

# LESSON VII.—FEB. 16, 1913.

## The Call of Abram.—Gen. 12: 1-9.

Commentary.—I. Abram called (v. 1). The Lord had said unto Abram—At this time Abram was living in Haran. Whither the family had come from Ur in Chaldea. The latter place was near the Euphrates River and about one hundred and twenty miles north of the Persian Gulf. It is evident from Acts 7: 2, 3, that the Lord called Abram while he was yet in Ur, and he called him the second time while he was in Haran. Chaldea was an unfavorable place to establish the true religion, inasmuch as the people were given over to excessive worldliness and to idolatry. In removing from Ur, Terah and his family journeyed northward and westward about five hundred miles and settled in Haran. Let these out of thy country.—The place where he dwelt, Haran, was not suited to the purpose that God had in mind, hence he told Abram to move forward. "Abram was to leave his native country, the fertile land where his fathers had dwelt for centuries, with its cities and civilization, the mountains and noble rivers of his childhood; his kindred, the stock of Eber, whom he left in Chaldea; his father's house, the family of Terah, whom he left in Haran, breaking the sweetest earthly ties; and he was to go forth, he knew not whither, unto a land that God should show him (Heb. 11: 8).—Whedon. Abram was seventy-five years old at this time.

II. Blessings promised (vs. 2, 3). I will make of thee a great nation.—The name Abram means "exalted father," and was later changed to Abraham, which means "father of a multitude." The promise here given is several times repeated to Abram and to his descendants, and was literally fulfilled. The promise to him was comprehensive, and God would see to it that seeming difficulties in the way should be removed. Though he was childless and was to be torn from his kindred and placed in a strange land, what God had promised would come to pass. In this promise seven distinct blessings are included, and a seventh blessing is all-inclusive, since it is a blessing devoting perfection. I will bless thee—No earthly good can be as great as the blessing of God. Blessings are single, individual good things, but that has God's blessing is the source of all good; not a cupful from the river of life, but the river itself with its ceaseless flow. God himself is the best of all good gifts to man.—Poloulet. Make thy name great.—It was a great sacrifice that Abram was called upon to make, but it would not be without its compensations. His name would be great, even though he should break away from his kindred and country and go into a strange land. He who called him out was greater than all of earthly greatness. Thou shalt be a blessing.—"Be thou a blessing."—R. V. The blessing was not intended to centre in Abram and end there. He was to be blessed that he might become a blessing to others. He should be famous, not for what he took from men, but for what he gave to men. His devotion, his integrity and his faith would be made a blessing to those who should meet him. I will bless them that bless thee.—Here is blessing promised on an enlarged scale. Not only was Abram to be blessed, but those who were helpful and favorable to Abram would be blessed also. God counted as friends to himself those who were friends to his servant Abram. Curse him that curseth thee.—God had called Abram to honor, exaltation and service, and would protect him in his position and mission. He would be counted God's enemy who was an enemy to Abram. "The good man is not alone; touch him and you touch God." In these shall all families of the earth be blessed.—This is the climax of the blessings promised. More excellent than to become a great nation, to have a great name, to be blessed and to be a blessing, would it be that from him should spring a godly nation to bless the nations of the world, and that from his posterity should arise the Messiah, the Christ of Bethlehem, who should be the world's Redeemer. Through Abram's posterity was to come also the Bible, God's book to the world. That book was to be carefully preserved from change and from loss, and to be a blessing to the world from generation to generation.

