

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON VI.—FEB. 9, 1913.

God's Covenant with Noah.—Gen. 8: 1-17.

Commentary.—I. Going forth from the Ark (8: 1-19). So far as the destruction of life was intended, all was accomplished within one hundred and fifty days after the rains began and the fountains of the great deep were broken up. During the many days which followed, natural means and supernatural were employed in restoring the earth to its normal condition. The waters from the ocean were no longer permitted to flow in upon the land and the rains ceased. In addition the wind was sent over the waters to dry them up, that the earth might again become habitable. The succession of dates introduced into the narrative is remarkable. Taking the year as the six hundredth of Noah's life, we have the commencement of the flood the seventeenth day of the second month (Gen. 7: 11); the ark floats on the twenty-seventh day of the third month (7: 17); it rests on Ararat on the seventh day of the seventh month (8: 4); on the first day of the tenth month the mountain tops are seen (8: 5); on the eleventh day of the eleventh month the raven is sent out (8: 6); the dove is sent out to return again on the eighteenth day of the eleventh month (8: 8); on the twenty-fifth day of the eleventh month the dove is sent out and returns with an olive leaf (8: 10); on the second day of the twelfth month the dove is sent out to return more (8: 12); on the first day of first month of the next year the waters were dried off from the land (8: 13); and on the twenty-seventh day of the second month the ground was dry and Noah and his family with all the animals that were in the ark went forth (8: 14). It is probable that the months here mentioned were lunar months, and if so, the time spent in the ark was three hundred and sixty-five days, or a solar year.

II. A sacrifice to the Lord (9: 20-22). As God remembered Noah (8: 1) and brought him and all in the ark safely through the flood so Noah remembered the Lord, and at once set about presenting an offering to him. We have here the first mention of the building of an altar to the Lord, yet it is generally supposed that Abel built one when he presented the offering which God accepted. There had been provision made before the flood for the sacrifice that Noah presented to the Lord upon his going forth from the ark, when he was directed to take into the ark clean beasts by seven; for it may be reasonably supposed that the extra number of clean beasts were intended for sacrifices. Since it is not clear that animals were used for food before the flood, we are not warranted in supposing that provision was made for the slaughter of them for the use of Noah and his family in the ark. The promise which was made to the one surviving family was full of comfort. There would thereafter be no intermission of "seedtime and harvest" and of the naturally recurring seasons; nor would there be another destruction of animal life from the face of the earth. Noah and his family had believed God before the flood and during those months of testing, and now they were experiencing the joy of offering to God an acceptable sacrifice. In this act Noah gave full recognition to the fact that deliverance of himself and family from death was the work of God. He believed he could obtain the divine favor by offering a sacrifice to God. His sacrifice was also an expression of his thankfulness for salvation from the flood.

III. The sacredness of human life (9: 1-7). Noah, as the second founder of the race, receives a renewal of the blessing and the promise given to Adam (Gen. 1: 28, 29), but modified by the altered relation which had been introduced by sin. Man never falls, the beasts of the field would willingly and naturally have owed him dominion; but the fallen king must struggle for his sceptre, and can govern only by fear and dread.—Whedon. Animal food is here expressly granted for the first time, and it is doubtful whether before this time it had been used. "When God promised that there should never again be a destruction of the race, there was great danger that any man might interpret it that no matter what violence he did to others, he could live on unpunished, and thus the world could easily perish by a flood of violence, even if it escaped a flood of waters. Instead of the destruction of the race, the individual murderer was condemned to death, righteously, for our pity should be more for the multitude of the innocent, who otherwise would suffer, than for the justly punished murderer. The meek humanity that gives flowers to the murderer, but a grave to his victim, is no sign that the love of man to man is increasing."

IV. God's promise (vs. 8-17). 8. God speaks unto Noah.—In Gen. 9: 20-22 the promise is briefly stated, which here is given with considerable completeness. The two accounts supplement each other. God addressed the sons of Noah, as well as Noah himself, for the covenant which he made with them affected the sons and their posterity down to the end of time. 10. Every living creature.—The covenant included every creature that went out of the ark and every creature that should ever exist. 11. I will establish my covenant.—God was to make a solemn promise that would stand continually for the welfare of mankind and the animal creation. This has been called the covenant of God's forbearance. There was no assurance that mankind would not turn again to neglect of God and grievous sin, but the Almighty would bring instruction and reproof, and would inflict punishment upon them in a different manner. 12. This is the token of the covenant.—The Lord was about to give a constant reminder to the race, of the covenant that he had made. When they should see it, they would be led to remember the promise given to them.

