SABBATH-SCHOOL LESSONS

ON

Old Testament History

FOR

SENIOR CLASSES

JANUARY TO JULY, 1888.

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LESSON I.
January 7, 1888.

CREATION.


1. What did God do in the beginning?

2. By what means was this accomplished?

3. Are we to understand from these words that the matter of the earth was not in existence before he spake? Heb. 1:3.

4. Who was the active agent in creation?

5. Is there anything that the Son did not make?

6. Since it was by the Son that the Father created all things, what is his rightful title?

7. How has the Father addressed the Son?

8. Then how should he be regarded by all creatures?

9. In what condition was the earth when it was first spoken into existence?

10. After the creation of the substance of the earth, what was the first thing done?

11. What next?

12. What did God call the light and the darkness?

13. What do a period of darkness and a period of light together constitute? See verse 5.

14. Which always comes first in the formation of a day? The darkness. Can you explain why?

15. What was done on the second day?

16. How is this day's work referred to by Job?

17. What was done on the third day?

18. What was made upon the fourth day?

19. What were these lights to govern?

20. Then what kind of days were these days of creation?

21. Does the sun make the day, or simply rule the day?

22. Tell what makes the day, and how there could be days before the sun was?

NOTES.—The day is made by the revolution of the earth on its axis. Each complete revolution makes one day, which for convenience is divided into twenty-four portions called "hours." If the sun were to become a body of darkness, the day would still be the same length that it now is. So there were days before the sun was made to rule the day. When the earth was created, "darkness was upon the face of the deep." The phrase, "in the beginning," marks the beginning of the first day of time. Consequently the first day of time began in darkness. Before the earth had completed its first revolution, God said, "Let there be light, and there was light." God saw that the light was good, "and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light day, and the darkness he called night. And the evening [the darkness] and the morning [the light] were the first day." The first revolution of
the earth was completed just at the dividing line between light and darkness; and as the first part of that day was in the darkness which up to that time had been unbroken, so the second day began with the darkness which had then been set off and placed within bounds. And because time began in darkness, the first portion of every day of time has been darkness. Men may adopt as many standards as they please, but every day of time has begun with evening, and so it will be as long as time lasts.

LESSON II.
January 14, 1888.

CREATION AND THE SABBATH.

SIDE LIGHTS.—"History of the Sabbath," first half of Chap. 2.

1. Who was the direct agent in the creation of the earth?

2. State briefly what was done on each of the first four days?

3. What was made on the fifth day? Gen. 1:20-23.


5. How did God regard his work when it was done? Verse 31.

6. How did he spend the seventh day? Gen. 2:1, 2.

7. After he had rested on the seventh day, what did he do? Verse 3.

8. What is the meaning of "sanctify"? Ans.—"To set apart for a holy or religious use."—Webster.

9. What is the name of the seventh day? Ex. 20:10.

10. For whom was the Sabbath made? Mark 2:27.

11. What is necessarily implied in the statement that after God had rested upon the seventh day he sanctified or set it apart? Ans.—That he told man what he had done, and commanded him to keep it holy.

12. Give two instances of the use of the word "sanctify," which confirm this. Ex. 19:12, 23; Josh. 20:7, margin.


14. How does the Sabbath serve as a "sign" to make us know the true God? Ex. 31:15, 17.

15. What is God's distinguishing characteristic? Ps. 96:4, 5; Jer. 10:10-12.


17. Then what was the Sabbath designed to do for men? Ans.—To be a continual reminder of God's greatness, and of their dependence upon him, and of their duty to serve him with humility.

18. If Christ created the heavens and the earth, who must have made the Sabbath?


20. Then in keeping the Sabbath, whom do we honor?

21. And when the Sabbath is not kept, who is dishonored?

NOTE.—The same one who in six days created the heavens and the earth, also "rested the seventh day," and blessed and sanctified it "because that in it he had rested." We have already learned of Christ that "all things were created by him and for him;" therefore he must have made the Sabbath. Therefore he "is Lord even of the Sabbath day." This does not exclude the Father from the creation and the making of the Sabbath, for the two are one. God made the worlds by his Son. Both were united in the creation, as they are in everything; and so men "should honor the Son even as they honor the Father." When the Sabbath is not kept, both the Father and the Son are dishonored.

LESSON III.
January 21, 1888.

THE FALL OF MAN.

SIDE LIGHTS.—"Great Controversy," Vol. 1, Chap. 3.