III. Abram's journeys (vs. 4-9). Departed.—Abram obeyed God because he believed him. He understood that it was Jehovah that called him, and his faith triumphed over every objection that his reason might urge against obeying the command. Lot went with him.—Lot was the son of Haran, Abram's deceased brother. Abram exercised a sort of parental care over his nephew. The direction in which they traveled was southwestwardly. Abram took—all.—He did not start out on a trial trip, but, following the command of God, he went to occupy the land which the Lord had chosen for him. He therefore took his fam-

ily, his flocks and herds which he had accumulated in Haran, and his retinue of servants. We do not know how much he had in Ur of the Chaldees and had to leave, nor how great were his possessions in Haran, but we know that in Canaan he became a man of wealth and influence. He had a body of servants so large that he could muster three hundred eighteen fighting men when he went out to rescue Lot. Went forth to go into the land of Canaan, etc.—This is a striking form of expression. Under divine direction Abram started for Canaan, and he permitted nothing to interfere with his purpose. One succeeds in entering upon the fulness of spiritual blessing only by perseveringly continuing in the way that leads to it. Abram showed admirable determination and courage. 6. Through the land.—Southward through Canaan. Sichem—Elsewhere called Shechem. The name, meaning shoulder, was probably given to the locality from its being the watershed between the Jordan and the Mediterranean.—Terry. Unto the plain of Moreh—"Oak of Moreh."—R. V. The Canaanite was then in the land.—The land was not uninhabited, but on the contrary, Abram found it possessed by a nation widely spread over the country. The Canaanites were descended from Ham, the son of Noah. They were to be hostile to Abraham's descendants for centuries.

7. The Lord appeared unto Abram.—We are not told in what way the Lord appeared. The purpose of His appearing was to give an additional promise to Abram. The land, although now occupied by another people, was to be the inheritance of Abram's posterity. It was another test of Abram's faith, yet he never doubted or faltered. Builded he an altar.—In token of his acknowledgment of the true God, of his dependence upon him, of his faith in him and of his gratitude to Him. 8. Removed from thence.—He went southward to a point about twelve miles north of where Jerusalem later was built. It has been suggested that he moved at this time, that he might be farther from the Canaanites, whose influence was not wholesome religiously upon his family and attendants. Hai.—It was at this place called Hai, that Joshua and his army met their first repulse upon entering Canaan (Josh. 7: 12). There he builded an altar.—The religious devotion of Abram is seen in his building an altar at each place where he stopped. 9. Abram journeyed.—His manner of life as a keeper of herds and flocks demanded that he move from place to place in order to secure pasturage. He and his followers dwelt in tents. It was, therefore, comparatively easy to fold their tents and pass on to a region where pasturage and water were procurable.

Questions.—Who was Abram? In what way was he related to him? What was his native country? What call came to him? To what place did Abram first go after leaving the land of his birth? What led Abram to heed God's call? What sevenfold promise was made to Abram? What was his first stopping place in Canaan? His second? What did he build at each place? What was Abram's occupation? In what respects is Abram an example to us? What does the name Abram mean?

### PRACTICAL SURVEY.

Topic.—The call of God.  
I. Inspired faith in Abram.  
II. Prompted obedience in Abram.  
Inspired faith in Abram. Jehovah revealed himself to Abram as the one living and true God. It seems plain that the family of Abram, like all the rest of the world at that time, was idolatrous. God chose this son of idolaters to become a child of grace. He gave him grandeur of soul and a marvelous appreciation of the true and eternal God. No reason, no emotion, but faith made him the man of God, the "friend of God." Abram's faith triumphed over exceptional difficulties and enabled him to do what no other motive would have been strong enough to accomplish. His piety developed into a complete renunciation of his old life. He became a character of eminent and single-hearted faithfulness. The purpose of God's call to Abram was that in him the race might religiously start anew. He was from first to last a separated man. God cut him off from his kindred, that he might draw him closer to himself. Abram could hardly have become a spiritual hero that he was in later life, had he not been led to walk through long trials with only the unseen One for his shield. The call of Abram was manifestly divine. It was a distinct command accompanied by gracious promises of guidance and renown with the assurance of a posterity, besides the promise of being made the source of the highest blessing to mankind. When God called Abram, and in him the Jewish nation, he "cradled them in blessing." In this narrative we get a glimpse of God's concern for the ways and welfare of men. This new dispensation, marked the selection of Abram with Abram was without hesitation, reservation or limitation. When he moved his whole encampment across the Euphrates and turned his face to the

