

Deseret Sunday School Union Leaflets.

SALT LAKE CITY, APRIL 1, 1896.

LESSON 69.—SEPARATION OF ABRAHAM AND LOT.

TEXT.—Genesis xii: 10; xiii. Pearl of Great Price p. 38.

10. And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there: for the famine was grievous in the land.

1. And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south.

2. And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.

3. And he went on his journeys from the south even to Beth-el, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Beth-el and Hai.

4. Unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first; and there Abram called on the name of the Lord.

5. And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents.

6. And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together, for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together.

7. And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelt then in the land,

8. And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren.

9. Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me; if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.

10. And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere, before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.

11. Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other.

12. Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom.

13. But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly.

14. And the Lord said unto Abram, after that Lot

was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward.

15. For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed forever.

16. And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth; so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.

17. Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee.

18. Then Abram removed his tent, and came and dwelt in the plain of Mamre, which is in Hebron, and built there an altar unto the Lord.

“And I, Abraham, had the Urim and Thummim which the Lord had given unto me in Ur of the Chaldees; and I saw the stars that they were great, and that one of them was nearest unto the throne of God; and there were many great ones which were near it, and the Lord said unto me, ‘These are the governing ones, and the name of the great one is Kolob, because it is near unto me: I have set this one to govern all those which belong to the same order of that upon which thou standest. And the Lord said unto me, by the Urim and Thummim, that Kolob was after the manner of the Lord, according to its times and seasons in the revolutions thereof; that one revolution was a day unto the Lord, after his manner of reckoning; it being one thousand years according to the time appointed unto that whereon thou standest.’”

LESSON STATEMENT.

Soon after Abraham entered the Land of Promise, he was compelled by famine to go down to Egypt. He returned with all his wealth and his nephew, Lot, to inherit the land which God had promised to him and his descendants. When the herd-men of Abraham and Lot began to quarrel, Abraham suggested to Lot that he and

Lot separate. Abraham gave to Lot the choice of the land. Lot took that which appeared to him the richest; the fertile valley of the Jordan, while Abraham received the uplands, which were rocky and less productive. Lot came near to Sodom, and became the neighbor of a wicked people whom the Lord afterwards destroyed. While in the land of Egypt, Abraham had with him the Urim and Thummim which God had given him in the land of Ur of the Chaldees.

With this he studied the heavens and learned of Kolob, a great governing star, set nigh unto the throne of God, to govern all those planets like that upon which we live. This great star revolves on its axis once in a thousand years, and is the planet from which God reckons time.

NOTES.

EGYPT.—This country, which was watered by the overflow of the Nile River, was in ancient times a surer source of supply for grain than any other country, and in times of famine people from all nations went there for food.

ASTRONOMY.—"He communicated to them, arithmetic, and delivered to them the Science of Astronomy; for, before Abraham came into Egypt, they were unacquainted with those parts of learning; for that science came from the Chaldeans into Egypt, and from thence to the Greeks also." (Josephus Antiq.)

WHAT WE MAY LEARN FROM THIS LESSON.

1. That after Abraham had settled with his family in the Land of Promise, famine drove him into Egypt. 2. That when the famine was over, he returned with his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the southern part of Palestine. 3. That Abraham and his nephew were rich in gold, silver and cattle. 4. That the herd-men of Abraham and Lot quarreled. 5. That Abraham preferred peace, and therefore desired to separate himself and his herd-men from Lot and his herd-men. 6. That Abraham was generous, and

gave Lot his choice of the country. 7. That Lot was selfish, and chose the rich valley of the Jordan. 8. That Lot was willing to become the neighbor of the wicked people of Sodom, in order to gain the rich lands near the Sodomites. 9. That Abraham dwelt in the plain of Mamre, which is in Hebron, and built there an altar unto the Lord. 10. That Abraham carried with him into Egypt a knowledge of the heavens which he had gained through the Urim and Thummim. 11. That he took the Urim and Thummim with him from Ur. 12. That the Lord showed to him the governing star Kolob. 13. That the Lord reckoned time according to the revolutions of Kolob. 14. That it took a thousand years for the planet Kolob to revolve once on its axis, and that therefore a thousand years was as one day with the Lord.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

1. What circumstance brought Abraham from Palestine into Egypt? 2. Why was Egypt a place of refuge in time of famine? 3. Whom did Abraham take with him into the land of Egypt? 4. After Abraham returned to the land of Promise, why did he and Lot separate? 5. What part of the country was chosen by Lot, and what part by Abraham? 6. What disposition did Lot manifest in choosing his part of the country? 7. What character did Abraham manifest in separating himself from Lot? 8. What was the character of Lot's neighbors? 9. What happened to the country of Sodom? 10. Why did Lot's choice prove to be a bad one? 11. What did Lot show himself willing to sacrifice for the sake of riches? 12. What was the Urim and Thummim? 13. What did the Lord show to Abraham by means of it? 14. According to Josephus how did the Egyptians and Greeks gain their knowledge of Astronomy? 15. What is Kolob? 16. How was time reckoned from this planet?