1. In what condition was the whole creation when it came from the hand of God? Gen. 1:31.

2. Did this include man also? Eccl. 7:29, first part.

3. Did man retain his uprightness? Rom. 5:12.
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<td>4. What prohibition had God laid upon the pair in the garden of Eden? Gen. 2:17.</td>
<td>The Hebrew of the word translated &quot;Yea,&quot; is itself a question, and the idea is, &quot;Is it so, that God hath said,&quot; etc., indicating surprise that God should do such a thing. This was a most artful, insinuating way of arousing discontent.</td>
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<td>6. Was Adam deceived as to the consequences of the act? 1 Tim. 2:14.</td>
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<td>7. How was Eve deceived? 2 Cor. 11:3.</td>
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<td>8. Who was the serpent? Rev. 20:2.</td>
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<td>10. When Eve repeated the prohibition, what did the serpent reply? Verse 4.</td>
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<td>11. What did he say that eating from the tree would do for them? Verse 5.</td>
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<td>12. In so saying, what imputation did he cast upon God?</td>
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<td>13. In telling them that by eating the forbidden fruit they should be like God, what was Satan instilling into their minds? Ans. Pride.</td>
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<td>14. What was the cause of Satan's fall? Isa. 14:12-14.</td>
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<td>16. What was it that brought the heathen nations into their deplorable condition? Rom. 1:22, 23.</td>
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<td>17. What was the result of Adam's transgression? Gen. 3:17-19.</td>
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<td>18. Was he allowed to remain in the garden? Verses 23, 24.</td>
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<td>19. How extensive were the consequences of his fall? Rom. 5:12.</td>
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<td>20. Did death pass upon all men regardless of their character, just because Adam sinned? See last clause of Rom. 5:12.</td>
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<td>22. By what means may we get rid of this evil nature, and have a better one? 2 Peter 1:4; 1 John 5:4.</td>
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**NOTES.**—The first words of the serpent to Eve were calculated to reflect upon God's justice, and to arouse in her the feeling that she had not been treated by the Lord with the consideration due to her. "And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"
OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY.


9. What did Abel obtain by his offering? Ibid.

10. What was the defect in Cain's offering? Heb. 9:22.

11. Then since Cain did not take the proper steps to secure the remission of sins, what lay at his door? Gen. 4:7.


13. Then since Abel was accepted, in whom must he have had faith? Acts 4:10-12.

14. What is the highest attainment of faith? Rom. 5:1; 1 John 5:4.

15. Since Abel was justified, was not his faith in Christ as perfect as ours can be?


17. Why did he do this? 1 John 3:11, 12.

18. Of what scripture was Abel the first to demonstrate the truth? 2 Tim. 3:12.


20. How should the righteous feel when they are persecuted for their faith? Matt. 5:11, 12.


NOTE.—Angels of God unfolded to Adam and Eve the plan of salvation, consequently their knowledge of it must have been perfect. So Cain and Abel knew how they might obtain righteousness, and peace with God. Abel accepted the conditions in simple faith, "by which he obtained witness that he was righteous." What this witness was, may be learned from Rom. 8:16 and 1 John 5:9-12.

LESSON V.
February 4, 1888.

THE EARTH CORRUPTED.

SIDE LIGHTS.—"Great Controversy," Vol. 1, Chap. 7.

1. When men became very numerous on the earth, what did they do? Gen. 6:1, 2.

2. What commandment, then, was specially disregarded? Ans.—The seventh.

3. In pursuing this wicked course, what good influence were they resisting? Gen. 6:3.


6. What two things always necessarily work together in producing a perfect character? 2 Thess. 2:13, last clause; 1 Peter 1:22.

7. Then how must the Lord have striven with the antediluvians by his Spirit? Ans.—By keeping continually before them the right way.

8. By whom was the right way presented to them? 2 Peter 2:5.

9. How long did God say that he would bear with them? Gen. 6:3.

10. At the end of that time, how great was the wickedness of men? Verse 5.

11. What was the condition of the whole earth? Verse 12.

12. With what was it filled in consequence? Verse 11.

13. What was the only consistent thing that God could then do? Verse 13.


15. Why did the Lord regard Noah with special favor? Verse 9; chap. 7:1.


17. How was it possible for Noah to remain upright in the midst of the universal corruption? Gen. 6:9, last clause.


19. What effect did Noah's godly life have upon the world? Heb. 11:7.

"And they took them wives of all which they chose." This indicates the utmost looseness in the marriage relation. It was just the same state of things that a certain class of Spiritualists express a desire for, and to which
Spiritualism naturally tends. This was expressed recently by a correspondent of Lucifer, a Spiritualist paper of an advanced type. Said he: "In my estimation, the way out of marriage should be as easy as the way in. Mutual consent to part should be as lawful as mutual consent to live together." It is through the spread of Spiritualism that the world will be just before the coming of Christ "as it was in the days of Noah." See 2 Tim. 3:1-8.

No man ever lived on this earth with whom the Spirit of God did not at some time strive. All men, however ignorant, have some knowledge of right and wrong, and upon this knowledge the Spirit works to convince them of sin. Says John: "That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." John 1:9. Men may not have the written word, nevertheless it is true that the Spirit works by means of the word, which is its sword; for some of the light of the word is implanted in the heart of every man. See Rom. 2:14.

LESSON VI.

February 11, 1888.

THE FLOOD.

SIDE LIGHTS.—"Great Controversy," Vol. 1, Chap. 7.

1. When the world became wholly corrupt, what did God determine to do? Gen. 6:13.

2. What provision did the Lord make for the preservation of righteous Noah? Gen. 6:14, 17, 18.

3. Had there ever been anything to indicate the possibility of a flood? Gen. 2:5.

4. In obeying the command of the Lord to make an ark, what grace did Noah manifest? Heb. 11:7.

5. After the ark was completed, and Noah and his family had gone into it, what wonderful thing took place to convince the people of the truth of what Noah had preached? Gen. 7:7-9.


7. Was it possible then for Noah to do anything more for the people? Verse 16.


11. How long did the waters remain at their height? Gen. 7:24.

12. How long did Noah have to remain in the ark? Compare Gen. 7:11 with Gen. 8:13-16.


15. What pledge did he give to confirm this promise? Verses 12-15.

16. What peculiar force is there in the expression, "I do set my bow in the cloud?" Rev. 4:3; Eze. 1:28.

17. Then how strong was the assurance that there should never be another universal flood? Ans.—God has pledged his own glory that it shall not be.


