

Sunday School Lesson---Young Peoples Topic Edited by Wm. T. Ellis

BLOTING OUT A NATION'S LIFE

The International Sunday School Lesson for August 27, is "Judah Carried Captive to Babylon," Jeremiah 39.

A wave of hysteria and fear passed over awakened China a few months ago at the report that the nation was to be divided among the Powers. Korea's tragic sorrow over its impending and now fulfilled absorption by Japan was an unforgettable spectacle. Finland and Poland absorbed into greater nations but still not reconciled, excite the pity of all students of European history. The dramatic persistence of Armenia's hope for a separate existence reveals the strength of the passion for nationalism. Ireland has shown the world how the same fervid spirit can live through the years, unquenched and undiminished. The world is full of great stories of intense devotion to a nation blotted out of existence. None is more dramatic or appealing than this one which the Sunday schools study -- the extinction of the ancient kingdom of Judah.

A poetical, patriotic, soft-loving people, the Jews loved the land of their inheritance -- the Promised Land, divinely given and hard won -- with the peculiar ardor of their sun-warmed temperament. They gave to literature its first growth of patriotism.

"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, Let my right hand forget her cunning."

So providentially had they been preserved and provided for that the Jews could scarcely entertain the idea of national extinction. That they should be wrested from the soil where their hearts were rooted, that the city of David should fall, and that the temple should be razed, were fatalities beyond belief. That, however, is just what happened with horror piled upon horror.

When War Was Unmitigated. One way to measure the progress of the race is to consider the attitude of the world toward war. Nowadays a strong and growing body of sentiment is against all war, and by universal consent a body of human usages have grown up in connection with the practice of what is called "civilized warfare." The rights of non-combatants, the respect for the wounded, the good treatment of the prisoners, all are distinctly Christian aspects of an un-Christian business.

But in the days of which we read -- when Jerusalem fell to the Babylonian forces, after a siege of a year and a half -- war meant sheer, unrestrained savagery. Women and children were slain, and worse than that. Captives were tortured and blinded, even as in the case of King Zedekiah. Exile and slavery succeeded to the levy of tribute and oppression. Humiliations and suffering such as are simply incredible to the present day were the lot of the defeated.

Consider the fate of the perverse and blundering king who was the last to sit upon David's throne. Zedekiah had rejected the counsels of Jeremiah. He had put himself under the sway of the war party. His repudiation of Jehovah had been the culminating factor in the overthrow of the city. Then, when the starved inmates of Jerusalem were unable longer to withstand the besiegers, the king and his soldiers fled down to the plain of Jericho, where they were captured. Zedekiah was taken north to Hamath where, in the presence of Nebuchadnezzar himself, he viewed his punishment. His sons were slain before his eyes, and then with that hideous, haunting picture fresh upon his memory, his eyes were put out. Loaded with two chains he was carried off to decorate the triumph of his conqueror at Babylon.

Palace, Priests and Nobles Perish. Those conquerors of the ancient world made a complete job of their cruel undertakings. When Jerusalem fell, the palace was looted and then burned; the temple was stripped of its treasures and all that remained of the magnificence of Solomon's reign was carried off to Babylon, while the building itself was razed by fire. The chief priest and his assistants, and the leaders of the court were slain before Nebuchadnezzar's face, to glut his appetite for blood. The houses of the people were burned, the walls of the city broken down, and all the forms of destruction that Oriental ingenuity could devise were executed against the stubborn city.

Leaving only the poorest of the country folk to help themselves to the land and whatever they could glean after this grim harvesting, the victors returned to Babylon with the captives whom they were bearing in to exile. To this day exile remains a favorite form of punishment in these same lands. Even the late Sultan of Turkey now lives in exile; and I have met several officials, now in power under the Constitution, who have been exiled by Abdul Hamid. The horror of it in olden days is incomprehensible to us; though I want no worse interpretation of it than I have seen on the faces of detachments of Siberian exiles. Up through their own dear land the exiles were driven, laggards -- being hastened by spear butts or spear points. Across the beautiful mountains of Lebanon, and into the fertile valley of the Orontes -- the same journey may now be made by rail -- where they joined Nebuchadnezzar himself at perhaps what is now the city of Homes. Thence they went

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across the stony wastes, stopping possibly at Tadmor, or Palmyra, the city in the desert which is still a wonderful ruin, and then to the bank of the Euphrates, down which some of them probably floated on goat-skin rafts. The heat was terrific, waxing greater as they drew near to Babylon. The physical suffering of the exiles, and their broken spirits and the remorse that gnawed at their hearts, made the journey one that tinged their thinking for decades.

