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## SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson VII.—First Quarter, For Feb. 16, 1913.

### THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES.

Text of the Lesson, Gen. xii, 1-9—Memory Verses 1-3—Golden Text, Gen. xii, 2—Commentary prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

We closed our last lesson by a very brief glance at the fact that when in the days of Peleg, son of Eber, the Most High, the possessor of heaven and earth, divided to the nations their inheritance. He set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel (Gen. x, 25; Deut. xxxii, 8), although Israel had not at that time begun to exist on earth. To day there is no nation among the nations called Israel, but in the sight of God Israel is still a nation and shall never cease to be one, and ere long shall be recognized as such, and her king shall sit on David's throne at Jerusalem and shall be king over all the earth, King of kings and Lord of lords (Jer. xxxi, 35-40; Ill, 17; Zech. xiv, 9; Luke I, 32, 33). He will perform the truth to Jacob and the mercy to Abraham even as He has sworn (Mic. vii, 20).

This is worth noting now, as we are about to begin the study of the story of Abraham. To those who would dare to question there ever was a man called Abraham we would say—consider Jesus Christ and His testimony in such passages as Matt. viii, 11, 12; John viii, 56. The number twelve is suggestive of all Israel and of the time when the twelve apostles shall sit on twelve thrones, ruling the twelve tribes (Matt. xii, 28; Luke xiii, 30). The seventy nations of Gen. x make us think of the other seventy whom He sent forth after He sent forth the twelve. The Babel story of Gen. xi, 1-9, points us onward to the consummation of rebellion against God before the promises to Abraham shall be finally fulfilled (see Rev. xiii; xvii; xviii).

The spirit of Babylon may be found everywhere today and is easily recognized by the principle "Let us make us a name" (Gen. xi, 4). Instead of "Let us make Him a name." I know well that the wisdom of men, under the name of scholarship, new theology, etc., derides a great many things which are plainly written in the Scriptures, but I am one of those who believe all things written by Moses and the prophets and that there shall be a literal fulfillment of the same, even as Christ Himself taught.

From today's lesson onward we have the story of Abraham, the friend of God (II Chron. xx, 7; Isa. xli, 8; Jas. ii, 23), to whom the God of Glory appeared and said, "Get thee out of thy country and from thy kindred and come into the land which I shall show thee." It is written of him, "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went" (Acts vii, 2; Heb. xi, 8). He was for more than 150 years contemporary with Shem, the son of Noah, and I do not doubt but that he had heard from him of paradise, the flaming sword, the cherubim, the future glory of the redeemed, when all creation shall enjoy the benefits of the great redemption according to Rom. viii, 18-23; See also Heb. xi, 10, 13. The great promises of verses 1 to 3 of our lesson were not fulfilled to Abraham in his lifetime (see Acts vii, 5), and they still await their complete fulfillment, but all that God has said shall come to pass in His time, and all true believers shall see it.

His call was to complete separation from his kindred, but he took some of them with him, and they seem to have proved a hindrance for a time. He did not get beyond Haran till the death of his father (xi, 32). When he entered the land his first resting place was Bethel, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went" (Acts vii, 2; Heb. xi, 8). He was for more than 150 years contemporary with Shem, the son of Noah, and I do not doubt but that he had heard from him of paradise, the flaming sword, the cherubim, the future glory of the redeemed, when all creation shall enjoy the benefits of the great redemption according to Rom. viii, 18-23; See also Heb. xi, 10, 13. The great promises of verses 1 to 3 of our lesson were not fulfilled to Abraham in his lifetime (see Acts vii, 5), and they still await their complete fulfillment, but all that God has said shall come to pass in His time, and all true believers shall see it.