19. What word has decreed this? Verses 5, 7. Ans.—The same word that created the earth in the beginning, and that destroyed it once by a flood.


21. What description have we of the wickedness that shall be in the last days? 2 Tim. 3:1-5.

22. Will the earth be filled with violence as it was before the flood? See verse 3.

23. Who alone will be saved from the destruction that comes because of this wickedness? Isa. 33:14-17.

LESSON VII.

February 18, 1888.

THE PATRIARCHS.

SIDE LIGHTS.—"History of the Sabbath," last part of Chap. 2; "Great Controversy," Vol. 1, Chap. 9.

1. How long was it from the creation of Adam till the birth of Seth? Gen. 5:3.
4. How long from then till the birth of Mahalalel? Verse 12.
5. How long after the birth of Mahalalel was Jared born? Verse 15.
6. How old was Jared when Enoch was born? Verse 18.
8. How long did Methuselah live before Lamech was born? Verse 25.
9. Then how long was it from the creation of Adam till the birth of Lamech? Ans.-874 years.
11. Then how long did he live after Lamech was born? Ans.—56 years.
12. How long did Adam live contemporary with Methuselah? Ans.—243 years.
13. Was there not, then, ample opportunity for Methuselah to learn of Adam all about the institution of the Sabbath, the fall, etc.?
15. How old was Methuselah when Noah was born? Ans.—369 years. Compare verses 25 and 28.
16. How old was Methuselah when he died? Verse 27.
17. Then how long did Methuselah live contemporary with Noah? Ans.—600 years.
20. How long after the flood was Abraham born? Ans.—352 years.
21. Then what opportunity had Abraham to learn all the events of the antediluvian world? Ans.—He lived for 150 years contemporaneous with Shem, who had lived 98 years with one who had lived 233 years with Adam.
22. Before the flood, had there been more than one language? Gen. 11:1.
24. What was their object in doing this? Verse 4.
25. What evil motives prompted them to do this? Ans.—Pride and presumption. They thought that by their own efforts they could frustrate any possible attempt on the part of God to punish them for their wickedness.
27. What was the tower called, and why? Verse 9.

NOTE.—It is not to be expected that all shall commit to memory the figures given in this lesson, although many of the younger scholars may not find it difficult to do so. Even though all could commit these figures to memory, it would be somewhat difficult for them to grasp fully the idea they are designed to convey, without something to aid them. Accordingly the teacher should prepare some sort of a diagram, showing by different lines how long the patriarchs lived contemporaneously, and how few lives it took to span the period of time from the creation till the call of Abraham. This lesson is designed to show how easy it was to preserve and transmit the knowledge of the truth of God. A diagram will be found on page 17.

LESSON VIII.
February 25, 1888.

CALL OF ABRAHAM.
2. What did the Lord say to him? Verse 3.
5. How old was he when he went to the land of Canaan? Gen. 12:4, 5.
6. Did he know where he was going? Gen. 12:1; Acts 7:3.
7. In thus going from his home, what did he manifest? Heb. 11:8.
OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY.

9. To whom besides himself was the promise made? Verse 15.
10. How numerous did the Lord say that his seed should be? Verse 16.
12. What did the Lord again say as to the number of his posterity? Verse 5.
13. How did Abraham regard the word of the Lord? Verse 6, first clause.
15. What is meant by faith being counted for righteousness? Ans.—The forgiveness of sins. See Rom. 4:5-8.
16. Through whom were the promises confirmed to Abraham? Gal. 3:17.
17. And who are the promised seed? Gal. 3:29.
18. What is the inheritance of which they, with him, are heirs? Rom. 4:13.

LESSON IX.
March 3, 1888.

ABRAHAM AND LOT.
1. When Abraham left his native land, whom did he take with him? Gen. 12:5.
2. After his sojourn in Canaan, where did he go? Verse 10.
3. Why did he go there?
4. How was he prospered while there? Verse 16; chap. 13:1, 2.
5. How was Lot situated as regards wealth? Gen. 13:5.
6. What was the consequence of the great wealth of both Abraham and Lot? Verses 6, 7.
7. How was Abraham affected by this strife? Verse 8.
9. How did Lot respond to this generous offer? Verses 10, 11.
10. What alone seemed to influence Lot in his choice?
12. What was the character of the men of Sodom? Verse 13.
14. What great battle was fought some years after? Gen. 14:8, 9.
15. What happened to the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah and their people? Verses 10, 11.
16. Who else was taken captive? Verse 12.
17. What do you think was the indirect cause of Lot's misfortune?
18. What charge is given to the rich? 1 Tim. 6:17-19.
20. What proverb was fulfilled in the case of Lot? Prov. 15:27.

LESSON X.
March 10, 1888.

ABRAHAM AND MELCHIZEDEK.
1. Where did Abraham dwell when Lot was taken captive? Gen. 14:13.
3. What success did he have? Verses 15, 16.
4. Who went out to meet Abraham on his return with the spoil? Verse 17.
5. Who else met him and brought refreshments? Verse 18, first part.
6. Who was Melchizedek? Verse 18; Heb. 7:1, 2.
8. Which was the greater man, Abraham or Melchizedek? Heb. 7:4, 7.
13. What had he taken out before he reserved the portion for the young men who went with him? Verse 20.
14. Since Abraham said that he would not take so much as a shoe latchet that belonged to the king of Sodom, whose property must he have regarded the tithe which he gave to the priest of the Lord? Lev. 27:30.
15. Who is our priest? Heb. 4:14.
17. Then ought we not to pay tithes as well as Abraham?
18. What words of the apostle Paul indicate that our great High Priest should receive tithes of us? Heb. 7:8.

