

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

LESSON 1, SECOND QUARTER, INTERNATIONAL SERIES, APRIL 7.

Text of the Lesson, Gen. xxviii, 1-5, 10-22—Memory Verses, 12, 14—Golden Text, Gen. xxviii, 15—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. H. Stearns.

[Copyright, 1907, by American Bible Association.] This lesson follows closely the last one we had in Genesis three weeks ago and takes up the story just where that lesson left it. We see Jacob leaving home to go away into the land from which his mother came full forty years before (xxvi, 34) that he might take a wife from among the daughters of Laban, his mother's brother. It is written in Gen. xii, 12, concerning this, "Jacob fled into the country of Syria, and Israel served for a wife, and for a wife he kept sheep." In the story of Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Esau, Joseph and Asenath, Moses and Zipporah, Boas and Ruth and others there is much that is typical or at least suggestive of Christ and Israel or Christ and the church, remembering always that Israel and the church are never the same.

The special blessing given to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob centers in the land and the people (verse 4), and the certainty of the fulfillment of the promises is the topic of all prophecy. The name God Almighty—El Shaddai—the all sufficient One or the mighty God who is enough for all, by which He revealed Himself to Abraham and afterward to Jacob (xxviii, 1; xxxv, 11), seems to have taken hold of their hearts, for Isaac uses it in verse 3 of our lesson, and Jacob uses it in his blessing upon Joseph (xliii, 25). It is associated with blessing and fruitfulness and separation unto God Himself and is set forth in John xv as abiding in the vine that there may be much fruit to God's glory. Not merely life, but life abundantly, is His desire for us, and all hindrance is on our side (John x, 10; Ps. lxxxiii, 13-16).

We turn to Jacob on his lonely journey from Beer-sheba, almost the extreme south, and we may imagine that as he journeyed the enormity of his sin took hold of him and the goodness of God wrought true repentance in his heart, so that on this night of which our lesson tells us he was probably a true penitent in God's sight. The place was not far from the place where he worshipped God. Compare xli, 8, and verse 19 of our lesson. With the earth for his bed, stones for his pillows and the sky for his canopy, he lay down to sleep, not knowing the special interest that the God of his fathers was taking in him because of His promises to them. He slept and he dreamed, and how beautiful his dream—a ladder from earth to heaven, with the Lord above it and angels ascending and descending upon it (verses 12, 13), an assurance of the Lord's watchful care, of connection between heaven and earth and a prophecy of coming events yet to be fulfilled. I would not be surprised if some day we shall be told by Nathaniel that he was meditating upon this very vision when Jesus saw him under the fig tree, for Jesus Himself evidently refers to it in connection with the glory of the kingdom (John 1, 50, 51).

Some helpful lessons are suggested by the ladder as to the way from earth to heaven. There is no way but the one God has provided, even He who said, "I am the way." He came down to earth, took upon Him our nature, died in our stead, rose from the dead and returned to the Father, where He now is for us. The angels ministered to Him while He was here, and we are assured that they minister to us (Heb. 1, 14). As there is no possibility of mounting a ladder while one foot is on the earth, so there is no possibility of being saved without committing oneself wholly to Christ. The full significance of the ladder will be seen only when the kingdom comes, and all nations, to their great surprise, shall see that God meant exactly what He said in reference to the land and the people and all the families of the earth. The first promise to Abraham concerning his seed was that it should be as the dust of the earth, then as the stars of heaven; then both were combined. After that they were divided and the star promise given to Isaac and the dust or sand to Jacob (Gen. xliii, 16; xv, 5; xxii, 17; xxvi, 4; xxviii, 14). There is at least a suggestion here of Abraham's two seeds, the heavenly and the earthly, the church and Israel, the new Jerusalem and Jerusalem on the earth, all of which will be clearly seen in the kingdom.

We may always say, as Jacob said, "The Lord is in this place" (verse 16), but we need never say, "I knew it not," for we have His assurance, "Lo, I am with you always." But, more wonderful still, each individual believer is now a Bethel, a house of God, according to John xiv, 23.

Taking verses 20-22 just as they read, it looks as if Jacob was making a bargain with God, saying that if God would do as He had said then Jacob would give Him a tenth of all. When Abram gave tithes to Melchizedek, there was no such bargaining, but a glad giving, a cheerful giving, such as God loves. Reading verse 29 "since God" instead of "if God" looks more like faith.

As to verse 15, the Golden Text, it is truly a golden text, as I personally proved around the world in Asia and in South Africa in 1898 on the King's business. It was given to me in the power of the Spirit, and I appropriated it and proved it true to me. I do not know why you do not take it for yourself if you are a child of God, even though as unworthy as Jacob, if you are on the King's business.

PRICE OF MULES HIGH.

Demand For Spring Farming Caused Price to Rise Rapidly.

Sliff Dorsett of Lexington returned from trip to Norfolk last week where he went to buy horse-and mules, without buying one. He found few horses on the market. There were mules in plenty but the price was too high. He says he saw one pair of medium mules bring \$575. Prices have advanced wonderfully within the past week. One reason is, that farmers who wish to buy, have delayed until now after the winter is over and spring work commenced to lay their farm stock. Stockmen at Norfolk told him, however, they had paid \$9,000 for a car of 30 mules in St. Louis, \$300 around.

The Railway Death Roll.

In the nineteen years since the Interstate Commerce Commission began the collection of facts about accidents, nearly 6,000 passengers, over 48,000 employees, and nearly 90,000 other persons have been killed on American railways, and nearly one million more have been crippled or maimed, scalded or crushed, disfigured or mangled, and we still make no protest. For a country that has made it itself and its "progress," this seems to me a humiliating situation. But the still more humiliating fact is that conditions grow worse year by year.