Into the Great Babylon. The immigrant from rural Europe who sees New York and its splendors for the first time is less impressed by its magnificence than were the Hebrews who entered ignominiously into that wonderful capital of the world, Babylon, with its palaces, hanging gardens, great temples and triumphal arches. Alas, for the burning shame of it! These proud Hebrews were part of the popular spectacle and entertainment. They were derided and jested about by the throngs of curious Chaldeans. "How are the mighty fallen!"

I have seen the ruins of the via sacra in Babylon, that runs from the Temple of Ishtar to the great temple of Marduk, through the past the place of Nebuchadnezzar. The great unicorns and sacred bulls -- which are still as clear-cut on the walls as when their sightless eyes were turned upon the processions of captives -- and the blue enameled lions and walls, and the asphalt pavements, all meant little to the disconsolate company of Hebrews whose broken hearts sobbed the refrain that they were slaves and exiles. Only the friends of the earlier captives, waiting to comfort them, gave them any light in their gloom.

Learning the Great Lesson. Not at once, even in this severe school, did the Jews learn the great lesson of loyalty to the one God. They were caught up in the whirl of popular idolatry for a time and the German archaeologists at Babylon told me that the only traces of the Hebrews they have found are incantation bowls, dug from graves, and covered with Hebrew inscriptions; such as I have at the present moment in my possession. But eventually, he exile taught the Jews what they had failed to learn from a succession of gracious providences and clear-voiced prophets, that Jehovah is a king who demands single allegiance; and that "Righteousness exalteth a nation but sin is a reproach to any people." They were to spend seventy years in this severe school of exile; thenceforth they would wander no more after false gods. To this day the Jews of Mesopotamia remain true to the God of their fathers.

History is the best homily. The fate of nations dead is the truest warning to nations living. The tragedy of the blotting out of Judah's life will have been studied in vain if it does not set men and women, boys and girls, to vigorous heart-searching with respect to their own nations. Are the seeds of destruction, which grew so helpfully in the life of the ancient Hebrews, still in our midst? Are we turning from single-hearted allegiance to the one true God to the popular idols of our time?

"Judge of the nations, spare us yet, Lest we forget! Lest we forget!"

NEW LEAVES IN ANCIENT LANDS.

Terms Comments Upon Uniform Prayer Meeting Topics of the Young Peoples Societies -- Christian Endeavor, Etc., for August 27th, "A Missionary Journey Around the World; VIII Missions in Persia and Turkey," Acts 4: 13-31.

All the Bible history from Abram's departure out of Ur of the Chaldees to John's vision on Patmos, is laid within the bounds of the present empires of Turkey and Persia, excepting only Paul's visit to Greece. Egypt, he it remembered, is nominally a part of Turkey. Persia's part is slight, being confined to the exile of the Jews therein, notably the experiences of Daniel and Esther. Both Persia and Turkey are Mohammedan lands, and the crescent now flies where the star of Judaism once shone, and the cross was first erected.

A historic connection with early Christianity insures nothing for there is no more religiously brightened land on earth than Turkey, the home of the patriarchs, prophets, apostles and martyrs; the scene of revelation and of the life and death of Jesus Christ.

Certain big facts can not be blinked even by the persons who are more keen to prove the purity of all religions than they are to practice any. A few such persons -- at a safe distance from Islamic countries, and amid the tolerant atmosphere of Christianity -- are fond of glorifying Mohammedanism. All of which may pass only with those who have never seen or heard or smelt Moslem society. The incontrovertible fact is that civilization has been decadent for a thousand years past in the lands that are under the sway of the Prophet. I have been there and know and I write a long article upon this subject. The nearest approach to sheer, stark, naked savagery, I have ever seen anywhere, was in the region of the lower Tigris, where the Arab found a high order of civilization and has turned it into a dangerous desert.

The Crusaders had a great, though inadequate ideal; had it been great enough to save them from personal jealousies and rivalries they would have held the Holy Land which they conquered, and the progressive world of Christian Europe would today be dominated in the land over which the Turk reigns. In like manner, it is largely the smallness and sectarianism of organized Christianity which prevents it from conquering and retaining the lands which are its special heritage. It is less important to recover

Christ's sepulchre than it is to impart Christ's life.