NOTE.—The paying of tithes was not a Jewish arrangement, nor a ceremonial ordinance. "The tithe is the Lord's;" and when we pay a tithe of our income into the Lord's treasury, we simply give him that which is his own. When we withhold the tithe, we rob God of his due. See Mal. 3:8. In the seventh of Hebrews, in showing the superiority of the Melchizedek priesthood to the Levitical priesthood, the apostle shows that in the person of Abraham, Levi himself paid tithes to Melchizedek. Christ is a priest "after the order of Melchizedek," and so, although we are not under the Levitical priesthood, as Abraham was not, Christ is our priest, "of whom it is witnessed that he liveth," and he should receive tithe from us.

LESSON XI.
March 17, 1888.

ABRAHAM'S PLEA FOR SODOM.
1. Who came to Abraham while he lived in Mamre? Gen. 18:1, 2.
2. Who were these men? Verse 22; chap. 19:1.
3. Did Abraham recognize the Lord as one of the three men?
5. What exhortation based upon this occurrence is given to us? Heb. 13:2.
8. Why did the Lord honor Abraham in this manner? Verse 19.
13. What was the second request, and the reply? Verse 28.
14. What concession did the Lord still further make in answer to Abraham's earnest prayer? Verse 29.
15. How did Abraham still further pray, and what was the result? Verses 30, 31.
16. For what still smaller number did the Lord say he would spare Sodom? Verse 31.
17. Finally, how many righteous persons did the Lord say would save Sodom? Verse 32.
18. In this simple narrative, what scripture do we see fulfilled? James 5:16, last clause.
22. What is the only safe place for people to occupy? Ps. 91:1-4.

LESSON XII.
March 24, 1888.

DESTRUCTION OF SODOM.
1. While Abraham was pleading with the Lord for Sodom, what were the two angels who accompanied him doing? Gen. 18:22.
3. How did Lot greet them?
4. What trait had Lot in common with Abraham? Ans.—Hospitality.
7. Cite other instances that indicate that those who sat in the gate occupied an office of public trust. Dan. 2:49; Esther 2:19, 21, 22; 3:2, 3; Prov. 24:7; 31:23; Lam. 5:14.
10. What was the crying sin of Sodom and Gomorrah? Jude 7.
11. What marked contrast was there between the hospitality of Lot and the actions of the men of Sodom? Gen. 19:4–7, 9.
14. How did his sons-in-law regard his appeal?
15. What did the angels say as soon as it was morning? Verse 15.
16. What steps did they take to hasten Lot and his family? Verse 16.
17. What earnest charge did the angels give them? Verse 17.
18. As soon as Lot had escaped, what did the Lord do? Verses 23–25.
20. What warning is given to us, in view of such facts as this? Heb. 2:1–3.
22. What will he do when he is revealed? 2 Thess. 1:7–9.
23. Of what was the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah an example? Jude 6, 7.
24. What charge is given to us who are living in these last days? Luke 21:34–36.

NOTE.—On Jude 7 Dr. Barnes says: “The phrase ‘eternal fire’ is one that is often used to denote future punishment—as expressing the severity and intensity of the suffering. As here used it cannot mean that the fires which consumed Sodom and Gomorrah were literally eternal, or were kept always burning, for that was not true. The expression seems to denote, in this connection, two things: (1) That the destruction of the cities of the plains, with their inhabitants, was as entire and perpetual as if the fires had been always burning—the consumption was absolute and enduring—the sinners were wholly cut off, and the cities forever rendered desolate; and (2) that in its nature and duration this was a striking emblem of the destruction which will come upon the ungodly.” And the apostle Peter expressly declares that God made Sodom and Gomorrah “an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly.” 2 Peter 2:6.

LESSON XIII.
March 31, 1888.

SUGGESTIONS FOR QUARTERLY REVIEW.

1. Why should God receive homage from all creatures?
2. What distinguishes the one true God from false gods?
3. By what simple act were the heavens and earth created?
4. Who was the active agent in creation?
5. Then how much honor should Christ receive? John 5:22, 23.
6. What was instituted, by which men can show that they honor God as Creator?
7. What relation does Christ sustain to the Sabbath?
8. What was the cause of the fall of man?
11. How did Abel show his faith in this wonderful truth?
12. How wicked did the earth finally become?
13. What did it become necessary for God to do because of this wickedness?
14. When will this wickedness again be paralleled?
15. What Heaven-defying act was done shortly after the flood?
16. Wherein did the heinousness of this act lie?
17. State some of the circumstances of the call of Abraham, and the promises to him.
18. Did the Lord call Abraham because he was a perfect man? Rom. 3:23; 5:12.
21. What promises were made to him?
22. State in few words what these promises really comprise.
23. Who are children of Abraham, and heirs of these promises?

NOTE.—This lesson, it will be noticed, is entitled, "Suggestions for Quarterly Review."
The Following Table Exhibits the Relative Ages of the Early Patriarchs, With Their Contemporary Periods.