desert, he gave the first evidence of his trust in the unseen and eternal One. To cross the broad, deep, rapid river meant an irrevocable cutting loose from past life. Only the man of faith did that. It was imperative that he make a decided severance in the continuity of his family history. Only in this way could he become a new branch of the human race, the originator of a new epoch. He was told to go forth alone, to give up all at God's bidding, to found a nation. His journey to Canaan was wholly due to a spiritual inspiration. His obedience to the divine evidence of the high type of his piety and he founded on faith. He went where God called him, and acknowledged his first act as a stage of his journey. His first care was to build an altar to his God. Altars were intended to be channels of worship and memorials of divine mercies. His action in building an altar amounted to an acknowledgment of the claims of God upon his people. Abram's chief thought of Canaan was to hear God's voice, to be the servant of God. He bore his witness, openly and boldly, that the Canaanites might not mistake his faith. He witnessed to the power and love of God and His providences in daily life. The first recorded encampment in Canaan is without significance. Shechem was the central city of the land. It was there that God's promise of the land was made to Abram and his posterity. Though all the land was his by promise, he procured only a burying-place by purchase. That was an earnest of all the rest. At the side of idolatrous altars rose Abram's altar, dedicated to the God of heaven and earth. Abram found it a joy to be under the leadership of God, and he built this altar to express his gratitude. It expressed his faith in the fulfillment of the divine promise. T. R. A.

## POULTRY NOTES

### THERE'S MONEY IN HENS.

Pick up the current issue of almost any periodical from the magazine to the weekly newspaper, and you will see something about chickens. There comes a time in the life of almost every legitimate profession when it must pass through a boom period or undergo a depression. The fact that the American poultry business is passing through that stage now shows that it is not only a legitimate business, but that it is a more or less profitable one, and that there exists a strong demand for the enlargement and expansion of the industry in a safe and sane way.

The commercial age is presently. Last winter, due to weather conditions and other causes, those who followed it for years saw a set-back, especially in the fancy and high priced varieties. A needed one and will do much toward getting one of our greatest industries on a safe and sane business basis. Boom accounts of profit have been exaggerated and while the present is not so bright, the conditions there is no fortune awaiting for every Tom, Dick or Harry who ventures to try his hand at poultry raising. One cannot do this, however, carelessly, and after all, it is in the commercial end that is what is usually meant by the term, the chicken business. Millions and millions of chickens are produced for every one of us, and the poultry raiser must have their eggs, and will be, an ever-growing demand for good poultry and hen fruit.

A proper method is to import large quantities of these foodstuffs every year, which might be produced at home at a saving to the consumer and a profit to the producer. The present conditions and systems has been the prevailing rage in the poultry world for some years past, some of the methods may be the result of a really successful business, but most part they consist of rules of management quite familiar to experienced poultry raisers, though they may be told in a new and slightly altered way. Detail. Beginners may get by some of them, but the experienced poultry raiser knows that, outside of a few laws of breeding, there is nothing really mysterious about it. The secret of telling the laying hen was thrashed out some years ago in the press. When a hen is laying, her pelvic cavity is enlarged, and the eggs, which are spread apart, the width of from one to four fingers. When she is not laying, only one or two fingers may be placed between them, thus it may be told which hen is in laying condition and which is not. But one cannot tell in the case of the first hen how regularly or how long she will lay, and thus it may be told which hen is in laying condition and which is not. The only way to tell is by the trap nest. The trap nest is a simple contrivance, and it is not without merit, although the tendency has been toward exaggeration. One should not lose sight of the fact that the laying hen is a business, and most things that are new and give promise of being good are tried out at our experiment stations, published in bulletins, and the poultry raiser who keeps abreast through the regular channels of trade.

