

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. SELLERS, Director of Evening Department The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)

LESSON FOR FEBRUARY 23

ABRAM AND LOT.

LESSON TEXT.—Gen. 12:1-13. GOLDEN TEXT.—The blessing of Jehovah, it maketh rich; and He addeth no sorrows therewith.—Prov. 10:22.

During the time that intervened between this and last week's lesson we read of Abram's journey "down into Egypt," a story that is rich with suggestive typical lessons. Abram's descent is discovered by Pharaoh and he is driven from Egypt. Fear is the root of unbelief, and when we fall we are sure to carry some one with us. But a man's sin is sure to be discovered, so it was that "Pharaoh commanded his men, and they sent him away, and his wife, and all that he had."

Lesson's Picture. 1. "Up Out of Egypt," vv. 1-5. Again we have presented the lesson of separation. This portion is a great picture of repentance. Abram carried with him not only his own possessions but also those of his nephew Lot. Notice Abram's wealth did not make him acceptable in Egypt. The world desires not alone the wealth of a man, but also the man back of the wealth.

Again Abram turns from conflict into Bethel, the house of God, that place of confession, of consecration, and of encouragement.

These returning pilgrims were not ordinary men, no more is the man who is in Christ, and God was already given evidence of the blessing promised to Abram (12:2) and of that material blessing so definitely promised to the descendants of Jacob. We read (v. 6) "their substance was great." But there is far greater danger however in material prosperity than in adversity. This was a greater danger to these pilgrims than that of the Canaanites who dwelt in the land.

II. "And There Was Strife," vv. 5-9. The evidence of this danger manifested itself when it was found that the land could not support both Abram and Lot (v. 6). Paul calls Timothy's attention to this same danger (1 Tim. 6:9), and we are constantly seeing it illustrated all about us.

Lot's History. Lot was journeying with Abram rather than with Jehovah (12:3), doubtless in a great measure he was governed by cupidity and selfishness when he beheld Abram's prosperity. Millions in America profit by the security and the prosperity of this which so nearly approaches a Christian nation and yet in scorn or in neglect refuse to believe in or to serve the God who sends the blessing. The whole history of Lot is one of selfishness, which later resulted in sorrow and sadness and in his being shorn of all of his selfishly acquired prosperity. Lot had no particular claim upon Abram nor have we in our own right, or because of our own merit, upon or because of our own merit, upon God. There is so little that divides most of us and so much that we hold in common that it is but little short of criminal to waste our energy upon that which is ephemeral or of slight importance. What a difference in the choice of Lot and that of Abram. One entered into the path of the wicked. Prov. 4:14, 15, while the other into the path that "shineth more and more unto the perfect day." Prov. 4:18.

III. "And Lot . . . Beheld All the Plain of Jordan," vv. 10-13. Lacking the counsel and guidance of Jehovah Lot followed the choice that which was pleasing to the eyes and made a sorry mess of it, for in the end he was a great loser. Already the land was doomed (v. 10) and so today the man who chooses the world in preference to Christ makes a bad bargain (1 John 2:17) and the greater condemnation is his for he makes his choice in the blazing light of nearly twenty centuries of the Gospel. Lot made a willing compromise, a superficial choice and came near losing his own soul. Matt. 16:26. 6:33. He deliberately entered into danger when he "pitched his tent towards Sodom." The believers perils is worldliness. Lot's journey (v. 11) led at last to Sodom v. 12.

Abram aspired to know God. Lot had an ambition to possess the things of time and sense. Abram coveted righteousness (Matt. 5). Lot coveted success in this life only. Well has Goethe exclaimed, "Choose well; your choice is brief and yet it is endless." Eternity alone will reveal the results of our choice of surroundings, upon ourselves, upon our families and upon our friends.

IV. "Lift Up Thine Eyes," vv. 14-18. After separation comes fellowship and fruitfulness. God invited Abram to arise and to inspect his promised possessions. So may we contemplate the vast possessions God has promised us in Christ Jesus. Rom. 8:17, 2 Cor. 4:18. After our separation and our fellowship comes true fruitfulness and prosperity. I Tim. 4:18. Abram went to Hebron (which means fellowship), and there in the midst of Mamre (which means fatness) he built an altar unto God. Worship and sacrifice go hand in hand today as they did in ages past.

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Father—Katherine, I wish you'd ask that young Mr. Spooner why he doesn't go home earlier.

Daughter—But, papa, I know why he doesn't already—Boston Transcript.