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The table shows the relative ages of the early patriarchs with their contemporary periods, spanning from the era of the creation to the birth of Jesus Christ.
LESSON XIV.
April 7, 1888.

THE TEST OF FAITH.

SIDE LIGHTS.—"Great Controversy," Vol. 1.,
last part of Chap. 10.

1. What was the character of Abraham?
   Gen. 26:5.

2. Were his early associations favorable
to the formation of such a character? Josh.
   24:2.

3. For what reason was Abraham counted
   righteous? Rom. 4:3.


5. What did the Lord do to test Abra-
   ham's faith? Gen. 22:1, 2.


7. How long did they travel before they
came to the place? Verse 4.

8. What did Isaac say to his father as
   they were going together to the place of sac-

9. What was Abraham's reply? Verse 8.

10. When they came to the place what did

11. How far did he proceed toward slaying

12. How was he prevented from complet-
    ing the sacrifice? Verses 11, 12.

13. What did the angel of the Lord say
    was now proved? Verse 12.

14. How were Abraham's words, that God
    would provide himself a lamb, fulfilled?
    Verse 13.

15. What promise did the Lord make be-
    cause Abraham had done this? Verses
    15-18.

16. What made this a peculiarly strong
test of Abraham's faith. Ans.—Isaac was
   Abraham's only son (Gen. 22:2); there was
   no earthly hope that he could ever have an-
   other; and more than all, God had promised
   that his numerous seed should come through
   Isaac. Heb. 11:17, 18.

17. What did Abraham believe that God
    was able to do? Heb. 11:19.

18. What did this act prove concerning
    Abraham's faith? James 2:21, 22.

19. What wonderful title did Abraham
    thus gain? James 2:23.

20. Who may share this blessing? Gal.

LESSON XV.
April 14, 1888.

DESPISING THE BIRTHRIGHT.

SIDE LIGHTS.—"Great Controversy," Vol. 1,
first part of Chap. 12.

1. How old was Isaac when he was mar-

2. How old was he when his two sons
    were born? Verse 26.

3. What were their names?

4. What difference was there between
    them? Verse 27.

5. How did their parents regard them?
    Verse 28.

6. What did Jacob have as Esau came in
    one day from a hunting trip? Verse 29.

7. What did Esau say to Jacob? Verse


9. How did Esau reason concerning his
    birthright? Verse 32.

10. What transaction was thus made by
    the two brothers? Verses 33, 34.

11. What was the birthright, and what was
    its importance to anyone?

12. How did Esau regard his birthright?
    Gen. 25:34, last clause.

13. How highly did he value it? Ans.—
    He considered it worth no more than a meal
    of victuals, to satisfy present necessity.

14. What language is used concerning
    Esau for this proceeding? Heb. 12:16.

15. How did he afterward feel concerning
    the blessings of his birthright? Verse 17.

16. Relate, in brief, the circumstances.
    Gen. 27:1-40.

17. Was he able to get back the birthright?
    Heb. 12:16.

18. Why not? Ans.—Because he had de-
    liberately sold it, and could not alter the trade.

19. What is the exhortation given to us
    in this connection? Heb. 12:14-17.

20. If we are children of Abraham, what
OLDEST TESTAMENT HISTORY.

is our birthright? Rom. 4:13; Col. 1:12; 1 John 3:1, 2.

21. Through what are we made heirs of this inheritance? Col. 1:13, 14.


23. How may we do this? 2 Tim. 4:10.

24. What can you say of the condition of one who deliberately bars his interest in the blood of Christ, and his hope of eternal life, for a little present enjoyment? Heb. 10:29-31.

NOTE.—The term "birthright" denotes the special privileges belonging to the first-born. Among these were, that he should have a double portion of the inheritance, and that he should succeed to whatever position was held by his father. Among the Jews the first-born was considered as especially devoted to God; and since the Jewish people were the chosen people of God, and the Jewish nation was the church of that time, it may justly be concluded that special spiritual blessings were considered as part of the birthright.

LESSON XVI.

April 21, 1888.

JACOB'S VOW.

1. Relate the means by which Jacob secured the blessing.

2. Was this honorable on the part of Jacob? Gen. 27:35.

3. What is the meaning of the name "Jacob"? Verse 36, and margin.

4. How did Esau regard Jacob for his course in securing the birthright? Verse 41, first part.

5. What did he purpose to do? Verse 41, last part.


7. Into how many years did the "few days" expand? Ans.—More than twenty.

8. What sort of a sleeping-place did Jacob have one night on his journey? Gen. 28:10, 11.

9. What dream did he have there? Verse 12.


12. What did Jacob say when he awoke? Verse 16.

13. What did he say of that place? Verse 17.

14. When the Lord appeared to certain of his servants what did he say to them? Ex. 3:7; Josh. 5:15.

15. What may we learn from this? Ans.—That the presence of God in any place makes that place holy.


17. What lesson should this teach us? Ans.—That places dedicated to the worship of God are sacred, and should always be entered with reverence.


