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SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson V.—Third Quarter, For Aug. 3, 1913.

THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES.

Text of the Lesson, Ps. cv, 23-36. Memory Verses, 26, 27—Golden Text, Matt. xxiii, 12—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

If we would understand the word of God we must be agreed with God and let His thoughts and purposes become ours without any questioning on our part. He has chosen Israel as His peculiar people, a people near unto Him, that by them He may bless all nations, and His memorial name to all generations is "the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." When He divided the earth among the nations He did it with reference to the children of Israel and set Jerusalem in the midst of the nations (Ps. cxxxii. 13, 14; cxlvii. 14; Isa. xxvii. 6; Jer. iii. 17; Ex. iii. 15; Deut. xxxii. 8; Ezek. v. 5). The adoption, the glory, the covenants, the promises, are all theirs, and of them as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed forever.

The author of the most of the psalms was David, the sweet psalmist of Israel, who said, "The Spirit of the Lord spake by me, and His word was in my tongue." The gospel of God is concerning His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who was made of the seed of David according to the flesh and declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead (Rom. ix. 4, 5; i. 1-4; II Sam. xxiii. 1, 2). The whole Bible story largely concerns Israel, past, present and future, but chiefly past and future, because for the present they are set aside because of their rejection of their Messiah. All that has been written concerning Israel has been written for our benefit, that we, through patience and comfort of the Scriptures, may have hope (Rom. xv. 4).

The first part of our lesson psalm summarizes the lessons we have recently had concerning Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and the going down of Israel to Egypt. Our lesson begins with the record of their great increase in Egypt and their oppression by the Egyptians, just as the Lord told Abraham that it would be (Gen. xv. 13). Our most recent lessons have shown us the birth of Moses, God's chosen deliverer of His people, his training at the court of Pharaoh, succeeded by his forty years of shepherd life in Midian, until the Lord spoke to him from the burning bush.

Ex. iii and iv are summarized in the twenty-sixth verse of our lesson in these words: "He sent Moses, His servant, and Aaron, whom He had chosen." Our last lesson on Ex. v and vi told us how the request through Moses and Aaron to let Israel go only angered Pharaoh and caused him to lay heavier burdens upon Israel. In today's lesson we have a summary of Ex. vii to xi, telling how the Lord sent plague after plague upon Pharaoh and his people until they were glad to let Israel go and gave them abundance of silver and gold and raiment (Ex. xii. 35, 36). The attitude of Pharaoh to God is seen in his defiant words: "Who is the Lord? * * * I know not the Lord" (Ex. v. 2). Before or by the time that God had dealt with him in these sore judgments he learned who Jehovah was and that those who walk in pride He is able to abase (Dan. iv. 37).

The character of Pharaoh is seen in three words in Ex. ix. 17, "Thou exaltest thyself," and by these we are pointed onward to the time of the antichrist, the last great oppressor of Israel, who shall exalt himself and speak marvelous things against the God of gods and prosper for a time (Dan. xi. 36; II Thess. ii. 4). In his days shall these plagues be repeated, according to Rev. xvi. in connection with Israel's last deliverance, after which they shall be a blessing to all nations.

In the Exodus chapters it is written eight times that Pharaoh hardened his heart (vii. 14, 22; viii. 15, 19, 32; ix. 7, 34, 35) and seven times that the Lord hardened his heart (vii. 3, 13; ix. 12; x. 1, 20, 27; xi. 10), the latter expression signifying that the Lord gave him over to his own willfulness, allowed him up to a certain point to have his own way, illustrating Prov. xxix. 1.

The plagues are not mentioned in our lesson in the same order as they occurred, the Exodus order being blood, frogs, lice, flies, murrain, boils, hail, locusts, darkness, death. The murrain and the boils seem to be omitted in our lesson. The magicians of Egypt imitated the plagues of blood and frogs, but when it came to lice they had to say, "This is the finger of God" (Ex. viii. 19). The Lord put a difference, a division, a redemption between His own people and the Egyptians (Ex. viii. 22, 23; ix. 4, 26; x. 23; xi. 7).

In one case at least some of the Egyptians gave heed to the Lord's warning and were saved from the plague (Ex. ix. 20, 21). Pharaoh's unwillingness to let Israel go is very suggestive of the hold that the devil has upon people and his unwillingness to let go. First they might go, but not far away; then they might go, but only the men; then their families might go, but not their flocks. Let us stand with Moses and say, "Not a hoof shall be left behind" (Ex. viii. 25, 28; x. 11, 24, 26). We must always give attention to the different names of Jehovah and from each one learn to know Him better.

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7.47 a.m.		11.45 a.m.
2.30 p.m.		5.35 p.m
Ar.	GASTONIA	Lv
10.00 a.m.		9.30 a.m.
4.40 p.m.		3.10 p.m.

Between Gastonia and Charlotte. Effective Sunday June 1st 1913.

Lv. Gastonia		Ar. Gastonia	
No. 2	7.00 a.m.	No. 1	7 55 a.m.
" 4	8.15 "	" 3	9.15 "
" 6	9 30 "	" 5	10 15 "
" 8	10.20 "	" 7	11 50 "
" 10	11.55 "	" 9	12.45 p.m.
" 12	12.50 p.m.	" 11	1.55 "
" 16	2 00 "	" 15	2.55 "
" 18	3.00 "	" 17	4.30 "
" 20	5 00 "	" 19	5.35 "
" 22	6.00 "	" 21	7.00 "
" 24	7.00 "	" 23	8.00 "
" 26	8.00 "	" 25	9.00 "
" 28	9.30 "	" 27	10.30 "
" 30	10.55 "	" 29	11.55 "

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