Mrs. Wilson, the president-elect's wife, is said to favor the mountain laurel as the national flower.

Speaking of the fall in the price of eggs, two eggs of the great auk were sold recently in London for \$800 each, while 20 years ago they cost their owner about \$900 apiece.

Bessie—Did you scream when he tried to kiss you?

Jessie—No; there is a poor man across the street who is dreadfully sick.—Philadelphia Telegraph.

A young robin eats more than its own weight in insects every day. That gives some idea of what the countless birds accomplish for us.

DANVILLE.

Feb. 17, 1913.

Miss Verna Roebuck, of Pricetown, spent part of last week with her aunt, Mrs. George Mann.

Miss Anna Woods, who is operator at the telephone exchange, is taking a week's vacation and Miss Mary DeHaas has charge of the exchange during her absence.

Mrs. Chas. Wiggins, of East Danville, was a guest of her daughter, Mrs. Robert Roush, Friday and Saturday.

Ora Workman and family, of Pricetown, Nath Wilkin and wife and daughter, of Hoaglands Crossing, Joe Cochran and family, Edward Cochran and wife and son, Clarence, and Leonard Roush and family were guests of B. F. Cochran, Wednesday, the occasion being Mr. Cochran's birthday.

Bert King and wife moved from this place to the Hiram-Smith farm near Fairview last week.

Howard Miller and wife, who moved to Illinois several weeks ago, have returned and will take up their residence in Ohio again.

Mrs. Homer Burton and Miss Anna Knauer visited Mrs. George Kesler, in Hillsboro, Monday.

A son was born to Elmer Blake and wife, Feb. 13.

Mrs. Wm. McLaughlin and little son, Leroy, were guests of her grandparents, N. P. Landess and wife, Sunday.

Sam Drake, of near Eastview, visited Edward Knauer and family, Sunday.

Miss Dallas Parshall is entertaining a friend from Willettsville this week.

Bruce Jones, Dr. Cropper and C. C. Winkle, accompanied by their wives, spent Monday and Tuesday in Cincinnati.

C. A. Wood and family and Mrs. Ella Wood and son, Lloyd, spent Wednesday at the home of Mrs. Rachel Pence, at East Danville.

Misses Bessie and Lucille Lemon have returned to their home at Middletown, after an extended visit with relatives here.

PRICETOWN.

Feb. 17, 1913.

Alpheus Cochran and wife, of near Fayetteville, visited their son, Orlando, Thursday.

Ozro Barker and wife will move to his father's farm west of town this week.

Born to Stanley Haynes and wife, Feb. 12, a daughter.

Nancy Cochran spent the past week with her daughter, Mrs. Amanda Pulliam.

Mrs. Jane Smith, of Danville, spent one day last week with George Tedrick and wife.

Phillip Leininger and wife, of Hillsboro, are visiting their son, Ervin, and family.

Rev. Foust had charge of the funeral of Denver Martin at Union Wednesday morning and the funeral of the infant child of John Mink and wife at Buford, Wednesday afternoon.

Mrs. Clara Duvall and Lavina Roush, of Fairview, and Addie Foust spent one day last week with their parents, Worth Gossett and wife.

Theodore Shaffer and wife, Willie Turner and wife and Claud Gossett were guests of D. A. Pulliam and wife, Saturday.

Miss Lydia Barr, of Warren, is visiting her parents, Charley Barr and wife.

Quite a number from this place attended the spelling school at the White school Friday night and all reported a good time. Hugh Stock is teacher.

Robert McLaughlin and family had as their guests Sunday, W. S. Barker and wife, Charley Barr and wife and daughter, Lydia.

Mrs. Sam Claibourne, of South Liberty, spent Saturday with her parents, J. C. Landess and wife. Ora Shaffer and wife were their guests Sunday.

Grank Gible and wife and son, Roy, were guests Sunday of Isalah Shaffer near South Liberty.

Frank Gible and wife and son, Roy, John A. Young and family, Bert Landess and wife and daughter, Pearl, John Gible and Ira Fawley spent one evening last week with Henry Pence near South Liberty.

Albert Williams and family, of Dodsosville, spent Sunday with Leslie Warman and family.

"There's one thing I can't understand!"

"What's that?"

"What makes my light bills so heavy."—Indianapolis Star.

About 1,000,000 tourists visit the Alps each year, of whom about 24 meet with fatal accident.

At the University of Pennsylvania three-fourths of the books are said to be in foreign languages, and the proportion of periodicals is somewhat less.

Footman—These are smart folks that come here.