20. What was the extent of Jacob's desire from the Lord? Verse 20.

21. Could he have asked for less?


23. Is it right to make vows or pledges to the Lord? Ps. 76:11.

24. When a person makes a vow, what should he be careful to do? Eccl. 5:4, 5.

25. Why should we be so careful to pay our vows? Deut. 23:21.

NOTE.—The question may arise, "If Jacob had received only food to eat and raiment to put on, how could he have paid tithe?" We are not to suppose that when Jacob made his vow, he expected that the Lord would give him his clothes ready made. The idea was that he would give the Lord a tithe of all that he received, and would get his food and raiment out of the remainder, no matter how much or how little it might be. The lesson that we should learn is, that nine-tenths of what we think would support us, with the blessing of the Lord, is better than the entire amount that might seem necessary, without God's blessing. God is able to make a small amount furnish as good a support as a large
OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY.

sum. See 2 Cor. 9:8; also the case of the widow's cruse of oil and handful of meal (1 Kings 17:8-16), and the feeding of the multitudes by Christ.

LESSON XVII.
April 28, 1888.

JACOB AND THE ANGEL.

1. How long was Jacob with his Uncle Laban? Gen. 31:38.
2. Was his service an easy one? Verses 39-41.
3. How did God prosper him? Verses 7-9, 42.
4. When Jacob fled from Laban, how did the Lord interpose to protect him from Laban's wrath? Verse 29.
5. As Jacob went on his way, who met him? Gen. 32:1.
6. What did Jacob say, and what did he call the place? Verse 2.
7. For what purpose are angels sent to earth? Heb. 1:14.
8. What message did Jacob send to Esau? Gen. 32:3-5.
10. How was Jacob affected by this news? Verse 7.
11. What good reason had Jacob for fearing Esau?
14. When Jacob was left alone who encountered him? Verse 24.
15. How long did he wrestle with the stranger? 1b.
16. Who was it that was wrestling with him? Hosea 12:4, 5.
17. What act opened Jacob's eyes as to the real nature of his antagonist? Gen. 32:25.
18. What did the Lord then say? Verse 26, first part.
9. What may we conclude from this?

Ans.—That as soon as Jacob found out who it was that he was wrestling with, he ceased wrestling, and threw his arms about the Lord.
20. What reply did Jacob make to the Lord's request? Verse 26, last part.
21. How urgent was Jacob's plea? Hosea 12:4.
22. Why was Jacob so urgent at this time?
23. What evidence did he finally receive that his prayer was successful? Gen. 32:27, 28.
24. What was involved in this blessing? Ans.—The pardon of all the sins of his past life.
26. What further evidence did he have that he had prevailed with God and with men? Gen. 33:1-16.
27. What exhortation is given us from this case? Hosea 12:6.
28. Of what time in the history of the people of God was this experience of Jacob a figure? Dan. 12:1; Jer. 30:7.
29. What will be granted to all those who finally prevail? Rev. 3:21.

Note.—The reason why Jacob was so urgent when he found out with whom he had been wrestling, was that he felt that he had come to a crisis in his life; he had no earthly friends who could help him, his own brother was his sworn enemy; and he knew that if God did not interpose to help him he was lost. He knew also that this calamity had come upon him because of his own wicked course. And since sin separates from God, he knew that if Esau met him before he made his peace with God, he would be eternally lost. For this reason he had sought that retired place to pray. We can imagine the agony of mind which he suffered while he was being kept from his purpose by this stranger. And it requires no stretch of imagination to believe that as soon as he found that his antagonist was the Lord, whom he had come to seek, he ceased wrestling, and threw his arms about the Lord. While he declared, "I will
OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY.

May 5, 1888.

PLOTTING AGAINST THE JUST.

3. To what did they look forward as a permanent residence? Heb. 11:16.
4. How many sons had Jacob? Gen. 35:22, last clause.
5. Which one did Jacob love the most? Gen. 37:3.
13. How do the wicked ever regard the just? Ps. 37:12.
14. What trait was it that moved Joseph's brethren to sell him into Egypt? Acts 7:9.
15. What was the result to Potiphar, from having a godly man in his house? Gen. 39:5.
16. How much responsibility was placed upon Joseph? Verse 6.
17. How old was Joseph when he was sold into Egypt? Gen. 37:2.
18. When he was strongly tempted in Potiphar's house, what noble stand did he take? Gen. 39:8, 9.
19. Did he stand firm to this resolution? Verse 10.
20. What was the immediate result of his upright conduct? Verses 19, 20; read also verses 11-18.
21. How was this verified in Joseph's case? Ps. 23.

May 12, 1888.

THE CONSEQUENCE OF PLEASING GOD.

2. What did the Midianites do with him? Verse 36.
3. Who was with Joseph in this strange land? Gen. 39:2; Acts 7:9.
4. What was the consequence to Joseph of the Lord's being with him? Gen. 39:3, 4; Acts 7:9, 10.
5. What was the result to Potiphar, from having a godly man in his house? Gen. 39:5.
6. How much responsibility was placed upon Joseph? Verse 6.
7. How old was Joseph when he was sold into Egypt? Gen. 37:2.
8. When he was strongly tempted in Potiphar's house, what noble stand did he take? Gen. 39:8, 9.
9. Did he stand firm to this resolution? Verse 10.
10. What was the immediate result of his upright conduct? Verses 19, 20; read also verses 11-18.
12. What can always be said by one who has the Lord for a companion? Ps. 23.
13. How was this verified in Joseph's case? Gen. 39:21.
OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY.

LEGSON XXI.
May 20, 1888.

GOD'S CARE FOR THE RIGHTEOUS.

1. RELATE the main points of what happened to Joseph in Egypt.
2. How long had he been in bondage when he was made prime minister? Compare Gen. 37: 2 and Gen. 41: 46.