There are thousands of people in the country who are financially reducing their living expenses by keeping a few chickens, and the number according to the size of the back yard, lot or small farm on the outskirts of any city. There are many who are doing this, keeping from a dozen to 200 fowls, and making money. On the farm poultry raising blends with other lines of work, although the average farmer is busy with other work during the spring and summer, seldom thinks so, except when eggs are around the 50 cent mark, and the few (many times) common stock are not producing a single egg, either for sale or for family use. Chickens on the farm destroy obnoxious bugs and worms, and earn a greater part of their early life at a small cost. As a purely business proposition, specialty poultry raising should not be taken up without preliminary experience and an understanding of the business. There is no mysterious knowledge that one cannot grasp to make a success of poultry. It is an open book to all who will observe and think. But the beginner should realize that poultry on a large scale is really in business and a big one at that. It has been said that any one can raise poultry, but it is not true that all can raise them with the balance on the proper side of the ledger. Those who have failed with everything that they have undertaken and take to poultry as a last resort are very apt to fall again. One cannot do this, however, carelessly, and after all, it is in the commercial end that is what is usually meant by the term, the chicken business. Millions and millions of chickens are produced for every one of us, and the poultry raiser must have their eggs, and will be, an ever-growing demand for good poultry and hen fruit.

## MARKET REPORTS

### TORONTO MARKETS

FARMERS' MARKET.	
Dressed hogs, heavy	\$11 00 \$11 50
Do, light	12 00 12 25
Butter, dairy	0 30 0 33
Eggs, new-laid	0 30 0 33
Chickens, lb.	0 18 0 20
Geese, lb.	0 15 0 18
Turkeys, lb.	0 24 0 25
Apples, winter, bbl.	0 95 1 00
Potatoes, bag	0 50 0 60
Celery, dozen	0 35 0 40
Cabbage, dozen	0 35 0 40
Beef, forequarters, cwt.	7 50 8 50
Do, hindquarters, cwt.	11 00 12 00
Do, choice sides, cwt.	10 00 11 00
Do, medium, cwt.	8 00 9 00
Do, common, cwt.	9 00 11 00
Mutton, light, cwt.	8 00 10 00
Ven, common, cwt.	9 00 11 00
Do, prime, cwt.	12 00 14 00
Lamb	14 50 16 50

### SUGAR MARKET.

Sugars are quoted in Toronto, in bags, per cwt., as follows:	
Extra granulated, St. Lawrence	\$ 4 60
Do, do, Redpath's	4 60
Do, do, Acadia	4 55
Imperial granulated	4 45
No. 1 yellow	4 20

### LIVE STOCK.

Receipts:	
Union Stock Yards 700 cattle, 1688 sheep	
City Cattle Market	
Do, choice, choice	5 75 to 6 50
Do, do, medium	5 25 to 5 75
Do, do, common	3 00 to 4 00
Butcher cows, choice	4 75 to 5 25
Do, do, medium	3 50 to 4 50
Do, do, common	2 00 to 3 00
Do, butts	3 00 to 3 50
Feeding steers	5 25 to 5 50
Stockers, choice	5 00 to 5 25
Do, light	4 00 to 4 50
Springers	5 00 to 6 00
Sheep, wethers	4 75 to 5 25
Do, ewes	3 50 to 4 00
Lamb, 1 yearling	8 00 to 8 50
Hogs, fed and watered	3 00 to 3 50
Hogs, f.o.b.	8 45
Cattle	8 50 to 9 00

### OTHER MARKETS.

#### WINNIPEG MARKETS.

Open. High. Low. Close.	
Wheat	
May	88 88 87 88 1/2
July	89 89 88 89 1/2
Oats	
May	36 36 35 36 1/2
July	37 37 36 37 1/2

#### MINNEAPOLIS WHEAT.

Minneapolis—Close—Wheat—May, 88 5/8 to 88 3/4; July 89 1/2 to 90 5/8; September, 89 1/4 to 89 3/8; No. 1 hard, 88 5/8; No. 1 Northern, 87 1/8 to 88 1/8; No. 2, do, 85 3/8 to 86 1/8; Corn—No. 3 yellow, 45 to 45 1/2; Oats—No. 3 white, 31 1/2 to 32; Rye—No. 2, 55 to 57 1/2; Bran—\$19.50. Flour—Unchanged.

