

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON XIII.—MARCH 30, 1913.

The God of Our Fathers.—Review.—Heb. 11: 1-19.

Summary.—Lesson I. Topic: The record of creation. God created the earth and all that pertains to it, and the heavens and all that is therein. He is revealed to us as the Almighty, able to speak into being that which before had no existence. The six days of creation are described to us, showing the order in which the earth was fitted for the abode of man.

II. Topic: The first family circle. Place, the Garden of Eden; location uncertain. After the creation of vegetable and animal life God made man in his own moral and spiritual likeness. He gave him a place in Eden abounding in everything needful for his comfort.

III. Topic: Sin introduced. Place, Garden of Eden. God had forbidden our first parents to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Satan approached Eve in the form of a serpent, and deceived her so that she believed his words instead of God's. She and Adam ate of the forbidden fruit, thus being guilty of unbelief and disobedience.

IV. Topic: God's estimate of character. Place, outside of Eden, but not far away. The fact that sin was in the world is shown by the conduct of Cain, a son of Adam and Eve. He and his brother Abel each brought an offering to the Lord. Abel's was an animal sacrifice, the best he had, but Cain brought simply the product of the soil. Cain became enraged because Abel's sacrifice was accepted and his was not, and slew Abel.

V. Topic: God's reckoning time. Place, unknown. Because of man's first sin, the world became exceedingly wicked, and God decided to destroy it. He told Noah to prepare an ark to save himself and his family, and Noah believed God and obeyed. No one outside of Noah's family believed and was saved.

VI. Topic: Mercy succeeding judgment. Place, Mountains of Ararat. After the flood God made a covenant with Noah and his family that he would not again destroy mankind with a flood. God appointed the rainbow in the clouds as a sign of this promise.

VII. Topic: The call of God. Place, Ur of the Chaldees, Haran, Canaan. About a thousand years after Noah's birth Abram was born. God called upon him to leave Ur, and after removing to Haran and living there a few years, Abram was called to leave his kindred and go where the Lord pointed the way.

VIII. Topic: Crisis decisions. Place, Bethel. Lot was Abram nephew. Abram took him with him on his journeys and they both became rich in flocks and herds. On account of this wealth it became necessary for them to separate. Abram gave Lot his choice, and Lot seized the opportunity and chose the most favorable part of the land, and went towards Sodom.

IX. Topic: Redemption foreshadowed. Place, Hebron. God renewed his covenant with Abram that he would make of him a great nation and would give it to him as an inheritance for ever. At God's command Abram prepared a sacrifice and watched it to keep the fowls away.

X. Topic: The abode of sin. Place, Sodom. For Lot's sake, Abram, whose name had been changed to Abraham, pleaded that Sodom might be spared; but, as only Lot and a part of his family believed in God, the city was doomed. Those who believed and obeyed were saved.

XI. Topic: Obedient faith. Place, Beersheba, Mount Moriah, Abraham's faith was severely tested when God told him to offer up his son as a sacrifice to God. Abraham obeyed, going with Isaac to the place appointed. He made all preparations for the sacrifice, when the Lord spoke to him and told him not to injure Isaac.

XII. Topic: Easter morning. Place, Jerusalem. Jesus had been falsely sentenced and unjustly put to death. Some of the women who had followed Jesus came early to the tomb Sunday morning to anoint his body, but they found that he had risen from the dead.

## PRACTICAL SURVEY.

I. God in creation.

II. God in judgment.

III. God in covenant.

IV. God in creation. The existence of God as Creator of all things is declared in the opening quarter's study. Attention is drawn to the Supreme Being before any account is unfolded of his mighty works. This is sufficient to direct his creatures to worship him and not his handwork. In the beginning the words which seem to stand out as a sufficient indication that the investigation beyond what is written can only be man's philosophy, which can not disclose better knowledge of his Maker than the revealed word. In lessons one and two the great Designer and Architect of the world is manifested in his first revelation of wisdom and power and love. The brevity of the record adds to its strength and forbids controversy. The character of the Creator is revealed in his highest creation, when he chose to create in his own image. The contemplation of this great act is sufficient to draw out the souls of men to adore and worship their Creator.

III. God in judgment. Lessons three, four, five, eight and ten cover the bright horizon of God's creation with darkest clouds—blots on the pages of man's early history. But for the fact that with the fall of man was given the promise of a Redeemer, the darkness would be greater than we can imagine. That promise is the rift in the clouds, revealing the love of God, though His justice and holiness are seen in His judgment upon sin. The blight of sin, terrible as it was and has continued to be, can not overshadow the plan of God for man. The first sin in Eden sent our first parents out into a world cursed because of disobedience. The first murder reveals the progress of sin. Cain was sent out from his family a wanderer and vagabond, a punishment which seemed to him greater than he could bear. Yet his descendants in after years so corrupted the "sons of God" that Noah was the only man through whom God could send warning of coming judgment. He stood as a monument of God's

## Had Stomach Rumbings Distress Before Meals

Was Seldom Free From That Weary, Droopy, Half-Dead Feeling

Now Cured, and Gives Good Advice to Others With Dyspeptic Tendencies.