4. After having been the lowest of all, over whom was he exalted? Verses 20-22.
5. Of what general statement is the case of Joseph an example? Prov. 15: 33.
6. How extensive was the famine which Joseph had predicted? Gen. 41: 55, 57.
7. Who, among others, went to Egypt to buy corn? Gen. 42: 3.

10. After Pharaoh had related his dream, how did Joseph interpret it? See verses 25-31.
11. What did he say the repetition of the dream indicated? Verse 32.
12. What advice did he give to Pharaoh? Verses 33-36.
14. Whom did Pharaoh think was the most fit man for the work which Joseph had devised? Verses 38-40.
15. To what position did Pharaoh advance Joseph? Verses 41-44.
16. What scripture was fulfilled in the history of Joseph in Egypt? Ps. 37: 32, 33.
17. What sure promise is given to those who trust and serve the Lord? Verses 5, 6.
was about to be enslaved, what pathetic plea did Judah make? Verses 18-34.

22. What did Joseph now know? Ans.—He knew that his brethren had thoroughly repented of their past wicked course.

23. What did he say to comfort them? Gen. 45: 4-6.

24. Who did he say had ordered his being sold into Egypt? Verses 7, 8.

25. What will God always accomplish with the wrath of men? Ps. 76: 10.

LES SON TTII.

J une 2, 1888.

THE BONDAGE IN EGYPT.

1. When Joseph had made himself known to his brethren, what did he tell them to do? Gen. 45: 9-11.


5. What finally induced him to consent to go? Verses 27, 28.


7. How many were there who went down into Egypt? Acts 7: 14.


11. What did this king say to his people? Verses 9, 10.


13. How did this affect them? Verse 12.

14. What did the children of Israel have to suffer at the hands of the Egyptians? Verses 13, 14.

15. Of what prophecy was this a fulfillment? Gen. 15: 13.

16. What cruel order did the king of Egypt make? Ex. 1: 22.

17. Relate the story of one child who was saved from the king’s decree. Ex. 2: 1-10.

18. What led the parents of Moses to do as they did? Heb. 11: 23.

LESS ON XXIII.

June 9, 1888.

MOSES AND HIS WORK.

1. Who claimed Moses as his son? Ex. 2: 10.

2. What advantages did this give him? Acts 7: 21, 22.

3. What happened one day when he was grown? Ex. 2: 11, 12.

4. How old was he when this happened? Acts 7: 23, 24.

5. Why did he do this? Verse 25.

6. What is indicated by this verse? Ans.—That Moses had in some way learned that God would make use of him to deliver the children of Israel; and he supposed that they would understand it also.

7. Did they understand it?


Ans.—He identified himself with Israel.


12. When Moses found that even his own people would not acknowledge him as a deliverer, what did he do? Ex. 2: 15; Acts 7: 29.


14. What did he do all these years? Ex. 3: 1, first part.

15. At the expiration of 40 years, what took place? Acts 7: 30.

16. What did the Lord then propose to do with Moses? Verse 34.

17. Did the Israelites believe in the mission of Moses this time? Ex. 4: 29-31.

18. What must have been the reason that
they did not accept him before? Ans.—Because although he had been appointed to do the work, he did not go in the Lord's way nor the Lord's time; he had only his own credentials.

LESSON XXIV.
June 16, 1888.

MOSES SENT TO EGYPT.

1. When Moses went out the first time to deliver Israel, by slaying the Egyptian, what did he manifest? Ans.—Pride and self-sufficiency.

2. What must we conclude was his idea of the way deliverance would come? Ans.—That the people would rally around him, and that under his military guidance they would fight their way out of bondage.

3. In that case who alone would have received the glory?

4. What was God's design? Ex. 14:17, 18.

5. While Moses was keeping sheep in the wilderness, what did he learn? Num. 12:3.

6. When he went with the Lord's commission, how was he regarded? Ex. 11:3.


8. When Moses went to see the burning bush, what was said to him? Verses 4, 5.

9. Who was it speaking from the bush? Verse 6.

10. What other instances can you name where people were required to put off their shoes on account of the presence of God?

11. What did the Lord say he had seen and heard? Ex. 3:7; Acts 7:34.

12. What did he say he now proposed to do? Ex. 3:8-10.

13. How eager was Moses now to go? Verse 11.


17. What did God say of this name? Verse 15.

18. What is its meaning? Ans.—It means "the One who is," that is, the self-existent One, thus expressing the distinguishing characteristic of God.


20. What three signs did the Lord give him by which he might prove that he had a divine commission? Verses 2-9.


22. What reply did the Lord make? Verses 11, 12.


24. How did the Lord regard this continued refusal? Verse 14, first clause.


26. Who did he say should instruct them both? Verses 15, 16.

27. What confidence may the Lord's servants have in this age as they go to preach the gospel? Matt. 28:18-20.

LESSON XXV.
June 23, 1888.

GOD'S REQUIREMENT FOR ISRAEL.

1. Who met Moses as he was on his way to Egypt? Ex. 4:27.


5. With what words did Moses and Aaron greet Pharaoh? Ex. 5:1.


7. What further statement did Moses and Aaron make, showing the urgency of the case? Verse 3.

8. Had God told Moses to make this request? Ex. 3:18.

9. Do you think that Moses expected Pharaoh to grant this request? Verse 19.
10. Then why was he directed to make it, and why did he ask that the people might be allowed to go and sacrifice, when they wanted complete deliverance? See note.


