

# THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

LESSON II, THIRD QUARTER, INTERNATIONAL SERIES, JULY 12.

Text of the Lesson, I Sam. x, 17-27. Memory Verses, 24, 25—Golden Text, Isa. xxxiii, 23—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

[Copyright, 1908, by American Press Association.] 17. And Samuel called the people together unto the Lord to Mizpeh.

The people persisting in demanding a king that they might be like other nations, God selected the man and brought him to Samuel in a remarkable way, and Samuel, having entertained him and kept him over night, anointed him the next morning and sent him on his way. This lesson tells of the Lord's public election of him to be Israel's king. The story of how God led him to Samuel, as recorded in chapter ix, is one of the most interesting of all Bible stories. The weary, disappointed, hungry man going to the prophet to inquire about the lost asses and finding an unexpected welcome and feast and communion and rest for body and mind and then to be told that he was chosen to be a king—who ever heard of such surprises? And yet it is all a foretelling of the way by which every child of God is led in unexpected ways to share with Christ His glory.

18, 19. Ye have this day rejected your God, who Himself saved you out of all your adversities and your tribulations, and ye have said unto Him, Nay, but set a king over us.

They are reminded of all the Lord had done for them in the great deliverance from Egypt and in all His wondrous care of them and are told plainly that their present conduct is a deliberate rejection of Him notwithstanding all that He had done. It was only a short time before the events of our lesson that they were gathered at this same Mizpeh entreating Samuel to cease not to cry unto the Lord for them that He would deliver them from the Philistines, and, being delivered, they set up the Ebenezer stone, saying, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us" (chapter vii, 8, 12).

20-22. When they sought him, he could not be found. Therefore they inquired of the Lord further if the man should yet come thither, and the Lord answered, Behold, he hath hid himself among the stuff.

All Israel presented themselves before the Lord by their tribes, and the lot was cast for the tribe and for the family and for the man, with the result that Saul, the son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin, was chosen. But he could not be found. God knew the kind of man whom they would like, and He was going to give them a man after their own heart, and now He guided the lot to bring him before them, for "the lot is cast into the lap, but the whole disposing thereof is of the Lord" (Prov. xvi, 33). Saul knew through Samuel that God had selected him (x, 1), and, knowing this, it was a becoming thing not to put himself forward, but let all see that he had no hand in the election.

23, 24. And they ran and fetched him thence, and when he stood among the people, he was higher than any of the people, from his shoulders and upward, and Samuel said to all the people, See ye him whom the Lord hath chosen.

In chapter ix, 2, we read that he was a choice young man and not a goodlier person in all Israel. Flesh and blood, and plenty of it, even of good quality, is not everything, else Goliath and other giants might be envied. Neither is outward appearance everything—that which people call presence—as Samuel afterward learned when he appointed a man after God's heart instead of one to please the people (chapter xvi, 6, 7). Contrast the youth and probable slight figure of David (xvii, 33); also that which is written of another Saul of the tribe of Benjamin (II Cor. x, 10). The people are pleased with their visible king, a choice man and one of noble appearance.

25. Then Samuel told the people the manner of the kingdom and wrote it in a book and laid it up before the Lord, and Samuel sent all the people away, every man to his house.

He would doubtless write Deut. xvii, 14-20, with perhaps additions. If the king would consider himself the Lord's representative and act for the Lord toward the people, in all things consulting Him, obeying and honoring Him, he might yet be well by the mercy of God; but if he, like the people, turns away from God, lives to please himself or the people and relies on human wisdom or strength all will be lost. The Lord alone must be exalted (Isa. li, 17).

26. And Saul also went home to Gibeah, and there went with him a band of men whose hearts God had touched.

God would help him by giving him helpers and friends. He does everything to make it easy for us to do right if we are only willing to serve Him in sincerity and truth. He is the same God who saw that it was not good for Adam to be alone (Gen. ii, 18), who also sent the disciples out by twos (Luke x, 1), and He always in due time provides helpers for such as are willing to dwell with Him for His work (I Chron. iv, 23; Isa. xlii, 10).

27. But the children of Belial said, How shall this man save us? And they despised him and brought him no presents, but he held his peace.

When God works, the adversary also works, and if we are on the Lord's side, while we are sure to have friends, we will also have many to despise us. When such rise up against us, it is well to do as Saul did and act as though we were deaf. See the margin and also Pa. xxxviii, 13. When later the friends of Saul cried out for the lives of these enemies, He would not allow them to be harmed (chapter xi, 12, 13). It is very interesting to note all the good points in Saul, and they are many up to this time.

## King Peter's Worries.

Baltimore Sun. King Peter Karageorgevitch, of Serbia, is finding his crown not without thorns. His title is soiled by the fact that he was more or less remotely connected with the plotters by whose murderous act he profits. He confirms the distrust felt generally outside Serbia by keeping as his Ministers the leaders in the assassination of his predecessor, and by promoting, or permitting the promotion of, the officers of the army who killed King Alexander, instead of punishing them. Austria and Russia have asked for the punishment of the assassins, but enter into relations with the new Government tantamount to a recognition. Italy, England, France and Germany, on the other hand, have maintained an attitude of reserve. England, in fact, has withdrawn her Minister from Belgrade, declining to maintain ordinary diplomatic relations with the murderers, and the same course has been adopted by the Governments of the United States, Holland, Roumania and other countries. In Serbia the events of June 10 do not excite the disgust and amazement felt elsewhere; on the contrary at Belgrade it is believed that the assassination was a highly meritorious act and has raised Serbia in the eyes of the civilized world. A local journal affirms that it "has saved the honor of Serbia," and excited enthusiastic admiration in Austria, Italy, