

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson VIII.—Fourth Quarter, For Nov. 22, 1908.

THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES

Text of the Lesson, 1 Kings i, 32-43, 50-53—Memory Verses, 39, 40—Golden Text, 1 Chron. xxviii, 9—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

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"Whoever the Lord pleased, that did He in heaven and in earth. In the seas and all deep places" (Ps. cxxxv, 6). "The Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men and giveth it to whomsoever He will. He doeth according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth" (Dan. iv, 32, 35). Even when our Lord was crucified Herod and Pilate and the people of Israel did what the hand and counsel of the Lord determined before to be done (Acts iv, 27, 28). So it is always, through good men and bad men, and even the devil, and through good men who often act unwisely. God is ever working out His eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord (Eph. iii, 11). He who sees and declares the end from the beginning says, "My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure" (Isa. xlv, 10; Ps. xxxiii, 10, 11). Men are left free to do as they choose and are guilty if they do wrong, but God is ever working out His purpose in spite of everything and every one who may be set against Him.

Thus we see it in our lesson today. David being old, one of his sons, Adonijah, whom he had never displeased by even asking him why he did anything, exalted himself to be the king, though he knew that the Lord had given the throne to his brother Solomon, and that Joab, who was David's chief, and Abiathar, the priest, whom David had so protected and made one with him, followed Adonijah (1 Kings i, 5-7; ii, 15). It does not seem so strange that spoiled boys, like Absalom and Adonijah, should be so desperately wicked, but to see a priest like Abiathar joining him is perplexing. It seems so easy to turn from what is right and do the wrong thing.

There were some who remained faithful to David, such as Nathan, the prophet; Zadok, the priest; Benaiah, the son of Jehoiada, one of David's mighty men who slew a lion in a pit in snow time, and also an Egyptian with the man's own spear, and did many mighty acts (1 Sam. xxiii, 20-23; 1 Kings i, 8). Nathan told Bathsheba, the mother of Solomon, how things were going, and she and Nathan brought word to David, whereupon David called these three faithful men and bade them cause Solomon to ride upon his own mule and have him anointed king over Israel and Judah, that he might sit upon his throne and be king in his stead (verses 32-35). This was as the Lord had purposed, for He had said to David, "Behold, a son shall be born to thee, who shall be a man of rest, * * * and I will give peace and quietness unto Israel in his days, * * * and I will establish the throne of my kingdom over Israel forever" (1 Chron. xxii, 9, 10), a promise primarily, but only partly true of Solomon, but yet to be fully and completely seen in Jesus as the Son of David (Isa. ix, 6, 7; Jer. xxiii, 5, 6; Luke i, 31-33). Then sat Solomon upon the throne of David, his father, and his kingdom was established greatly (1 Kings ii, 12), or as it is written in 1 Chron. xxix, 23, "Then Solomon sat on the throne of the Lord as king instead of David, his father, and prospered, and all Israel obeyed him." No throne but this was ever called the throne of the Lord. The days come when the same city, Jerusalem, shall be called the throne of the Lord and to the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the Lord to Jerusalem (Jer. iii, 17). David's charge to Solomon in chapter ii and in 1 Chron. xxviii is worthy of being laid up in the heart. Note specially these words: "Know thou the God of thy father and serve Him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind, for the Lord searcheth all hearts and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts" (1 Chron. xxviii, 9).

For over twenty years I have found special blessing in these. That expression, "the imagination of the thoughts," is found again in chapter xxix, 18, and again sad contrast in Gen. vi, 5. How deeply God searches not only the heart, but the thoughts of the heart, and somehow, back of that, the imagination of the thoughts! How much and how continually we need the precious blood which cleanseth from all sin! In the last chapter of 11 Sam. we find a word from David in verse 24 which is worthy of application to all believers. "Neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing." And this was in connection with the purchase of the place where the temple was afterward builded (11 Chron. iii, 1). It was also the place where Abraham had offered up his son Isaac, and the great thought is redemption by a costly sacrifice. In David's abundant preparation for the temple which he was not allowed to build we see a manifestation of that zeal which he prayed that Solomon might have. He said, "I have prepared with all my might for the house of my God, * * * because I have set my affection to the house of my God." Yet with all the millions which he gave he said, "All things come of Thee, and of Thine own have we given Thee" (1 Chron. xxix, 2, 3, 14).

RELIGIOUS THOUGHT.

Gems From the Teachings of All Denominations.

Every Christian's life should every day be a fresh, new song.—Rev. Dr. John H. Prugh, Reformed, Pittsburgh.

The Life We Lead.

The thing that is most admired in a man is not his money, but the kind of life he leads.—Rev. W. W. Eastard, Baptist, Boston.

