

**THE SUNDAY SCHOOL**

LESSON VIII, FIRST QUARTER, INTERNATIONAL SERIES, FEB. 24.

Text of the Lesson, Gen. xv, 1-19. Memory Verses, 5, 6—Golden Text, Gen. xv, 6—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearna.

[Copyright, 1907, by American Press Association.] As God, the faithful Creator (1 Pet. iv, 19), saw His friend Abram returning from his victory over the four kings and saw the temptation that Satan was planning for him through the king of Sodom He forestalled the adversary by sending Melchizedek. His servant, king of Salem and priest of the most high God, to bless Abram and to meet him with bread and wine, so that when the king of Sodom offered Abram the goods he had captured he was able to say: No; I thank you. Having the blessing of Him who possesses heaven and earth, I prefer to receive no favors from you. How the church has fallen from this high standard, for it would be a rare thing today to see her turn her back upon any one who would send some earthly possessions her way to help her carry on what she calls the Lord's work! She is evidently not intimate with the possessor of heaven and earth.

It seems probable that the great adversary was making it lively for Abram after his victory over the four kings and over the offer of Sodom's king and was saying to him something like this: Those kings will gather their forces and come upon you and take you and yours off the earth, and what a fool you were to refuse those goods you captured! So Abram doubtless had some fears and also some thoughts of the reward he might have had. Then the word of the Lord came unto him in a vision, saying: "Fear not, Abram. I am thy shield and thy exceeding great reward." Thus the Lord delivered His friend from his fears and comforted him by the revelation of Himself. Lay to heart this first precious "Fear not" and look up and eat all the others you can find, and may the Lord God be to you personally a sun and shield (Ps. lxxvii, 11), and may you be satisfied with Himself as your reward.

The years are passing with Abram, and the heir has not been given, and he inquires of the Lord about it and is brought forth and told to look toward heaven and number the stars if he can (verse 5), and he is assured that so shall his seed be. This was a higher look than that of xiii, 14, even a look to the Lord Himself, and in the direction of His dwelling places.

In reply to his question, "Whereby shall I know?" he is referred to the sacrifices, which all point to the one great Sacrifice, by whom alone all things are made sure, for "All the promises of God in Him are yea and in Him amen" (1 Cor. i, 20). He who spared not His own Son will with Him also freely give us all things (Rom. viii, 32), and it is our privilege to keep the birds (the evil one, Matt. xiii, 4, 19) away from the promises by our steadfastly believing them.

The 400 years' bondage of Abram's posterity and then their deliverance are here plainly foretold and also prefigured by the smoking furnace and the burning lamp (verses 12-17). The literal fulfillment is seen in Ex. xii, 35-41, even to their coming out with great substance.

The reason why Abram could not at once possess the land is given in verse 16, and we see in the same words the reason why the Lord does not now at once take the kingdom. Not till the church is completed and taken away shall the mystery of iniquity be fully developed (11 Thess. ii, 7-9). In verses 18-21 we see that the land which God gave to Abram by unconditional covenant will reach from the river of Egypt to the Euphrates, a very much larger portion than that which we now know as Palestine.

This is in some respects the most remarkable chapter we have yet taken up since the creation and restoration of chapters 1 and 2. There are so many words used in it for the first time, such as the word of God, vision, fear not, shield, reward, believed, righteousness, etc., and, inasmuch as the first use of a word is the place to get light upon its significance, one can readily see by taking up these words what a field for study and meditation is here opened up. We have already suggested the "fear not," but what about the words "believe" and "righteousness?" See how the Holy Spirit has Himself repeated verse 6 in Rom. iv, 3; Gal. iii, 6; Jas. ii, 23, and in the context in each place enlarged upon them and made plain that God's only way of righteousness is by faith in Jesus Christ apart from any works of ours (Rom. iii, 24; Eph. ii, 8, 9; Tit. iii, 5). Up to chapter xiv we have had but two names of our great Creator and Redeemer—viz, God (Elohim) and Lord (Jehovah), or combinations of these—the first revealing to us God as the Creator, and the second (a name used perhaps 7,000 times in Scripture) revealing to us God as our Redeemer bringing to us righteousness by sacrifice.

Then in chapter xiv, 18-20, we have for the first time from the lips of Melchizedek "the most high God" (Eloym), the possessor of heaven and earth, whom we so need to know if we would do His work in His way and not dishonor Him by worldly ways. Now in this lesson we have another revelation of God in the name "Lord" spelled with a capital "L" and "ord" in small letters. This is the word "Adonai," which the Jews use instead of Jehovah, believing the latter to be too holy to utter. It suggests our Creator Redeemer as our possessor or proprietor. The word "GOD" in capitals (verses 2, 8) is the same as "LORD" in capitals, Jehovah.