#### DULUTH GRAIN MARKETS.

Duluth—Close—Wheat—No. 1 hard, 88 1/8; No. 2, do, 85 3/8; No. 3 white, 31 1/2 to 32; Rye—No. 2, 55 to 57 1/2; Bran—\$19.50. Flour—Unchanged.

#### SALE OF SHEEPSKINS.

London.—A sale of sheepskins was held here today. There was a good attendance and competition was animated for the 6,600 bales offered, which were very quickly sold at prices ranging from 5 to 10 per cent higher. Americans bought a few lots of the best grades. Following are the sales and prices paid for clothing and combing: New South Wales—300 bales, at 4 1/4 to 5 5/8; Queensland—400 bales, at 5 to 9 3/4; Victoria—1,000 bales, at 4 1/2 to 10 7/8; South Australia—100 bales, at 5 1/4 to 9 1/2; West Australia—700 bales, at 5 3/4 to 10 1/4; Tasmania—200 bales, at 6 3/4 to 10 3/4; New Zealand—2,300 bales, at 4 7/8 to 10 3/4; Punta Arenas—1,600 bales, at 4 1/2 to 11 1/2.

#### BUFFALO LIVE STOCK.

East Buffalo's despatch.—Cattle Receipts 100, slow and steady. Veals—receipts 25, active, \$4.00 to \$12.00. Hogs—receipts 2,400; active and 5 to 10 cents higher; heavy \$3.00 to \$3.20; mixed \$2.25 to \$2.50; yorkers and pigs \$3.25 to \$3.50; roughs, \$7.20 to \$7.50; stags, \$5.50 to \$6.50; dairies \$3.00 to \$3.50. Sheep and lambs—receipts 2,400; active and steady; lambs \$6.00 to \$6.50; yearlings \$6.50 to \$7.50; wethers, \$5.75 to \$6.50; ewes, \$3.50 to \$5.50; sheep, mixed, \$5.50 to \$5.75.

#### CHICAGO LIVE STOCK.

Chicago (despatch): Cattle receipts, 1,000; market steady. Beef—market steady. \$6 50 \$ 9 00. Texas steers 4 90 5 75. Western steers 4 60 7 30. Stockers and feeders 4 75 7 60. Cows and heifers 3 00 7 50. Calves 6 50 10 00. Hogs—Receipts, 27,000; market dull, 10c under yesterday's average. Light 7 60 7 85. Mixed 7 55 7 80. Heavy 7 45 7 82 1/2. Rough 7 45 7 55. Pigs 6 40 7 65. Bulk of sales 7 65 7 80. Sheep—Receipts, 12,000; market strong to 10c higher. Native 4 85 6 10. Western 4 90 6 00. Yearlings 6 40 7 90. Lambs, native 6 75 8 90.

#### LIVERPOOL PRODUCE.

Man.	7 9 1/2
No. 2 Manitoba	7 6
No. 3 Manitoba	7 3 1/4
Futures steady March	7 3 1/2
May	7 2 1/4
Corn, spot easy, July	7 3 1/8
American mixed, new	5
Futures, old	5
Old V. Gal.	5 7
Strady, Fla. Laplata	5 2 1/2
Flour, Ann. mixed	4 10
Flour, winter patents	29 6
Hops in London (Pacific Coast)	5 6
A.	5 15
Hams, short cut, 14 to 16	60
Bacon, Cumberland cut, 26 to 28 lb.	60 6
Short ribs, 16 to 24 lb.	60 6