Butler—Pooh! that shows your ignorance. Why, not one of their coats smell of petrol.—Pele Mele.

SHARPSVILLE.

Feb. 17, 1913.

T. J. Lowman spent Monday night with B. F. Lowman.

Alva Bateman and family, B. F. Lowman and family, Thille Chaney and Electa Lowman were entertained at the home of Wm. Alexander Tuesday night.

L. E. Chaney and family spent Wednesday with Phil Stroup and wife.

Thille Chaney spent Tuesday night with Electa Lowman.

Fred Chaney spent Thursday night with Frank Lowman.

Estel Chaney and family spent Thursday with Howard Reveel and wife, near New Vienna.

Corinna and Celeste Lowman spent Saturday afternoon with Katie Alexander.

Wm. Hatcher and family spent Sunday with Charles Achor and family.

Zeke Rudy and wife spent Sunday with Mrs. Lettie Miller.

Walter Jones and wife took dinner with Stephen Wisecup and family.

Phil Stroup and wife spent Sunday with Joseph Stroup and family.

Charles Achor and family and Fred McDaniel and family spent Thursday evening with Phil Stroup and wife.

Howard Reveel and wife spent Sunday with L. E. Chaney and family.

Leona Lowman spent Saturday night and Sunday with Thille Chaney.

Charley Sinclair and wife took dinner with B. F. Lowman and family.

Joseph Gilliland and wife and son, Wendell, spent Sunday with J. W. Burton and wife.

Nellie Achor and daughters, Inez, Ethel and Florence, and Clara McDaniel and son, Chester, spent Saturday evening with Wm. Alexander and family.

Harvey Ruse and grandchildren spent Sunday with Al Purdy and family.

Rev. Hudson took dinner with Wm. Alexander and family Sunday.

LEESBURG.

Feb. 17, 1913.

Miss Ethel Boelzner, of Athens, was the guest of friends near here Thursday night and Friday.

Dudley King, of the Cincinnati O. M. L. was the guest of his parents, Frank King and wife, over Sunday.

After a brief illness the five year old son of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Barrett died Friday afternoon about 4:30. Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon at the home. Interment at the Hardins Creek cemetery. The most sincere sympathy is extended to the grief stricken parents and sister.

G. E. Priest is a business visitor in Springfield.

Mrs. Emma Hillard spent the past week in Cincinnati attending the wholesale millinery openings and selecting her spring stock of millinery goods.

Mrs. G. A. Pavey and daughter, Geneva, are visiting relatives in Columbus.

Mrs. Paul Monroe left Friday for Dayton, where she will visit relatives before returning to her home in Gallion.

After five weeks of intense suffering caused from a fall which dislocated her hip, Mrs. Charles Turner died Friday evening at her home west of town at the advanced age of 80 years. Interment at Pleasant Hill cemetery.

The open meeting of the Angelina Johnson Altruistic Association has been postponed and will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Pavey Tuesday evening, Feb. 25.

Miss Mildred Smith, of Wilmington, is the guest of Jesse James and wife and Miss Lily Holaday.

I. F. Barger and wife were guests of Ida Barger and son, Paul, Sunday.

The defeated members in the contest of the Finch Club entertained the winning side in a most delightful manner last Friday at the home of Mrs. Mary Davis. An elegant dinner was served to all present.

BROUSE CHAPEL.

Feb. 17, 1913.

John Hiestand and wife and Clarence Hiestand and wife moved from Hillsboro to their farm at this place.

Wilkin Woodrow and wife called on A. W. Willet and wife last Wednesday.

Elsie Shipton, of Rainsboro, spent Saturday with Ruth Stout.

Harry Futro transacted business in Cincinnati Friday and Saturday.

Mrs. Fred Hill and Mrs. Anna Woodrow are sick.

Miss Ruth Stout attended church at Boston Sunday night.

Miss May and John Ervin spent Sunday with their grandmother, Mrs. Ellen Hiestand.

T. W. McCoy and wife and daughter Marie, spent Sunday with Mrs. McCoy's brother, Foster Bell, and family below Marshall.

In New York infant mortality has been reduced from 180 per 1000 to 160, principally by philanthropic efforts.

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Advertisement for WANTED IDEAS. Includes text: 'Our Four Books sent Free with list of Inventions wanted by manufacturers and promoters, also Prizes offered for Inventions. Patents secured or Fee RETURNED.', 'PARKER'S HAIR BALSAM', and 'Mrs. Thelma M. de Beer, of Pretoria, aged 75, recently became a widow for the tenth time.'