**Tax Notice.**

Will attend the following times and places for the collection of the taxes for 1906:

Cheeks.....	Thursday forenoon, Feb. 21.
Moffitt.....	Thursday afternoon, Feb. 21.
Tyson Store.....	Friday forenoon, Feb. 22.
Yow's Store.....	Friday afternoon, Feb. 22.
Michfield.....	Saturday forenoon, Feb. 23.
Trinity.....	Wednesday, Feb. 20.
Arcladale.....	Wednesday at night, Feb. 20.
Redding & Blair's Store.....	Thursday forenoon..... Feb. 21.
Flint Hill.....	Thursday afternoon, Feb. 21.
Crotts Store.....	Friday forenoon, Feb. 22.
N. E. Skeen's.....	Friday afternoon, Feb. 22.
Fine, Wood's Store.....	Saturday forenoon..... Feb. 23.
A. W. Fuller's Store.....	Saturday afternoon..... Feb. 23.
E. L. Leland.....	Monday, Feb. 25.
Central Hotel.....	Monday night, Feb. 25.
Naomi.....	Tuesday, Feb. 26.
Handelman B. House.....	Tuesday night..... Feb. 26.
Worthville.....	Wednesday forenoon..... Feb. 27.
Central Falls.....	Wednesday afternoon..... Feb. 27.
Sophia.....	Thursday forenoon, Feb. 28.
Edgar.....	Thursday afternoon, Feb. 28.
Glendon.....	Friday forenoon, Feb. 1.
Cedar Falls.....	Monday forenoon..... Feb. 4.
Franklinville.....	Monday afternoon..... Feb. 4.
Ramsour.....	Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 5.
York & Frazier Store.....	Wednesday forenoon..... Feb. 6.
Staley.....	Wednesday afternoon, Feb. 6.
Liberty.....	Thursday afternoon, Feb. 7.
Red Cross Friday afternoon.....	Feb. 8.
Widow Chammess.....	Saturday forenoon..... Feb. 9.
Mechanic.....	Monday afternoon, Feb. 11.
Farmer.....	Tuesday, Feb. 12.
Deik & Cameron Store.....	Wednesday forenoon..... Feb. 13.
R. C. Johnson's Store.....	Wednesday afternoon..... Feb. 13.
Judge Shaw's Store.....	Thursday forenoon..... Feb. 14.
E. G. Carter Store.....	Thursday afternoon..... Feb. 14.
Pisgah.....	Friday, Feb. 15.
Seagrave.....	Saturday forenoon, Feb. 16.

This is my last round for the collection of the taxes for the year.

1906, and all who have not paid their taxes are urged to meet me at the above times and places and pay. I am compelled to settle the taxes and shall be forced to levy on all who fail to meet me and pay their taxes this round.

Very truly yours,  
T. J. FINCH, Ex-Sheriff.  
This Feb. 5, 1907.

**America is Music-Mad.**  
[Edgar Mels, in "Success Magazine."]  
America is going to the extreme in music, so far as financial extravagance is concerned. According to conservative estimates, the people of this country will spend ten million dollars on this form of amusement between November, 1906, and April, 1907. Included in this estimate is only the better class of music, the comic operas, musical comedies and so-called "attractions" of this type not being considered at all.

America has become music-mad—mad in its desire to hear music that it does not always understand, and musicians whom it does not always value rightly. A musical obsession has taken hold of the people, and having the necessary money to pay the demands of those wise enough to realize the extent of this new craze, we are now hearing the best there is in music at Europe's artistic expense. As a matter of fact, there were not twenty really first-class singers and instrumentalists left in Europe on December first, for the "almighty dollar" is a potent attraction to even so impractical a being as the average musician.

**Gems from "Success Magazine"**  
Scarcely anything seems impossible to the man who can will strongly enough and long enough.  
A home without books, periodicals and newspaper is like a house without windows.  
The chances are that what you call "hard luck," or "fate" that is against you, is some weakness, some vicious habit, which is counteracting all your efforts and keeping you down.

**MONTGOMERY NEWS**

**Fire in Smitherman Cotton Mill—Industrial and Personal.**  
The Montgomerian.  
Some excitement was created at Troy last week when fire was discovered in the lap room of the Smitherman Cotton mill. Prompt work averted a serious loss.

Mrs. Mcl. Kennedy arrived at Candor Friday from Baxterville, Miss., where she has been for the past few months visiting her sister, Mrs. D. C. Ewing.  
Mr. A. C. Wooly of Sulphur Springs, is suffering from a fall he got a few days ago; he was standing on something measuring out from a large bin and fell against a box.

Mr. C. L. Seawell of Moore county we understand has purchased the Jess Dunn house and lot at Troy and will move his family to town in the near future.

Alex Stanley has sold his handsome residence at Troy to Mr. Joe Kanoy of Biscoe. Consideration \$4,000.

The Troy Brick Company is making arrangements to begin making brick early this spring. They will give employment to about 30 men.

Mr. A. D. Clark of Roberdo will move his family to Quitman, Ga., this week.

Mrs. Nancy Slack died Tuesday evening at Troy. She was a good woman and will be missed, by a large circle of friends. She was about 65 years old.

**NOTICE:**  
Having Qualified as Administrator with the will annexed, on the estate of P. P. Cople, deceased, before W. C. Hammond, Clerk of the Superior Court of Randolph county, I shall sell at public auction, to the highest bidder for Cash, on the premises, on the 5th day of March, 1907, the following personal property, to-wit: One mare, farming tools, machinery, one horse wagon, corn wheat, meat and household and kitchen furniture and other articles too tedious to mention. All persons having claims against said estate are notified to present them to the undersigned, duly verified, on or before the 15th day of Feb. 1907, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery; and all persons owing said estate will come forward and make immediate settlement.  
This 9th day of February 1907.  
J. S. KENDLEY, Admr., with the will annexed of P. P. Cople.

It's a good old world after all; If you have no friends or money, In the river you can fall; Marriages are quite common and, More people there would be, Provided you take Rocky Mountain Tea. —Standard Drug Company.

A tenement house belonging to F. S. Lambert was burned at Thomsville last week. All the household goods of Mr. Carnichael, who occupied the house, were destroyed. Ex-Sheriff Chas. M. Griffith will open an implement store at Thomsville soon.—Davidson Dispatch.

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