His next resting place was between Bethel and Ai, and there also he builded an altar unto the Lord and worshipped Him (verse 8). This was all as it should be and a testimony to the living and true God in the presence of the heathen who dwell in the land. He continued his journey southward, and from verse 9 we may gather a good saying for our daily life, "going on still." It should always be so with the believer, or, as in II Sam. v, 10, margin, "going and growing," or, as in Ezek. xii, 7, "an enlarging and a winding about, still upward, \* \* \* by the midst." The rest of this lesson chapter is not so good a record. The going down to Egypt because of a famine in the land does not look like confidence in God, and it did not turn out well, for it led to deceit on the part of Abram and Sara in the presence of the Egyptians, and we read of no altar unto the Lord in the land of Egypt. Deceit is always wrong, and we can never afford to omit the altar unto the Lord. It is not for us to condemn. Are we with our increased light doing better? Have we put away from us all deceit and lying?

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Effective Wednesday, Oct. 1912\*  
8:30 A. M. 1:30 P. M. Lv. Len  
Ar. 1:15 P. M. 8:35 P. M.  
8:58 A. M. 2:01 P. M. Lv. Granite Falls  
Ar. 12:48 P. M. 8:10 P. M.  
9:25 A. M. 2:30 P. M. Lv. Hickory  
Ar. 12:40 Noon 7:40 P. M.  
9:45 A. M. 3:05 P. M. Lv. Newton  
Ar. 11:05 A. M. 7:08 P. M.  
10:20 A. M. 3:43 P. M. Lv. Lincoln-ton  
Ar. 10:26 A. M. 6:31 P. M.  
11:09 A. M. 4:27 P. M. Lv. Dallas  
Ar. 9:47 A. M. 5:52 P. M.  
11:20 A. M. 4:40 P. M. Ar. Gastonia  
Lv. 9:30 A. M. 5:40 P. M.  
11:50 A. M. 4:40 P. M. Lv. Gastonia  
Ar. 9:15 A. M. 5:33 P. M.  
12:50 Noon 5:30 P. M. Ar. Charlotte  
Lv. 8:15 4:25 P. M.

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" " 47, 5:55 p. m., "

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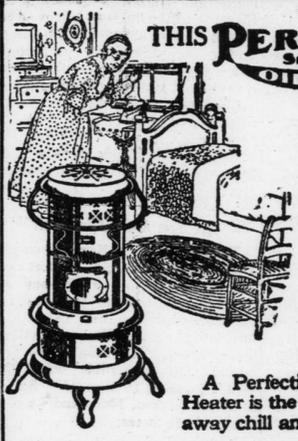
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Schedule Effective Nov. 24th, 1912.

Northbound.	Ex. Sun. No. 8	Daily Pass. No. 10	Mixed Ex. Sun. No. 62	Mixed Ex. Sun. No. 60	Mixed Ex. Sun. No. 50
Chester Lv.	7:55 a m	8:42	9:30	11:45 am	
Yorkville	8:42	9:30		1:05	
Gastonia	9:30			3:00 p m	
Gastonia	5:40 p m				
Lincolnton	6:31	10:26			
Newton	7:03	11:05			
Hickory	7:40	11:45			7:05 a m
Lenoir	8:40	1:00 p m	2:00 p m		8:40
Mortimer	2:20	4:30			
Edgemont	Ar.	2:30	4:30		

Southbound.	Ex. Sun. No. 7	No. 9	Ex. Sun. No. 63	Ex. Sun. No. 61	Mix Daily No. 51
Edgemont Lv.	11:55 a m	7:30 a m	12:05		
Mortimer	12:05	7:40			
Lenoir	7:30 a m	1:15	10:15		2:45 p m
Hickory	8:27	2:05			4:20
Newton	8:50	3:05			
Lincolnton	9:27	3:43			
Gastonia	Ar.	10:26			
Gastonia	Lv.	4:40		7:00	
Yorkville		5:39		8:35	
Chester	Ar.	6:25		10:25	

CONNECTIONS  
CHESTER—Southern Ry., S. A. L. and L. & C.  
YORKVILLE—Southern Railway.  
GASTONIA—Southern Ry., Piedmont & Northern Ry.  
LINCOLNTON—S. A. L.  
NEWTON and HICKORY—Southern Railway.

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