Turkey contains many missions. The American Board has wrought great work in Asia Minor and Mesopotamia. Its missions are today a greater influence than the American legation and consulates for the spread of the Western ideals which are so profoundly influencing the nation. In Syria the Northern Presbyterian Church has an old and powerful mission, including the Mission Press at Beirut, where the Scriptures have been translated and published in Arabic. The American Friends have a mission near Jerusalem, and there are various small enterprises of a missionary character in the Holy Land that draw their support from this country. Down in Southern Arabia and Mesopotamia the Dutch Reformed Church is splendidly working for the Arabs. The British Church Missionary Society, and the Scotch Presbyterians, have as well the latter in diverse parts of Turkey, and the Scotch in particular minister to the Jews.

Persia, that poor and backward land, with such a romantic history, and now in the throes of a blind groping after the new life which is the heritage of nations as of individuals, has few missions, chiefly those of the American Presbyterian Church. There has been fruitful work done with individuals, but the nation as a whole has been almost neglected by the Christianity of the West.

Lovers of Oriental rugs will be interested to note that the names of many of the famous Persian rugs -- which are always place names -- are the names also of the location of Protestant mission stations -- as Hamadan Kerman Shiraz, Kazain and Isfahan.

In Persia arose, about half a century ago, and in Turkey has developed, a schism of Islam called Babism, or Behaism, which has spread to America and Europe. Its cardinal doctrine is tolerance and it has done much to ameliorate the fanaticism of Mohammedanism. One of the saddest spectacles of the Near East is the plight of the ancient Christian churches -- the Greek Catholic Church, the Armenian Catholic Church, the Syrian Church, the Chaldean Church and the Coptic Church. These disciples of the Name have held aloft the cross through long and bitter centuries, though their knowledge and love and spirituality have grown dim. They have endured unmeasured persecutions from the Moslems; no branches of Christendom can show more glorious records in this respect than they. Yet today their ignorance and superstition and mutual antipathies grieve the heart of every friend of Christ. One of the great missionary problems of the twentieth century is how to bring these ancient churches into alignment with the present-day Christianity of Europe and America.

SEVEN SENTENCE SERMONS.

In this world it is not what we take up but what we give up that makes us rich. --Henry Ward Beecher. There are nettles everywhere. But smooth green grasses are more common still; The blue of heaven is larger than the cloud. --Elizabeth Barrett Browning. They the royal-hearted are who nobly love the noblest, yet have grace for needy, suffering lives in lowliest places. --George Elliot. The world delights in sunny people. The old are hungering for love more than for bread. The air of joy is very cheap; and if you can help the poor on with a garment of praise, it will be better for them than blankets. --Henry Drummond.

If there be in front of us any painful duty, strengthen us with the grace of courage; if any act of mercy, teach us tenderness and patience. --Robert Louis Stevenson. "Where there is faith there is love; Where there is love there is peace; Where there is peace there is God; Where there is God there is no need." Duty, be it a small matter or a great, is duty still, and it is only they who do their duty in every-day and trivial matters who fulfill it on great occasions. --Charles Kingsley.

FALLS VICTIM TO THIEVES. S. W. Bends, of Coal City, Ala., has a justifiable grievance. Two thieves stole his health for twelve years. They were a liver and kidney trouble. Then Dr. King's New Life Pills throttled them. He's well now. Unrivaled for Constipation, Malaria, Headache, Dyspepsia, 25c. W. L. Hand & Co.

Capture of Illicit Still. Special to The News. Rockingham, N. C., Aug. 25. --Deputy Sheriffs Shores, McKay and McDonald captured about two miles from Hoffman, N. C., a 20-gallon whiskey still and 30-gallons of whiskey that was being run by Lawrence Latham and his 12-year-old adopted son. They were running at full blast when the deputies walked up on them. They put out to run but were captured and brought here and placed in jail, the little boy being left in the custody of the sheriff until they could get a preliminary hearing which will be given tomorrow before Commissioner W. H. Covington.

Wigg -- "That fellow Blones seems determined to attract attention somehow or other. Wagg -- "I wonder if that is why he wears squeaky shoes."