12. What did he say was the reason that the people wanted to go and sacrifice? Verses 8, 17.

13. How were their burdens increased in consequence? Verses 6, 7, 17-19.

14. After the Israelites had been delivered, what exhortation was given to them, based on their hard usage in Egypt? Deut. 5:14, 15.

15. What were they told to remember, in order that they might not be led to require their servants to work on the Sabbath? Verse 15.

16. For what purpose did God deliver them from bondage? Ex. 4:23; Ps. 105:43-45.

17. What does this indicate? Ans.—That they could not properly serve him in Egypt.

18. What may we conclude from this fact, and Pharaoh’s statement to Moses and Aaron that they made the people “rest from their burdens,” and the exhortation in Deut. 5:14, 15?

Notes.—It is not in accordance with God’s plan to punish any man, no matter how wicked he may be, without warning him, and giving him a chance to repent. Therefore, although he knew that Pharaoh was so churlish and stubborn that he would not listen to reason, he did not begin to send judgments upon him, at first, to force him to let Israel go, but sent a simple request, instead. Thus his justice was manifested. In the demand, “Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness,” an opportunity was offered to Pharaoh to recognize the God of Israel as the true God. It was, in fact, Pharaoh’s chance for repentance. If Pharaoh had granted the simple request which Moses brought to him from the Lord, it would have indicated that he recognized the authority of God; and in that case he would have been willing to grant whatever else the Lord might demand.

From Ex. 4:23 and Ps. 105:43-45 we learn that the children of Israel could not serve the Lord in Egypt. In Deut. 5:14, 15 we find special emphasis given to that portion of the fourth commandment requiring the man-servant and the maid-servant to rest, and the Israelite was told to remember that he had been a servant in the land of Egypt; also in Ex. 5:5 we learn that Moses and Aaron made the people “rest from their burdens.” From these facts we may conclude that the Sabbath was one of the things in which they could not serve the Lord in Egypt; and when Moses and Aaron came with the message of God (Ex. 4:29-31), they attempted a reform, which only increased their oppression. The Israelites were delivered, that they might observe the statutes of the Lord, including the Sabbath, and this placed upon them an additional obligation to keep the Sabbath strictly, as well as to keep all the commandments. Compare Deut. 24:17, 18.

Lesson XXVI.
June 30, 1888.

Suggestions for Quarterly Review.

See note to lesson 13; the same suggestions will apply to this lesson.

1. Give a brief Bible description of the character of Abraham.

2. What was the foundation of Abraham’s righteousness?

3. Tell how Abraham’s faith was tested.

4. What made this such a test of his faith?

5. How did Jacob come to leave his father’s house?

6. Relate the dream which he had while on his journey.

7. What vow did he make?

8. Give proof that it is right for us to make such vows.

9. Where is this narrative recorded?

10. Relate the circumstances of Jacob’s wrestling with the angel.

11. Who was the angel?

12. What was the cause of Jacob’s impatience, and what did he receive?

13. For what purpose was this narrative recorded?

14. What led to Joseph’s being sold into Egypt?

15. How did he suffer there, and what for?
20. After they became very numerous, what was done to them?
21. Tell how Moses was fitted for the work of delivering the people.
22. Relate the circumstances of his call to return to Egypt to deliver Israel.
23. What was God’s special object in delivering his people?

Camp-Meeting Lesson.

The Love of God.

2. How is his mercy continually manifested? Lam. 3:22, 23.
3. Is his mercy limited to any special class? Acts 17:25; Matt. 5:44, 45.
4. How has mankind repaid him for his love in creating them and giving them all things to enjoy? Rom. 3:23; Isa. 1:4-6.
5. While all men were in this condition, how did God still further show his love to them? John 3:16; Rom. 5:8.
6. Is there any difference between the love of the Father and that of the Son? John 10:30; 14:1.
7. Into what relationship to God does his love bring us, if we accept it? 1 John 3:17.
8. What is given us to show that we are sons? Rom. 8:14-16.
10. If the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts, what effect will it have? 1 John 3:16; 4:11.
11. How much must we love one another? John 15:12; 1 John 3:16.
12. What exhortation to us is based upon Christ’s love for us? Eph. 5:2.
13. If we have the love of God, will we love only those who love us? 1 John 4:10, 19; Matt. 5:43-46.
14. Did God love us because of any good that we had done? Titus 3:3-6; Eph. 2:1-6.

15. What alone should prompt all our acts? 2 Cor. 5:14.
17. What may we confidently expect from the fact that God so loved us as to give Christ to die for us? Rom. 8:32.
18. What is God’s love for his children able to do when enemies rise up against them? Deut. 23:5.
19. If we appreciate this loving-kindness what will we do? Ps. 36:7.
20. How enduring is God’s love to us? Jer. 31:3.
22. Unto whom will the saints of God ascribe universal praise both here and in eternity? Rev. 1:5, last part.

"There’s a wideness in God’s mercy,
Like the wideness of the sea;
There’s a kindness in his justice,
That is more than liberty.

"There is welcome for the sinner,
And more graces for the good.
There is mercy with the Saviour;
There is healing in his blood.

"For the love of God is broader
Than the measure of man’s mind;
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.

"If our love were but more simple,
We should take him at his word;
And our lives would be all sunshine
In the sweetness of our Lord."
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