

Sunday School Lesson

for wisdom in the Hebrew sense meant just that. He was not a visionary—he had the vision and the ability to put his vision into action or being. He had knowledge of his craft and, in addition to this, he had a superb skill in actual workmanship.

He was a good executive, also, for he had many men working under his direction to accomplish the many tasks which had been assigned to him. Our text says he worked with "wise-hearted" men and what a joy that must have been to him, to work with men to whom their work was a pleasure and who took pride in its accomplishment. They worked together, wholeheartedly and willingly, for they were making the dwelling-place of Jehovah and their handiwork would make that place a worthy place for the worship of their God.

Exodus 43: 33-38, describes the

BEZALEL, THE CRAFTSMAN
International Sunday School
Lesson for July 11, 1948
GOLDEN TEXT: "Whoever they hand findeth to do, do it with thy might."—Ecclesiastes 9: 10.
Lesson Text: Exodus 31: 1-11; II Chronicles 1: 5.
Continuing our study of "unheralded Bible characters," we take for our study this week a consideration of the characteristics of Bezalel, a master craftsman. It is in connection with the building of the Tabernacle that his name is mentioned.

After recording the giving of the Ten Commandments and various other laws to Moses by Jehovah on Mt. Sinai, the book of Exodus lists directions concerning the making of the ark and the tabernacle and its contents, including the garments of the priests. Then it tells of the appointment of a man, named Bezalel and his assistant, Oholiab, to have charge of this work. It seems that this Bezalel was a most exceptional man. His endowments are described in verses 3-4 of our text. He was a man of good, practical common sense,

completion and dedication of the Tabernacle. Surely, this must have been a happy time for Bezalel and his workers. Human minds, inspired by God, had planned, human hands had wrought and the work had been carried on in a great spirit of inspired sacrifice and skill. Upon its dedication, the spirit of God filled the Tabernacle with his glory. Thus God honored the faithful toil of Bezalel and his workmen.

Albert W. Palmer asks: "What is the difference between being a real artist and just a person who has an artistic temperament?" He answers: "Hard work! Yet there is yet another element, unpredictable, evanescent, mystical, and yet absolutely essential to the highest artistry. It is that touch of divine fire which we call 'inspiration.'"

Is your work important—Bezalel and Oholiab seemed to believe that their work was important—the most important in the world to them. Channing Pollock once declared that any job well done is important and that few of us understand what a big job a little job may be. He said: "Take interest and pride in your work! The fellow with a future isn't often the one who scorns what he is doing at present. He's the man who thinks his job is important, and so goes on to ever more important jobs."

John Ovenham reminds us: "A Toller with his hands was God's own Son; Like his, to him be all thy work well done. None so forlorn as he that hath no work, None so abject as he that work doth shirk."

Maryland.

Andrew Johnson was perhaps least fortunate of all. He became chief executive when Lincoln was assassinated in 1865, and resulting feuds with Congress led to House impeachment proceedings against him. He was acquitted, but in 1868 his party denied him renomination.

Arthur succeeded the assassinated James A. Garfield in 1881 and historians now credit him with having done an able job. But when he tried for the Republican nomination in 1884 he was passed over for James G. Blaine.

Theodore Roosevelt did better. He served three and a half years after President McKinley was shot in 1901, and then was renominated and re-elected for four years on his own in 1904. In

1912, he tried for the Republican nomination, and when he failed, he started his own Bull Moose party and ran for the office. He was unsuccessful, however.

Coolidge served out Warren G. Harding's term when the latter died in 1923, and was nominated and re-elected in 1924, and was considered a possibility for nomination again in 1928 when he issued his "I do not choose to run" statement.

Truman served as vice-president less than three months when Franklin D. Roosevelt died in his fourth presidential term in April, 1945.

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Harry S. Truman is one of seven vice-presidents who stepped into the White House on a President's death. Of the six others four merely filled out their party terms in office. The two who went on to serve an additional term on their own were the most recent in history.

The six were John Tyler, Millard Fillmore, Andrew Johnson, Chester A. Arthur, Theodore Roosevelt and Calvin Coolidge.

Tyler became president in 1841, when William Henry Harrison died after having been president for only a month. Tyler's tenure was marked by constant bickering with Congress, and while he was renominated by an irregular Democratic convention in May 1844, he withdrew from the race the following August.

Fillmore, who went into the White House in 1850 when Zachary Taylor died, was turned down for the nomination by the Whigs in 1852. Four years later the Know-Nothing party named him and the Whig Party endorsed him. He carried only one state,

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