Clear butter, 14 to 16 lb.	66
Long clear middles, light, 23 to 34 lb.	65 6
Long clear middles, heavy, 35 to 40 lb.	65 6
Short clear backs, 16 to 20 lb.	50 6
Shoulders, square, 11 to 13 lb.	58
Lord, prime western, in tiers	52 9
American refined	54
Cheese, Canadian, finest white	43
Colored	45
Tallow, prime, city	31 6
Australian, in London	34 9
Turpentine spirits	13 6
Resin, common	35 6
Petroleum, refined	9 3 1/2
Limeoil	28
Cotton seed oil, Hull refined, spot	28 6

## FARM GARDEN

### KEEP THE SOIL FERTILE.

There should be a law that would compel a man to keep up the fertility of the soil in his possession, be he owner or renter. The conservation of the fertility of the land is a policy that is not only dictated by enlightened selfishness, but it is a duty as well.

Certain duties and rights go with the possession of the soil. In a sense, we own the land, but in a broader sense we are merely the trustees of posterity, and it is questionable whether we can buy the right to make the soil less capable of sustaining those who are to come after us. It is not only a breach of trust not to keep up the fertility of the land, but it is also a foolish course for the present owner.

The western agricultural sections started in to develop agriculture with resources in the way of fertility that seemed almost boundless, and early farming was everywhere very wasteful. The land was habitually burned off, stables were purposely built close by streams, in order to get rid of both the solid and the liquid manure more easily, and practically nothing was returned to the land. At the same time, cropping year after year with the same crop was the rule, and the idea of a rotation for the farm's sake was never thought of.

### GRADING AND LABELLING VEGGIES.

Having made the goods right by good grading, we must make them appear right by good packing. It does not take longer to pack a specimen properly in place than it takes to lay it out of place. Experience makes experts at this and a well-finished pack costs hardly a shadow more than one which shows a rough and uneven surface. You are doubtless interested in the cost or some of these things. For three summers I have run a vegetable farm where a packing system had been established, making use of the Diamond market basket. Packing in the field cost a cent a basket, piecework grading and packing the cost a cent. Perhaps half a cent should be added for extra handling, making the cost from the field to the wagon two and one-half cents a basket. During the worst glut that this market ever knew, an increase of one and one-half cents a basket was realized over the prices received by neighbors whose handling was as good as ours. Moreover, my employer was moving five hundred baskets a day when others could hardly move any.

### LABEL YOUR GOODS.

Nothing adds more to the appearance of your goods than attractive and successful labelling. I can best illustrate by example. Mr. Grocer, please to call on his commission house for a hamper of lettuce. It comes and it proves to be good. The packer had had good lettuce and he had been careful to pack it. Mr. Grocer wants more. Again he phones and gets a hamper. This one looks just like the other, bearing on the top the name of the commission merchant and a number for identification. But this time he receives the presence of an other hamper, which contains three grades of lettuce. The next day Mr. Grocer goes down town, calls on his dealer and sees the first grade from the hamper packed in a box and labelled. He sees his error and thereupon orders the distinctive mark at an advance in price. This happens repeatedly with other grocers and growers. The poor lettuce has spoiled the trade in unmarked stuff and all such passes for cattle or nearly so. The man with the label reaps the profit, and, then, the use of doing the thing right, does not bring the credit and the future profit to the proper place.

### BENEFITS OF LABELLING.

California asparagus growers are successful in this. Their beautiful bunches are enclosed in attractive lithographed wrappers, and they held the market in our town last year as well as in many others, though the price was high. Another plan has brought splendid success to a New Jersey grower. He knows how to judge a watermelon, and takes advantage of that knowledge. Every watermelon he packs in a box, and on the box is a man and a hat, two inches in size, bearing a guarantee of its quality. York another grower. A western New York grower of apples has a label on his product for use in an exhibition of perfect produce under that mark, and he tells the purchaser to report any imperfections to him. If such a label will not inspire confidence, nothing else will, and the people who buy vegetables are different from those who buy other things. As I waited for a train at a neatly lettered grate of celery. The grower's name was there. 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