If you have any stomach distress at all you will certainly be interested in the following experience which is told by Mr. Edward Dawkins:

"When I was working around the farm last winter I had an attack of inflammation," writes Mr. E. P. Dawkins, of Port Richmond. "I was weak for a long time, but well enough to work until spring. But something went wrong with my bowels for I had to use salts or physic all the time. My stomach kept sour, and always after eating there was pain and fullness, and all the symptoms of intestinal indigestion. Nothing helped me until I used Dr. Hamilton's Pills. Instead of hurting, like other pills, they acted very mildly, and seemed to heal the bowels. I did not require large doses to get results with Dr. Hamilton's Pills, and feel so glad that I have found a mild yet certain remedy. To-day I am well—no pain, no sour stomach, a good appetite, able to digest anything. This is a whole lot of good for one medicine to do, and I can say Dr. Hamilton's Pills are the best pills, and my letter, I am sure, proves it."

Refuse a substitute for Dr. Hamilton's Pills of Mandrake and Butternut. 25c per box or five for \$1.00, at all drug-gists and storekeepers, or post paid from the Carrhazone Co., Buffalo, N. Y., and Kingston, Canada.

faithfulness to His creation and His power to preserve men from sin, though it increased with "violence." One hundred and twenty years of resisting warms brought the judgment of God in the overthrow of the world by a flood. Lesson eight gives a glimpse of Abram tracing his steps from Egypt, where he nearly blighted his future by false representations to protect his life from envious men. Though God mercifully delivered him and Sarai, his young nephew Lot inherited the spirit of worldliness and greed which resulted in his choice of earthly riches, regardless of the worship of God and his danger from corrupt environment.

III. God in covenant. Lessons six, seven, nine and eleven brighten with acts of devotion and glory springs up for better conduct among God's creatures. Lesson six, Noah and his family stand alone after the deluge as God's believing people. The family altar and sacrifice betokened their dedication to the service of God. Therefore, he blessed Noah and his sons, and prescribed a course in life's duties, and made a covenant with him. Henceforth God led His people to a life of faith, beginning with that new era in the history of man. Lesson seven brings to view the demonstration of a life of faith, and of obedience to God's call to Abram. In him God formed a new branch of the human race, the originator of a new people. Lesson nine sets forth the divine attribution of justification by faith in Abram and God's extended covenant with him. In lesson eleven the supreme test of faith was fully met by Abraham in his offering up Isaac, and rewarded in specific covenant from God, foreshadowing the redemptive plan through Christ. Lesson twelve announces the fulfillment of the first promise, which in Christ's resurrection was fully met.

## PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS.

The God of Our Fathers.

He is the God of power. "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear" (Heb. 11: 3). Martin Luther once asked a Saxon peasant to repeat the Apostles' Creed. He began, "I believe in God the Father Almighty," when Luther stopped him and asked, "What is almighty?" The peasant replied, "I do not know." "You are right, my dear fellow," responded Luther, "neither I nor all the learned men can tell what God's power and might is." Yet when we consider the work of his fingers in the heavens and on the earth in regeneration and the forgiveness of sins, we get an insight into the hidings of that power which made all things. At the same time we know full well that there is might in Jehovah far beyond our ability to comprehend.

"By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying to his gift; and by it he being dead yet speaketh" (Heb. 11: 4). It is said that a pound of gold could be drawn into a wire that would reach around the globe. Theoretically, a marble dropped into the ocean displaces every drop of water in its vast expanse. So the influence of Abel's sacrifice has permeated the ages and still ascends to heaven. We are encouraged that we can make offerings acceptable to God.

He is a God of judgment. "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house" (Heb. 11: 7). When the old Romans attacked a city it was sometimes their custom to set up a white flag at the city gate. If the garrison surrendered while the flag was up, their lives were spared; after that, the black flag was run up, and every man was put to the sword. The saints in the earth are the signs of suspended judgment. While Abram obeyed, Sodom was spared. But when Abram ceased to pray the storm clouds began to gather. While Noah's ark was being prepared an ark to the saving of his house" (Heb. 11: 7). When the old Romans attacked a city it was sometimes their custom to set up a white flag at the city gate. If the garrison surrendered while the flag was up, their lives were spared; after that, the black flag was run up, and every man was put to the sword. The saints in the earth are the signs of suspended judgment. 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