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# INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

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

## LESSON FOR FEBRUARY 9. GOD'S COVENANT WITH NOAH.

LESSON TEXT—Gen. 9:8-17. GOLDEN TEXT—"I do set my bow in the cloud and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth."—Gen. 9:12.

**I. Verses 8-11.** At the conclusion of the lesson of last week Noah was embarked in the ark and the flood was over the earth. Between that time and the time of this lesson Noah made three attempts to ascertain if the time had arrived for him to leave the Ark. At last God gave him command (8:15, 16) to "go forth," but he did not go empty handed. Noah had taken his all in the ark and it proved to be a most profitable investment. Though shut up 150 days (7:24), God must have been in the hearts of that little company as they stepped forth upon the dry land. What an overpowering sense of God's gracious mercy. What a recollection of God's awful wrath. What a trembling lest there be a repetition of this disaster. And what an amazement in contemplating the mighty work of founding a new race.

**Noah's Offering.** The first act on Noah's part upon leaving the ark was to build an altar unto God and to offer a burnt offering (8:20). Thus we see that God's covenant with Noah was based upon the ground of shed blood (Heb. 9:15-22), and as such it was an acceptable offering, "a sweet smelling sacrifice" (8:21), because it was an expression of entire consecration to God, Phil. 4:18. This offering is, of course, a type of Christ who is the "Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." As Noah's offering, see 8:21, averted a rightful penalty, even so the offering of Christ redeems us from the curse of sin which is our just due, Gal. 3:13. As they look about upon the cleansed earth, for there is no sin present except that of their own hearts, they are to us a type of that new life into which we enter through Jesus Christ, see I. Peter 3:20, 21.

A study of covenants and of covenant making ceremonies is always intensely interesting. In the Biblical meaning a covenant is a compact or agreement between two parties, (1) between God and man, (2) between man and man. In this covenant God bestowed the benefit of an assurance, though Noah had had certain conditions imposed upon him, the fulfilling of which brought him to this place where he might receive this assurance. God's covenant with Noah was one of eight great covenants, (1) the one made in Eden, Gen. 1:28; (2) the Adamic, Gen. 3:15; (3) this with Noah, Gen. 8:21, 22; (4) one with Abraham, Gen. 15:18; (5) that with Moses, Ex. 19:25; (6) one with the Israelites, Deut. 36:3; (7) that with David, 2 Sam. 7:16; (8) the new covenant, Heb. 8:8. The main elements of this covenant are, (a) the removal of the curse, 8:21; (b) the assurance of returning harvests and regular season, 8:22; (c) the promise of an abundant progeny, 9:1; (d) the domination of animal life, 9:2; (e) provision for food, both flesh and herd, 9:3; (f) provision for sacrifice and worship, 9:4; (g) the safety of human life, 9:5; (h) the administration of justice, 9:6.

**God's Promise.** Noah's life of obedience before he entered the ark had elicited God's promise that he would establish a covenant with him, see Eph. 6:18; and so God today holds before all men the promise of a new and better covenant into which they also may enter if they will, Heb. 8:8. God has frequently used this covenant as an illustration of his love and his faithfulness towards his people, Isa. 5:9, 10, and this covenant included God's care for the beasts as well as man, verses 10, 15, 16, see also Ps. 36:5, 6; Jonah 4:11. This is a good thought to emphasize with the younger pupils.

**II. Verses 12-17.** As though Jehovah would make assurance doubly secure, he not only made a covenant but appointed a token, a sign, of that covenant, whereby the covenant is to be remembered, read Gen. 17:11; Ex. 12:13, 2:12; Matt. 26:28-29; I. Cor. 11:23-25. We must beware of reading into this passage any suggestion that this is the first appearance of a rainbow upon the earth; there is no such suggestion in the text, but rather God took the rainbow which was set in the cloud and made of it a token of the covenant he had made with Noah. Whenever we behold a rainbow we ought to remember that his covenant was not alone to Noah, but to us, his seed.

The rainbow was formed of that same rain which had produced the flood. "After the appearance of an entire rainbow, as a rule, no rain of long duration follows." The rainbow is proof that the rain is partial and that the sun of God's mercy is shining. It lights up what had just been dark and fateful. Rainbows can be seen in all parts of the earth, so is his mercy all embracing. A rainbow is beautiful and attractive, and so is Jesus the chief among ten thousand and the one altogether lovely. An arch is the strongest form of masonry construction.

