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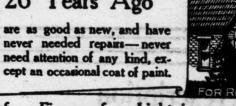
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SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson VIII .- First Quarter, For Feb. 23, 1913.

THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES.

Text of the Lesson, Gen. xiii, 1-12. Memory Verse, 8-Golden Text, Prev. x, 22-Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

Abram's going down to Egypt was certainly a mistake on his part, for there was no altar to the Lord there nor any new revelation from the Lord, and Abram dishonored the Lord by fear and deceit and brought upon himself the rebuke of a man of the world. a heathen king. By all our conduct we are either honoring or dishonoring the Lord, magnifying Him or magnifying ourselves, and we would do well to test everything by this test. He is able to take care of His own people and His own work under all circumstances, and all He asks of us is a whole heart for Him, such an abiding in and separation unto Him that He shall not be hindered in working out His good pleasure.

When at any time we wander away from the Lord the only thing to do is to return as quickly as possible, for He is ever calling the wanderer to return, as in Isa. Iv, 7; Jer. iii, 14, 22; Hos. xiv. 1, 2, and the word of eucouragement awaits both the unsaved and the saved, "Him that cometh to Me I will in nowise cast out" (John vi. 37). It is good to see Abram back at the place of the altar between Bethel and Hai and to hear him calling on the name of the Lord (verses 3, 4) and to know that the Lord has abundantly pardoned him according to His word.

It may seem strange to some to see Abram very rich in cattle, in silver and in gold (verse 2) notwithstanding his wanderings from the Lord, but let such consider their own mercies and say if they have not been dealt with in loving kindness beyond all their deserts. Sometimes the Lord would draw us back to or closer to Himself by His great mercies, and we have all and always reason to say, "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not" (Lam.

Lot also was rich in flocks and herde. and his herdmen and those of Abram could not agree. So to prevent strife Abram told Lot to take his choice of territory and that he would take that which Lot did not desire. Thus magnanimous could this great man afford to be because he was the friend of God and the Lord was his portion. Being a witness for God before the Canaanites and Perizzites who dwelt in the land, he could not tolerate strife, for "the servant of the Lord must not strive" (II Tim. ii, 24).

Meekness, lowliness and submission are always becoming in a child of God, but never strife, not even to maintain our so called rights. We are exhorted to take wrong and suffer ourselves to rather than strive ubelievers (I Cor. vi. 6. 7).

Without regard to the character of the people who lived on the plain, who are described as "wicked and sinners before the Lord, exceedingly," Lot chose the plain of Jordan, because he saw that it would admirably suit his numerous flocks and herds (verses 10-13). It is said that "he lifted up his eyes," but it was only to behold the low and fruitful valley of the Jordan. He did not behold the Lord nor consider His will in the matter. It was a case of self only.

It was good for Lot to be with Abram, but not so good for Abram to have Lot with him. Separation from Lot was really to Abram's advantage and evidently pleasing to the Lord, for the Lord had another message for Abram as soon as Lot was separated from him (14-17). There was a renewed assurance that the Lord would give him the whole land and the promise that his seed would be as the dust of the earth (verse 16.)

In verse 18 see this friend of God dwelling with Him at Hebron, which signifies fellowship, away above the sinners of Sodom and in communion with God with his altar unto the Lord. This prepares us for the record in chapter xiv of the capture and captivity of Lot and his goods by the four kings, while Abram, living above and away from all the turmoll, is able to go with his 318 trained servants and rescue Lot and his people and all his goods. While mixed up with the world we cannot expect to have victory over it, and it is only as we dwell at He bron in fellowship with God that we can hope to rescue others from the god of this world. First we see Lot pitching his tent toward Sodom, and then we see him dwelling in Sodom (xiii, 12; xiv, 12). Later we shall find him a ruler in Sodom, sitting in the gategetting on in the world.

In the end of chapter xiv we have a wonderful record of a most remarkable | Lv. man, a king and a priest, type of the 8.27 a.m. Lord Jesus Christ when He shall be a 2.30 p.m. priest upon His throne, a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek (Zech. vi, 13; Ps. ex. 4). Here we have for the first time the title "the Most High God, possessor of heaven and earth," and because Abram was blessed by Him he was able to turn his back upon he tempting offer of the king of Sodom concerning the goods. If the church today knew the Most High God and His blessing she would never be guilty of seeking the goods of Sodom to help her carry on her work. There is nothing so grand as to know God and find our all in Him.

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* 7.34 *12.12 104.3 Lv. * 7.41 *12.14 105.1 Lv. 8.32 12.47 117.9 Lv. * 8.56 1.05 124.9 Lv. 9.20 1.21 131.3 Lv. Unaka Springs, Tenn. Huntsdale, N. C. Green Mountain, N. C. Toecane, N. C. Boonford, N. C. 9.51 1.51 140.1 Lv. Penland, N. C. 16.08 2.06 144.6 Lv.

Spruce Pine, N. C. .10.20 2.17 147.9 Lv. 10.40 2.27 151.9 Ar. Alta Pass, N. C. P. M.P. M.

A. M. P. M. 8.15 2.27 151.9 Lv. 2629 8.05 2.27 2450 7.50 2.11 1736 7.20 1.40 1400 6.54 1.25 1316 8.35 1.06 984 6.05 22.28 861 5.56 19.30 845 5.33 1338 7. 867 5.38 12.00 805 5.10 11.49 882 6.02 11.20 Mt. Mitchell, N. C. Linville Falls, N. C. 6.22 * 2.35 155.3 LT. 2.58 167.6 Lv. Sevier, N. C. Marion, N. C. Thermal, N. C. 3.15 174.9 Lv. 3.31 183.2 Lv. AF. AF. 4.01 197.8 Lv. 4.16 206.5 Lv. 4.25 209.6 Lv. Westmintser, N. C. Bestic Yard, N. C. 4.30 211.0 LT. Bostic, M. C. 9.10 Forest City, N. C. Harris, N. C. Ar. Ar. 4.34 213.0 Lv. 4.46 219.5 Lv. 9.55 Chesnee, S. C. 5.02 226.8 Lv.

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Northbound.	Ex. Sun. No. 8	Pass. No. 10		Mixed No. 60 Ex. Sun.	Ex. Sun. No. 50
Chester Lv Yorkville Gastonia Gastonia Lincolntoni Newton Hickory Lenoir Mortimer Edgemont [Ar.	5 40 p m 6 31 7 08 7 40 8 40	7 55 a m 8 42 9 30 10 26 11 06 11 45 1 00 p m 2 20 2 30		11 45 am 1 05 3 00 p m	
Southbound.	Ex. Sun. No. 7	No. 9	No. 63 Ex. Sun,	No. 61 Ex. Sup.	
Edgemont Lv.		11 55 a m	730 am	-	

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