;
Take them to the crowded lanes
Where the lowly meet.



Take them to the reeking haunts
 Of foul, wicked men ;
 They may turn some sinful heart
 To the right again.

'Take them to some darkened room,
 Where, on humble cot,
 Some poor, lonely sufferer
 Thinks herself forgot.

Take them as an offering,
 From God's loving hand ;

Let them breathe their fragrance
 Over all the land.

So shall many weary ones
 Look up, and be glad ;
 So shall many saddened ones
 Be less darkly sad.

So shall many wicked ones
 Get some hint of good,
 And God's June run round the world,
 As He meant it should.

LESSON NOTES.

B.C. 1913.] LESSON VIII. [August 22.

THE COVENANT WITH ABRAM; or, Faith.

Gen. 15. 1-18. Commit to memory verses 5-7.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.—Rom. 4. 3.

OUTLINE.

1. The starry host, v. 1-7.
2. The slain sacrifice, v. 8-12.
3. The smoking furnace, v. 13-18.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSONS.

1. *The starry host*, v. 1-7.—What did God say to Abram one night? "I am thy shield and thy great reward." What did he promise to Abram? A son who should possess the promise. What did God tell Abram to look at? The stars in the heavens. What did he say to him? "So many shall thy seed be." How did Abram receive God's promise? [GOLDEN TEXT.] What does this mean? That God accepted Abram as a good man because he believed in his promise.

2. *The slain sacrifice*, v. 8-12.—What did God make with Abram? A covenant or agreement. What was the sign of the covenant? An offering slain, and divided into two parts. What was then done? The persons who made the covenant walked between the pieces. What did this mean? A promise to be faithful to the covenant. How did Abram prepare for the covenant? He killed and divided the offering. What did he then do? He watched the pieces all day.

3. *The smoking furnace*, v. 13-18.—What took place at night? God spake to Abram. What did God promise to Abram? The land of Canaan for his descendants. What also did God show him? The events that should come to pass for many hundred years. What did Abram then see? A smoking furnace and a burning lamp. What were these? The tokens of God's presence. What did they do? They passed between the pieces of the offering. What did this show? That God agreed to the covenant.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

1. Have God as your shield and reward.
2. Believe fully in God's promise.
3. Be true to his service.
4. Depend upon his covenant.

B.C. 1898.] LESSON IX. [August 29.]

ABRAHAM'S INTERCESSION; or, Prayer.

Gen. 18. 16-33. Commit to memory verses 23-26.

GOLDEN TEXT

He ever liveth to make intercession for them.—Heb. 7. 25.

OUTLINE.

1. The trusted servant, v. 16-19.
2. The wicked city, v. 20-22.
3. The fervent pleading, v. 23-33.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSONS.

1. *The trusted servant*, v. 16-19.—What did God tell Abram soon after his covenant? That he should have a new name. What was his new name? Abraham. What did it mean? "The father of nations." What did God also say to him? That all nations should be blessed in him. Why did God thus honour Abraham? Because he tried to serve God faithfully.

2. *The wicked city*, v. 20-22.—What cities were very wicked? Sodom and Gomorrah. What did God intend to do? To see how wicked they were. What was also his purpose? To destroy them for their sins.

3. *The fervent pleading*, v. 23-33.—What did Abraham do? He pleaded with God for the wicked cities. Wherein was he thus like Jesus? [GOLDEN TEXT.] What did he say to God? "Perhaps there are fifty good men in the city." What did God say? That he would not destroy it if fifty good men were in it. What was Abraham's next prayer? That if forty-five good men were in it, it might be spared. How did God receive this prayer? He was willing to spare it for their sake. What did Abraham then ask? For the sake of forty. How did God answer? He was still willing. How many times did Abraham pray for Sodom? Six times. What was his last prayer? That it might be spared if ten good people were in it. What did God say? "I will not destroy it for ten's sake." What did this show? How great is God's willingness to save.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

1. Plead with God for others.
2. Be earnest in prayer.
3. Be bold in prayer.
4. Be humble in prayer

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