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**Watered Stock.** Two old cronies had been sitting in a cafe on Cortlandt street one Saturday afternoon for several hours and were pretty much the worse for their lengthy tete-a-tete.

"What is your nationality, anyway, Jim?" asked one.

"Well, I'll tell you, Bob. My father came from Glasgow, so you see I'm half Scotch."

"And the other half seltzer, I guess," put in his companion.—Saturday Evening Post.

**Proved.** "Is that dainty flush on Clara's cheeks her own?"

"No; she took it out of sister's box."

**Strenuous Salutations.** "No wonder them city people complain about bein' all worn out with their social duties," vouchsafed a prominent citizen of Wayoverbehind. "When I was down to New York I turn' near unfinted my neck tryin' to show to everybody I met on the streets."—Judge.

There is no policy like politeness; and a good manner is the best thing in the world, either to get one a good name or to supply the want of it.—Julwer Lytton.

**King Ferdinand Aims High.** King Ferdinand is said to be making not only a change of religion but a change of name to Simcon II, when he assumes the title of emperor of Bulgaria. The first Simcon is still the national hero, and his reign, which began in 893, was Bulgaria's "golden age," when, as Gibbon states, she took a place among the great powers of Europe.

Women are constantly the dupes, or the victims, of their extreme sensitiveness.—Honore De Balzac.

**Uruguay Bars Gypsies.** A party of gypsies were refused admission into Uruguay recently under the law of June 10, 1890, and the decree of December 10, 1894, which reads: "It is also declared as prohibited immigrants Asiatics, African and individuals generally known under the names of zingaras (gypsies) and bohemiens."

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**Addressed to Women**

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## BOY OBEYED ORDERS GIVEN

Meant Well, But Information Was Not Welcomed by Hotel Manager Just at That Time.

A certain New York hotel manager is one of those nervous men who constantly warn their employes against keeping them in ignorance of any happening around the place. He hired a new bell boy recently, and gave him the usual warning:

"Remember," he warned, "if anything happens around here I'm to be the first person to know about it."

Soon after that he was showing three haughty Daughters of the Confederacy one of the best rooms in the place, when the new bell boy rushed in with his hair on end.

"Something's happened!" he yelled. The three Daughters of the Confederacy turned coldly, and the manager, anxious to get rid of the boy, demanded to know the trouble.

"That old cat down stairs," said the boy, "has just had kittens! What shall we do?"

The manager's suggestion was rough.

**Flattery.**

"It is an easy matter for an agent to sell Gupp an edition de luxe set of books."

"How so?"

"All the agent has to say is, 'Mr. Gupp, you look like a man of intelligence.'"

**Higher Up.**

"I suppose you have tried motoring, judge?" he asked.

"No, I have not," replied the judge, "but I have tried a lot of people who have."—Pathfinder.

**Appropriate Connections.**

"So Miss Jiggers had an eye to the vaudeville stage."

"Yes, but she got the hook."

**Its Kind.**

"Don't you think this Peace Prize idea is a grand thing?"

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## HE KNEW.



**Smith—Friends are a great consolation.**

**Jones—Not if you're broke.**

**When the Peanuts Ran Out.**

For two hours an old back countryman, who had never before seen an elephant, had been standing before a row of them in enrapt silence dealing out peanuts one at a time. When the last was gone and no more forthcoming, Jumbo, the largest elephant, reached over and removed the entertainer's hat from his head to the top of a lion's cage nearby.

For the first time in two hours the old man expressed his emotions in words: "You old two-tailed Indian-rubber nuisance you!" he exclaimed, indignantly. "If I knew which end your head was on, I'd slap your face."

**Friendly Blow.**

Louis Brownlow, Washington newspaper man, paused in a drug store in Greensboro, N. C., not so long ago, to ask for a match. While he was there a young colored chap came running in with a big gash the whole length of his skull, and apparently a good deal put out about some accident that had befallen him.

"What's happened to you?" asked Brownlow, excitedly but sympathetically.

"A friend hit me with a hatchet," replied the bleeding stranger.

**Not That Crazy.**

"This bill is too high," said the man to his lawyer.

"But didn't I prove to the court that you were crazy and get you acquitted?" replied the lawyer.

"You did. But you could never prove that I'm crazy enough to pay such a bill as that."—Yonkers Statesman.

**His Status.**

"Is that druggist well thought of in the community?"

"Sure. Isn't he a pillar of the church?"

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