

Sunday School Lesson

JUDAH'S UNSTEADY COURSE

International Sunday School Lesson for June 1, 1947

GOLDEN TEXT: "In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength."—Isaiah 30: 15.
Lesson Text: II Kings 19: 5-7; 32-37; 20: 12-17

In our lesson for last week, we learned that Sargon, the Assyrian king, captured the Northern Kingdom and incorporated the Ten Tribes into his empire in 721 B. C. He lived only four years thereafter and his son, Sennacherib, ascended to the throne. For more than a quarter of a century the Kingdom of Judah had been menaced by the Assyrians. Ahaz had done homage to the Assyrian king and his son, Hezekiah, who succeeded him, became almost a vassal of the great Assyrian Empire. Thus, Hezekiah, at the age of only twenty-five, inherited, not only a throne, but all the difficult problems connected with trying to protect a small nation from the imperialistic plans of larger and more powerful surrounding countries.

There is a strange parallel in the position in which Hezekiah found himself and the position of some of the smaller nations of the world today. Expediency, rather than wisdom, dictated that Judah enter into an alliance with a stronger power to protect itself against the growing encroachment of a neighboring power. Although the prophet Isaiah warned vigorously against it, Hezekiah joined in a rebellion against the Assyrian overlordship in an attempt to throw off the annual tribute.

Sennacherib immediately sent his troops westward, and after conquering Phoenecian towns, invaded Judah and blockaded Jerusalem, but did not take it. Seeing such a state of affairs as probable, Hezekiah had prepared for it by having a conduit for water built, and plans made within the city to withstand a long siege. After some time, Sennacherib withdrew without securing the chief prize of his enterprise. Judah, however, suffered greatly as a result of her alliance with Egypt and Babylonia and Isaiah was not slow in reminding the king and the people of their losses.

While Hezekiah was certainly not without fault, he has been placed at the very top among the kings of Judah after the fall of the monarchy. II Kings 18:5, declares of him, there was "after him, none like him among the kings of Judah, nor any that were before him." In the first month of his reign, he reversed the policy of his father Ahaz and "opened the doors of the house of the Lord." To his credit, he set out to restore the Mosaic forms of worship, removing every possible likeness to God from the places of worship. Even the brazen serpent, made by Moses, which the people had come to worship, was broken to pieces. He sent letters of invitation to all the tribes, north and south, to attend the official restoration of the historic liturgy of the Hebrews.

The boldness of his reformation was practically nullified by the fact that the whole movement tended to make worship an affair of the state rather than an affair of the heart. Ceremonial religion, carried even to its hideous extreme of human sacrifice, has never saved anyone. Zeal for God and his righteousness, not zeal for ritual, will give strength to meet the problems and perils of the day.

It is to Hezekiah's credit that he kept the prophet Isaiah close to him as his counselor, although he did not always heed the warnings of the man of God. Not only was Isaiah a man who had surrendered his life to God's call, he was a real statesman, with the courage to speak his

convictions at all times and in all places, braving the wrath of kings, princes, priests and false prophets.

Having the utmost faith in God, Isaiah believed that while God would not save a sinning people for their own sakes, in spite of their sins, for grounds sufficient to him, God could and would overrule the evil designs of Jerusalem's enemies in order to further his purpose of bringing a Saviour to all the peoples of all the earth. (Isa. 40: 18-31). Although living seven hundred years before the birth of Christ, Isaiah gave a picture of Jesus which constitutes the heart of the Old Testament.

All the weakness of Judah was offset by the faith of this one man. When king and people faced what seemed to be a choice between slavery and massacre, they turned to the man who had told of a God who was the true refuge and strength of his people. Now Jerusalem learned from him that, in quietness and confidence in the power of God, they could find the way out of the deadly predicament into which they had been led by reliance on the power of man.

Potatoes Grown In Canada Glut Southern Markets

Washington.—Sure, the agriculture department agreed with a congressional critic today, Canadian potatoes are being sold in the South—where the department has destroyed some 11,500 bushels of home-grown spuds.

The explanation offered at the department: Nobody would buy the small, low grade potatoes, and they were destroyed for lack of a market.

Rep. August H. Andersen (R., Minn.) in a house speech accused the department of "wanton destruction" and said:

"While department of agriculture agents pour kerosene on huge piles of new potatoes in Alabama, North Carolina, Virginia and other southern states, potatoes come in from Canada to supply those markets, and at higher prices for consumers already staggering under the cost of living."