Man of God.

To be a man of God is to have a title of nobility worn by the prophets of old—the highest expression that a man is capable of becoming.—Rev. C. R. Hemphill, Presbyterian, Louisville.

Life's Final Results.

Many of the final results of your life and teaching will report themselves to you long years after you come before the judgment seat of God.—Rev. Dr. N. Dwight Hillis, Congregationalist, Brooklyn.

Mind and Religion.

The more highly developed the mental life is, the more correctly one thinks, the more complete and perfect his knowledge, other things being equal, the better will be his type of religion.—Rev. John W. Rowlett, Unitarian, Atlanta, Ga.

Heaven on Earth.

If there is anything that is heaven on earth it is for the provider of the family when there is real need of provision to come back with the day's wages or the day's provision for the loved ones.—Rev. Dr. S. Edward Young, Presbyterian, Brooklyn.

Consecrated Backbone.

Men must possess consecrated backbone in morals. Man is not expected to be a jellyfish morally, but an imperial, majestic vertebrate who stands up to give and receive blows in defense and in behalf of the God who gave him his soul and his lofty estate.—Rev. Dr. Charles Edward Locke, Methodist Episcopal, Los Angeles, Cal.

True Discipleship.

Immorality stands already and sufficiently condemned, but a shallow life must also be contemptible. It is for this that the church must stand in modern life if it would win not only those who are weak, but those who are morally strong. To sacrifice not only the evil, but also the good, this is true discipleship.—Rev. Clayton J. Potter, Congregationalist, Simsbury, Conn.

Growing Like God.

When one's heart grows out in kindness, good will and sympathy and in all the gracious sentiments of brotherhood toward his fellows, then is he growing in likeness to his Father in heaven. And this conduces to the common happiness. Trusting others, they will trust us. Caring for others, they will care for us. Self sacrifice brings life's sweetest reward.—Rev. Junius B. Remensnyder, Lutheran, New York.

Dispassionate Result of Thought.

There are a vast deal of suffering and disease in the world which are the product of men's thoughts. But if a disease is caused by the mind it is certainly reasonable to believe that it can be cured by the mind. To give the sufferer a new outlook upon life, to inspire courage and hope and faith, to renew the forces of the will, to turn away the mind from conditions which have caused nervous overwork, will bring physical cure.—Rev. C. Waldo Cherry, Presbyterian, Troy, N. Y.

Manifestation of Deity in Nature.

The messages conveyed to us by nature do not need to be translated from the original Greek, and there is nowhere that we can learn a better idea of the majesty of God and his illimitable might. By limiting ourselves to the gospel alone we develop a Christianity that lacks strength and robustness. It is outside the Bible and in nature that we find what may be called the brute energy of God. The laws of nature are the forms in which God has crystallized his will.—Rev. Dr. Charles H. Parkhurst, Presbyterian, New York.

Value of a Clean Heart.

The man who does not live on good terms with himself, whose mind is not clean within, has very little hope for in the way of moral and spiritual cleanness. This is the first thing that the perception of religion as an inner reality does for us. It guarantees our tranquillity, our serenity, our undisturbable calmness here and hereafter. It introduces us to our own selves and says to man, woman and child, "Here you will find God or nowhere." Make clean first the inside of the cup, and the outside shall become clean to you. Ethics, pure social life, must flow from the heart that is fed with divine love.—Rev. Ulysses G. B. Pierce, Unitarian, Washington.

World's Greatest Treasure.

Man's life comes from within. It rises superior to circumstance and situation. It enables him to have happiness even in trial and sorrow. The martyr burning at the stake may be happy even amid suffering. Such strength is not obtained; it is attained—not an acquisition, but a growth. You can buy pleasure, but not happiness. The heart rich toward God solves life's paradox. Peace within the soul and the abiding conviction that the kingdom of heaven is within you give the knowledge and possession of the world's greatest treasure. A man may possess the world and not be happy, but with the soul enriched with eternal things he will be satisfied. This is the secret of the happy life. Happiness is a byproduct of an unselfish life. It is a wayside flower growing along the path of duty. A purpose consecrated to lofty ideals makes worthy the efforts of every one who strives to improve his own character and to uplift mankind.—Rev. Dr. George H. Bickley, Methodist Episcopal, Philadelphia.

AT THE CHURCHES TOMORROW

Christian
W. H. Coleman, Minister.

Grace Episcopal
Rev. Geo. Hendree Harrison, Rector.
7:30 a. m.—Holy communion.
11 a. m.—Sunday school.
11 a. m.—Morning prayer and sermon.
7:30 p. m.—Evening prayer and sermon.