Woman's Happiness

The highest point of woman's happiness is reached only through motherhood, in the clasping of her child within her arms. Yet the mother-to-be is often fearful of nature's ordeal and shrinks from the suffering incident to its consummation. But for nature's ills and discomforts nature provides remedies, and in Mother's Friend is to be found a medicine of great value to every expectant mother. It is an oily emulsion for external application, composed of ingredients which act with beneficial and soothing effect on those portions of the system involved. It is intended to prepare the system for the crisis, and thus relieve, in great part, the suffering through which the mother usually passes. The regular use of Mother's Friend will repay any mother in the comfort it affords before, and the helpful restoration to health and strength it brings about after baby comes. Mother's Friend is for sale at drug stores. Write for our free book for expectant mothers which contains much valuable information, and many suggestions of a helpful nature. BRADFIELD REGULATOR CO., Atlanta, Ga.

HUNTING FOR MURDERERS OF NEGRO WOMAN

Special to The News. Concord, Aug. 25. --Hannah Jones, the old negro woman who was thrown into a well near Millington about midnight Sunday night on her way home from church, died at her home Tuesday morning and was buried in the graveyard at Morning Star church, the church which she had just left when the brutal murderers attacked her and died without making known the names of the men who are responsible for her death, but one fellow, Sam Walker, a grandson, has been arrested and identified by the old woman's son as one of the assassins, and is now in jail at Albemarle. The son of the old woman is a deaf mute, and is unable to tell anything about what happened as well as the names of the murderers.

The men making the attack upon the two people, thought that they had made their job complete, and that the old woman was dead, and they went to her home and ransacked it from one end to the other, taking anything and everything that they wanted. Sam Walker, grandson of Hannah Jones, had been heard to say that he was going to have the old woman's land, and this, together with circumstantial evidence, leads to the belief that he is one of the gang. Frank Goodman, the negro who struck Will Morris on the head with a stick Tuesday afternoon, while at work on the ditch for the new pipe line to Cold Water creek, was captured Wednesday afternoon near Salisbury, and Officer Benfield has been sent after him. He will be brought back here and will be given a hearing Saturday.

Friends of the movement now on foot in this city for the erection of a Y. M. C. C. here are hard at work on the proposition. Several of the young men of the city have interested themselves in the business. Train No. 37, one of the fastest trains on the Southern road, was compelled to stop on its southward journey this morning between Greensboro and Salisbury for lack of water in the boiler. A message was sent to Spencer, and a relief train was immediately sent out to the distressed engine with a supply of water. On account of the severe drought in this section of the country, it is no easy matter for the Southern to supply water for its trains, and they often have to run some little distance without a renewed supply of water. This instance, however, is, so far as known, the first time that a train has been forced to stop on the road in a helpless condition.

THE GOVERNOR HERE. Governor Kitchen spent last night at the Central on his way to Davidson where he speaks today at the merchants' picnic. He was taken to Davidson by Mr. C. O. Kuester. They went in a auto. Can't look well, eat well or feel well with impure blood feeding your body. Keep the blood pure with Burdock Blood Bitters. Eat simply, take exercise, keep clean and you will have long life. Hives, eczema, itch or salt rheum sets you crazy. Can't bear the touch of your clothing. Doan's Ointment cures the most obstinate cases. Why suffer. All druggists sell it. Don't use harsh physics. The reaction weakens the bowels, leads to chronic constipation. Get Doan's Regulators. They operate easily, tone the stomach, cure constipation. "My child was burned terribly about the face, neck and chest. I applied Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil. The pain ceased and the child sank into a restful sleep." Mrs. Nancy M. Hanson, Hamburg, N. Y.

APPALACHIAN LEAGUE IS ALL MUDDLED UP NOW.

Asheville, Aug. 25. --The affairs of the Appalachian league are in a muddle. There are hints of favoritism. At the director's meeting at Johnson City Wednesday Asheville protested against the action of the president in forfeiting to Cleveland a game to be played with Asheville because the Asheville team did not reach Cleveland in time for calling the game. The team was delayed on the way and the umpire was with it. However the directors of the league upheld the action of the president. Bristol had a grievance against Umpire Donahue and threatened to draw out of the league if he were not canned. This was a personal matter between Donahue and the Bristol manager. The directors upheld Bristol, however, and Donahue, said to be the best umpire in the league, will have to go. All of which will have the effect of causing Asheville to make a strong try for the Carolina league, where rules are more firmly established. The fact that Asheville is in a league with five Tennessee towns and that she has occupied the top of the column most of the season is considered by Asheville people as the reason for Asheville getting the short end of the deal.

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