13. I do set my bow in the cloud.—There has been much discussion upon the question of the rainbow's appearance in the clouds before this time. Some hold that atmospheric conditions had never yet been such as to produce the rainbow. Others affirm that it had occurred and that God took that sign

nomenon and appointed it as a token, or sign, that the earth should never be visited again by a flood. "The rainbow was already a familiar sight, but it was newly constituted the sign or token of a covenant, visible to all nations, and intelligible to all minds; just as afterwards the familiar rite of baptism and the customary use of bread and wine were by our blessed Lord ordained to be the tokens and pledges of the new covenant in Christ between his Father and every Christian soul."—Student's Commentary. 14. shall be seen in a certain position relatively to the cloud and the sun, a rainbow is seen. The rainbow is the result of the sun breaking through the cloud, and usually marks the end of a storm. It is thus typical of the turning aside of disaster. 15. shall no more become a flood.—The fears of men should by this token be removed. They were assured that the rain which occurred in its season would cease before it produced a destructive flood. 16. I will look upon it.—God represents himself as taking the position of a man and being reminded by a sign as a man is reminded. The rainbow, when he saw it, would remind him of his covenant, and when men saw it they would be assured that no destructive flood would again occur. 17. all flesh.—Not only were those then living assured that they would not be destroyed by a flood, but their descendants would be sure of safety from such a calamity as overtook the world in Noah's time.

Questions.—How long were Noah and his family in the ark? What tests did Noah make to find out whether the land was becoming dry? How did he know when to leave the ark? What was his first duty upon going forth from the ark? What was God's disposition toward Noah? What did God say about using animals for food? What punishment did God prescribe for murder? With whom did God make a covenant? What was the nature of the covenant? What sign was given as a token of the covenant? What lessons does this covenant teach us?

### PRACTICAL SURVEY.

- I. God remembered Noah.
- II. God blessed Noah.
- III. God covenanted with Noah.
- I. God remembered Noah. As far as man was concerned the ark was left alone upon the waters, yet there was an arm unseen directing it. There was strength unseen supporting it, and love unseen that was waiting it to its destination. Noah and his family might well rest in peace since God had them in remembrance. They constituted the whole body of believing people. Not until the welcome word was given, "Go forth," did Noah presume to leave the ark. Then with what feelings of gratitude and adoration to God would Noah and his family view their own preservation on this occasion! With what solemnity must Noah have viewed his new relations upon earth, knowing that the earth was to be repopulated by his own posterity! Having known the utter corruption of his generation preceding the flood, here deeply he must have felt the importance of beginning that new epoch in life aright. As the ark was deserted, an altar was erected. The worship of God was of first importance. He was a family altar, where each member was a worshipper, and the priest of the household. Noah's sacrifice might be compared to a morning prayer at the dawn of a new epoch in human history. It was a dedication of restored humanity to the service of God, their deliverer. His worship was acceptable to God as a "sweet-smelling savour." The deluge was God's sermon against sin, showing his determination to destroy sooner or later the impenitent, yet he was determined not to send another flood though the evil imaginations of man's heart remained unsubdued. This one severe judgment would have its effect throughout the succeeding season of suffering. Punishment, though necessary in its severest form, could not regenerate the heart of man; but it showed God's abhorrence of sin and pointed toward the atonement.

III. God covenanted with Noah. God's covenant with all the new humanity originated with himself. The terms of the covenant refer to the averting of temporal punishment, but suggest the promise of higher things. This covenant was to Noah a disclosure of God's secret thoughts and purposes. It was founded on a sacrifice. We see here the kind of life which it was God's design to encourage, a life of faith. Here was the commencement of a new era in the life of man. The pledge which Noah had anticipated, when the returning dove brought the olive leaf, was confirmed in the covenant which the Lord made with him. He could rest assured that the fields would yield their increase, that the forests would cover the earth with their shadows and that all conditions of seed-time the harvest would be granted as before. Amid all the corruptions of his generation Noah had walked with God, and he believed that his covenants would never be broken, because the honor of his government was pledged to their performance. He was the devout conduct of a good man after a special deliverance from impending destruction. Noah stood as a monument to the power of God to keep man upright in His sight in the midst of corruption and violence, and one who directed the ways of his household in serving God.

### PARIS EDITOR JAILED.

Paris, Feb. 3.—The assize court today condemned the manager and editor of La Bannière Syndiciste to five years in jail and to pay a fine of \$600 for an article printed in that paper in October urging the assassination of King Alfonso of Spain if he should come to Paris. The court also announced as a warning that similar sentences would be imposed for any repetition of the offense.