Presbyterian
Rev. W. H. Dodge, D. D., Pastor.
11 a. m.—Services.
Anthem, Glorious Spirit Holy Ghost—C. Gounod.
Sermon, Roms. 6:11-12.
Solo, "The Plains of Peace"—Miss Tolmie.
7 p. m.—Services.
Anthem, The Day is Past and Gone—Thos. G. Shepard.
Sabbath school—9:45 a. m.
A cordial invitation extended to all.

Baptist
Teachers meeting—9:30 a. m.
Exposition of lesson by pastor.
Sunday school services—9:45 a. m.
Morning services—11 a. m.
Sermon: "Six F's and a Conclusion."
Text will be found in God's Book of Nature, vol. 2, chapter 1, section 27.
Scripture text, "A Land Flowing with Milk and Honey."
Sunbeam Band—3 p. m.
B. Y. P. U.—6:45 p. m.
Evening services—7:30 p. m.
Sermon: "The Widow's Mite and Easy Money."
A cordial invitation is extended to everyone to attend these services.
Good music, free seats and a hearty welcome for all. C. C. Carroll, Pastor.

Methodist
R. H. Barnett, Pastor.
Sunday school—9:30 a. m.
Preaching by the pastor—11 a. m. and 7 p. m.
Junior League—2:30 p. m.
Senior League—3:30 p. m.
A meeting of the laymen's missionary brotherhood in the lecture room of the Methodist church Monday at 7:30 p. m. Let all the members and any who may wish to join be sure to come.
Midweek prayer meeting Wednesday at 7 p. m.
A most cordial invitation extended to all.

Junior Epworth League
Meets at 2:30 Sunday afternoon. A cordial welcome to all.
Leader, Sue Feaster Moore.
Subject, "Kindness."
Responsive reading Ps. xv.
Prayer.
Remarks by leader.
Lesson text, Madys Martin.
Short talks by the Juniors.
Song.
Reading, Annie Pearl Liddon.
Bible story, Martha Kate Rentz.
Roll call. Collection.
Announcements. Benediction.

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MAGNESS' STATE OF MIND

Anticipatory Delirium Caused Him to Commit Matrimony, but was No Plea Before a Court Martial
Washington, Nov. 21.—Having been adjudged guilty of desertion from the navy by a court-martial at Philadelphia, Secretary Metcalf yesterday approved the sentence in the case of Charles J. Magness, musician, first class, alias C. J. Magness, who left the service in order to marry the daughter of the late Senator Arthur P. Gorman of Maryland.
The plea put up by Magness' counsel was that the young man was in a "state of mind that might be called delirium of anticipation of his honeymoon."

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FOR SALE—160 acres good land, 30 of which is cleared and been cultivated. Has good six-room house, barn, stables, work shop, cistern; balance 130 acres pine timber been cut over, but has good crosstie timber, and plenty good wood, and heart post timber. Price, \$500, half cash. Apply to F. W. Ditto.

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KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS
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I. O. O. F.
Tulula Lodge No. 22
I. O. O. F. meets every Tuesday evening in Yonge's Hall. Visiting brothers always welcome.
P. V. Leavengood, N. G.
M. M. Little, Secretary.

B. P. O. E.
Notice of Sessions of Ocala Lodge No. 851 Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.
The next session will be held Tuesday evening, October 27th. Visiting brothers cordially invited.
Stephen Jewett, Exalted Ruler.
D. S. Williams, Secretary.

F. & A. M.
Marion 19th Lodge No. 19 meets in the temple on the first and third Thursday evenings of each month. Visiting brothers cordially invited.
W. D. Graham, W. M.
Jake Brown, Secretary.

FORT KING CAMP No. 14.
Next regular monthly meeting will be held Friday evening, Dec. 11th, at 8 o'clock in Yonge's Hall. Visiting overlords are always welcome.
G. W. Martin, C. C.
Chas. Sage, Clerk.

CONCORDIA LODGE F. U. OF A.
Concordia Lodge No. 181, Fraternal Union of America, meets fourth Wednesday of every month, 7:30 p. m., at Yonge's Hall. R. E. Yonge, P. M. Chas. K. Sage, Secretary.

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BULLETIN NO. 4.
Every offer listed is a money maker.

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No. 3. 40 acre farm 2 1/2 miles from Ocala on Martel hard road, cleared with some improvements, One-half cash. Price \$200

No. 4. 20 acre farm 2 1/2 miles from court house, all cleared with 3-room house and barn, in good condition. Price, cash \$125

No. 5. 200 acres heavily timbered land about 12 miles from Ocala, 3 miles from Rock Springs, on easy terms. Price \$1200

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