In 1905 it was twice as dangerous to travel on a rail way train or to work for a railway company in the United States as it was in 1895.—Carl Snyder in "The Growing Railway Death Roll," in the April Everybody's.

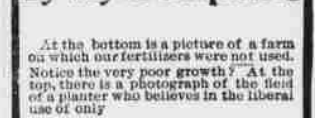
Are We Unfair to Mules?

A former mayor of a middle-western city, much given to plain speech, once compared an opponent to a mule—saying that he did nothing but bray and kick. He called his enemy the greatest jawsmith and windhammer bordering on Lake Erie.

This may have been fair to the honorable opponent; but in the light of what we know now, it was most unfair to the mule. The April American Magazine contains a story which presents the mule in a new and more favorable light—as an animal capable of heroic action.

CAPUDINE CURES INDIGESTION AND ACIDITY HEADACHES ALSO

It acts immediately. You feel its effects in 10 minutes. You don't have to wait a week to know its good. It cures indigestion, acidity, headaches, also by preventing the cause. 10 cents.



By Way Of Comparison

At the bottom is a picture of a farm on which our fertilizers were not used. Notice the very poor growth? At the top, there is a photograph of the field of a planter who believes in the liberal use of only

Virginia-Carolina Fertilizers.

See the good, even stand, and tall, luxuriant plants? You can see many other interesting pictures of farms like these on which the crops of poor and good yields are compared, in our large, pretty almanac. Ask your dealer for it, or send us 50c. in stamps to pay the cost of wrapping and postage. Increase your yields per acre by using Virginia-Carolina Fertilizers. Buy no other.

Plant Wood's Garden Seeds

FOR SUPERIOR VEGETABLES & FLOWERS. Twenty-eight years experience—our own seed farms, trial grounds—and large warehouse capacity give us an equipment that is unsurpassed anywhere for supplying the best seeds obtainable. Our trade in seeds both for the Garden and Farm is one of the largest in this country. We are headquarters for Grass and Clover Seeds, Seed Oats, Seed Potatoes, Cow Peas, Soy Beans and other Farm Seeds. Wood's Descriptive Catalog gives fuller and more complete information about both Garden and Farm Seeds than any other similar publication issued in this country. Mailed free on request. Write for it. T. W. Wood & Sons, Seedsmen, RICHMOND, VA.

For Good Roads in Porto Rico.

The legislature of Porto Rico has authorized a loan of \$1,000,000, the proceeds of which are to be devoted to improving the highways. This action on the part of the legislature, it is said, has been brought about because of the difficulties encountered in getting the products of the island to market. It is believed that by the expenditure of \$1,000,000 the highways can be greatly improved.

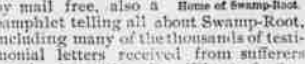
Women as Well as Men Are Made Miserable by Kidney and Bladder Trouble.

Kidney trouble preys upon the mind, discourages and lessens ambition; beauty, vigor and cheerfulness soon disappear when the kidneys are out of order or diseased.

Kidney trouble has become so prevalent that it is not uncommon for a child to be born afflicted with weak kidneys. If the child urinates too often, if the urine scalds the flesh, or if, when the child reaches an age when it should be able to control the passage, it is yet afflicted with bed-wetting, depend upon it, the cause of the difficulty is kidney trouble, and the first step should be towards the treatment of these important organs. This unpleasant trouble is due to a diseased condition of the kidneys and bladder and not to a habit as most people suppose.

Women as well as men are made miserable with kidney and bladder trouble, and both need the same great remedy. The mild and the immediate effect of Swamp-Root is soon realized. It is sold by druggists, in fifteen-cent and one-dollar size bottles. You may have a sample bottle by mail free, also a pamphlet telling all about Swamp-Root, including many of the thousands of testimonial letters received from sufferers cured. In writing Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., be sure and mention this paper. Don't make any mistake, but remember the name, Swamp-Root, Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, and the address, Binghamton, N. Y., on every bottle.

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READ THIS!

If you are a business man or occupying a subordinate position, a laboring man or husband or father, who must furnish your home and family with a piano, the proposition given below affects you directly, to your money and joy in your home. Write for our "Piano" prospectus every day, every hour, every minute. YOU SHOULD BE WITHOUT A PIANO—made gives unusual pleasure than anything else in the world that money will buy, and our "Piano" saves you enough in the purchase of an instrument to educate your family in music, but you must act quickly—only one hour in the clock!



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Heat on Tobacco Improves it Like Roasting Improves Green Coffee. Heat Develops the Stimulating Aroma and Taste found in Schnapps Tobacco and Coffee

Three ways are used by farmers for curing and preparing their tobacco for the market; namely sun cured, air cured and flue cured. The old and cheap way is called air cured; the later discovery and improved way is called flue cured.

In flue curing the tobacco is taken from the fields and racked in barns especially built to retain heat and there subjected to a continuous high temperature, produced by the direct heat of flame heated flues, which brings out in the tobacco that stimulating taste and aroma that expert roasting develops in green coffee. These similar processes give to both tobacco and coffee the cheering and stimulating quality that popularizes their use.

The quality of tobacco depends much on the curing process and the kind of soil that produces it, as expert tests prove that this flue cured

Female Weakness

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Despite the envious attacks of jealous enemies and rivals, Cardui still holds supreme position today [as in the past 70 years] for the relief and cure of female diseases. It stops pain, tones up the organs, regulates the functions, and aids in the replacement of a misplaced organ.

FREE ADVICE
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