# MARKET REPORTS

## TORONTO MARKETS

### FARMERS' MARKET.

Dressed pork, lb.	\$11.50
Butter, dairy, lb.	0.30
Eggs, new-laid, dozen	0.30
Chickens, lb.	0.18
Green, lb.	0.25
Turkeys, lb.	0.15
Apples, winter, lb.	0.25
Potatoes, bag	0.90
Celery, dozen	0.30
Cabbage, dozen	0.40
Beef, forequarters, cwt.	7.50
Do., hindquarters, cwt.	11.00
Do., choice sides, cwt.	10.00
Do., medium, cwt.	8.00
Do., light, cwt.	6.50
Mutton, light, cwt.	9.00
Veal, common, cwt.	9.00
Do., prime, cwt.	12.00
Lamb, cwt.	11.50

### SUGAR MARKET.

Sugars are quoted in Toronto, in bags, per cwt., as follows:

Extra granulated, St. Lawrence	\$4.60
Do., Redpath's	4.50
Do., Acadia	4.50
Imported granulated	4.45
No. 1 yellow	4.25
In barrels, 56 per cwt. more; car lots, 5c less.	

### LIVE STOCK.

Toronto despatch.—A rather light run of cattle at the Union Stock Yards this morning made the market fairly brisk and kept prices steady. Choice lambs were very scarce, but there was a large supply of poorer quality. Large receipts of hogs did not depress the market. Receipts: Union Stock Yards—504 cattle, 48 calves, 2,196 hogs, 180 sheep and lambs. City Cattle Market—714 cattle, 2 sheep, 35 hogs, 9 calves. Export cattle, choice, \$8.50 \$7.00. Do., medium, 5.75 6.00. Do., butch, 5.00 5.25. Butchers' cattle, choice, 6.25 6.50. Do., medium, 5.50 5.75. Do., common, 3.00 4.00. Butchers' cows, choice, 4.75 5.25. Do., medium, 3.50 4.50. Do., canners, 2.00 3.00. Do., butch, 3.00 3.50. Feeding steers, 2.25 2.50. Stockers, choice, 5.00 5.25. Do., light, 3.50 4.50. Milkers, choice, each, 40.00 50.00. Springers, 40.00 60.00. Sheep, ewes, 4.75 5.25. Bucks and culls, 3.00 3.50. Lambs, 8.00 8.50. Hogs, fed and watered, 8.75. Hogs, f.o.b., 8.40. Calves, 8.50 9.00.

### OTHER MARKETS.

### WINNIPEG MARKETS.

Open, High, Low, Close.

Wheat—				
May	87 1/2	87 3/4	87 1/2	87 3/4
July	88 1/2	88 3/4	88 1/2	88 3/4
Oats—				
May	35 1/2	35 3/4	35 1/2	35 3/4
July	36 1/2	36 3/4	36 1/2	36 3/4

### MINNEAPOLIS GRAIN MARKET.

Minneapolis—Close—Wheat—May, 87 1/2-88; July, 88 1/2-89; No. 1 hard, 87 1/2-88; No. 2 hard, 86 1/2-87; No. 3 hard, 84 1/2-85; No. 4, 82 1/2-83; No. 5, 80 1/2-81; No. 6, 78 1/2-79; No. 7, 76 1/2-77; No. 8, 74 1/2-75; No. 9, 72 1/2-73; No. 10, 70 1/2-71; No. 11, 68 1/2-69; No. 12, 66 1/2-67; No. 13, 64 1/2-65; No. 14, 62 1/2-63; No. 15, 60 1/2-61; No. 16, 58 1/2-59; No. 17, 56 1/2-57; No. 18, 54 1/2-55; No. 19, 52 1/2-53; No. 20, 50 1/2-51; No. 21, 48 1/2-49; No. 22, 46 1/2-47; No. 23, 44 1/2-45; No. 24, 42 1/2-43; No. 25, 40 1/2-41; No. 26, 38 1/2-39; No. 27, 36 1/2-37; No. 28, 34 1/2-35; No. 29, 32 1/2-33; No. 30, 30 1/2-31; No. 31, 28 1/2-29; No. 32, 26 1/2-27; No. 33, 24 1/2-25; No. 34, 22 1/2-23; No. 35, 20 1/2-21; No. 36, 18 1/2-19; No. 37, 16 1/2-17; No. 38, 14 1/2-15; No. 39, 12 1/2-13; No. 40, 10 1/2-11; No. 41, 8 1/2-9; No. 42, 6 1/2-7; No. 43, 4 1/2-5; No. 44, 2 1/2-3; No. 45, 1 1/2-2; No. 46, 1/2-1; No. 47, 1/4-1/2; No. 48, 1/8-1/4; No. 49, 1/16-1/8; No. 50, 1/32-1/16; No. 51, 1/64-1/32; 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