A spokesman said the agriculture department has bought about 86,500 bushels of southern grown potatoes this year at prices ranging from 90 cents for low grade potatoes to \$3.80 per hundred pounds, under a price support act of congress.

Of this quantity, 11,500 bushels were said to have been low grade potatoes, costing the government between 90 and \$1.09. It was these latter spuds which have been destroyed.

Canadian potatoes were said to be selling in the South at from \$4.50 to \$5 per hundred pounds.

Hobart, seat of Kiowa county in Oklahoma, is known locally as "The City of Iris."

APPALACHIAN HI SCHOOL NEWS

For the first time the senior class of Appalachian high has published a printed yearbook. It is now off the press and is in the hands of the students. It is an eighty-page book containing both photographic and printed material of practically all the classes, athletic groups and extra-curricular clubs in the school. The name Laurel was chosen by means of a contest among the students with the winner to receive a free copy of the book. J. W. Cuddy, president of the senior class, was the person submitting the winning name.

Friday morning, May 23, was "Senior Chapel" day at Appalachian. The program this year was the presentation of "The Laurel," to the student body. This is the school's first attempt at a printed yearbook and much interest has been shown in the project.

The program consisted of talks by the members of the staff concerning the work of preparing and financing the book, and the reading of the dedication. Those taking part were Annie Mae Carroll, V. J. Honeycutt, Johnny Council, Betty Lou Clawson, Sallie Penick, Ada Belle Moretz, Mary Sue Greene, J. W. Cuddy, and Edsel Hodges. All members of the staff were on the stage and were presented their copies of the annual, as well as Mr. Wey, the dedicatee.

On Tuesday evening, May 27, members of the senior class presented a three-act comedy entitled "Sixteen in August" by Dorothy Bennet and Link Hannah. This was a Samuel French play and was produced by special arrangement. The theme of the play was the age-old struggle between the older and younger generations and was filled with rich humor. The cast included Annie Mae Carroll, Bill Aldridge, Sonny Williams, Ada Belle Moretz, Betty Lou Clawson, Mary Sue Greene, Sallie Penick, Virginia Moretz, Erma Norris, Mary Moss, Clauden Garland, and Bill Winkler. Scriptholder was Mary Sue Clawson and Ray Stansberry had charge of sound effects. Furniture for the setting was furnished by Craven Furniture Company.

Appalachian high finals began on Sunday evening, May 25, with the delivery of the baccalaureate sermon by Rev. James McKeown of St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Forty-seven seniors, their parents and friends heard Mr. McKeown's inspiring message, which was on the sub-

ject, "Let No One Despise Thy Youth". The speaker pointed out the desirable qualities of youth and stressed the importance of choosing a worthy goal and then pursuing it earnestly.

Mr. Troutman of the Lutheran Church presided and Mrs. Worman of the Adventist Church also assisted in the service. Special music was furnished by the school choir under the direction of Mr. O. M. Hartsell.

The Junior Red Cross council has packed and mailed to the Atlanta office of the Junior Red Cross several garments of clothing made during this school year by high school students. The clothing sent to Atlanta will be shipped to children in Europe. The high school girls have made 85 woolen skirts, 42 baby dresses, and 9 boys' shirts; they also made 3 woolen afghans which are to be sent to hospitals.

The Junior Red Cross council has had quite a successful year in the production of materials requested by the Red Cross. In addition to the clothing production, members of the council have made holiday favors which were sent to two veterans' hospitals in our state. They packed and mailed 50 Christmas boxes to children overseas. In our own high school, the council has improved the first aid room by adding a medicine cabinet, two single beds, and has provided for council supervision of the room during school hours.

To save feed cost and build better health it is well to get developing pullets on range as soon as possible after they are ten weeks of age.

Additional Education In Army is Offered Hi School Graduates

Not all high school graduates can afford to go to college, but additional education, plus technical training, is available to qualified young men in the United States army, Sgt. Francis M. Darcy, of the Lenoir sub-station of the army recruiting service, declared here today.

The army can give an able high school graduate training that will be useful not only in the army but also in civil life. Higher education subjects are taught in classes and through correspondence courses, and training is provided in the many lines of scientific and industrial endeavor in which the army works.

Army technical schools use training techniques developed during the war which teach students faster, particularly in the engineering, mechanical and electronics lines.

The army has made training interesting by using new "training aids": demonstration boards, charts of every description, train-

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