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September 18th

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The Mighty Haag Show

SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson XIII.—Third Quarter, For Sept. 24, 1911.

THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES.

Text of the Lesson, Dan. vi, 10-23. Memory Verses, 21-23—Golden Text, Ps. xxxiv, 7—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

These historical lessons from the book of Daniel are most fascinating and most practically helpful, inasmuch as the God of Daniel and his friends is none other than our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday, today and forever and always ready to hold strongly with all whose hearts are wholly for Him, not keeping us from trials, but manifesting His presence with us in the trial and bringing us through to His glory. Men and women who believe God were never more needed than now.

Oh, for a testimony such as was given concerning Daniel, even by his enemies! We shall not find any occasion against him, except we find it concerning the law of his God (verses 4, 5). Knowing something of his habit of prayer, they asked the king to sign a decree that no one should ask a petition of any god or man save Darius for thirty days under penalty of being cast to the lions.

Although Daniel knew the decree had been signed, he kept on as of old, kneeling upon his knees in prayer three times a day, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, remembering 1 Kings viii, 47-49. His enemies did not need to watch long in order to catch him in their net, and the king was promptly informed that "that Daniel of the captivity of Judah regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed" (verse 18). If the king had not before seen the design of his presidents and princes against Daniel he saw it now and was sore displeased, not with Daniel, but with himself that he had not seen through this plot before signing the decree.

He labored in vain to deliver his prime minister, whom he evidently esteemed and loved, but even the law of God, which is holy and just and good, cannot save any one, much less this law of the Medes and Persians, which was only a great iniquity. Our deliverance from the condemnation of the holy law of God is accomplished only by a sinless person taking the place of the guilty and suffering in our stead (1 Cor. v, 21; Rom. iii, 19-24; x, 4).

We do not read that Darius so loved Daniel that he gave himself for him and went to the den of lions in his stead, but we do read just that virtually of Jesus Christ (1 Pet. ii, 24; Gal. ii, 20, 1. c.). Daniel was cast to the lions (probably not very gently), a stone laid upon the mouth of the den and sealed with the signet of the king and his lords. Imagine the rejoicing on the part of his enemies because they were now rid of him, and no doubt they ridiculed the God of Daniel who could not deliver him from the lions nor from their power.

After a night of sleeplessness and fasting very early in the morning the king is found at the den of lions calling aloud to Daniel if perchance he may still be alive. Surely Darius must have learned something of the power of Daniel's God to be able to imagine such a thing possible and to encourage him as he did on his way to the den. With what joy and gratitude the king must have heard the voice of Daniel and the words, "My God hath sent His angel and hath shut the lions' mouths that they have not hurt me" (22).

So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him because he believed in his God (23).

Thus shall it be in the morning of the first resurrection. No matter what the saints have suffered here in their mortal bodies, the resurrection body will be perfect, for we shall be like Him (1 John iii, 2). The accusers of Daniel were then cast into the den of lions, with their wives and children, and there was no deliverance for them.

As to the righteous and the wicked, we read in Ps. xlix, 14, that the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning. Study the morning deliverances of Scripture, but note that there will be no morning for the enemies of God (Isa. viii, 20, R. V.). In verses 25 to 27 see how by a worldwide decree the living God, the God of Daniel, was magnified. How telling are the words in verse 28, "So this Daniel prospered," and according to the last sentence in his book we shall find him in his appointed place in the kingdom—that kingdom under the whole heaven which is to be given to the people of the saints of the Most High, when all dominions shall serve and obey Him (Dan. vii, 27). That will be after or in connection with the overthrow of all the kingdoms of this world, as set forth in Dan. ii and vii. The great, self-exalting, God-defying antichrist shall come to his end, and none shall help him (Dan. xi, 36-38, 45).

Then shall "the stone" without human aid break in pieces the world powers and fill the earth with a kingdom of peace and righteousness, and the enemies of the Lord shall perish as truly as did Daniel's enemies (Dan. ii, 34, 35-44; vii, 9-14; II Thess. i, 7-10). The Messiah has been cut off without receiving His kingdom, but at the end of the seventieth week everlasting righteousness shall be the portion of Daniel's people (Dan. ix, 24-27; Isa. lix, 21; xxxii, 1-17; Jer. xxiii, 5, 6).

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Under and by virtue of an order of resale made by the Superior court of Franklin county, on August 10, 1911, in that special proceedings entitled R. T. Williams et al vs C. E. Gupton et al the undersigned commissioner will, on Monday, the 2nd day of October, 1911, it being the first Monday in October, at about the hour of noon, at the court house door, in Louisburg, offer for sale to the highest bidder, for cash, that certain tract of land described and defined as follows: Adjoining the lands of Lawrence Gupton, Wesley Burnett, William Evans and others, lying on Mill stone creek, being part of the David Gupton land known as the school house tract, containing 20 acres more or less. This Sept. 1st 1911

W. H. Yarborough, Jr. Wm. H. Ruffin, Commissioners.

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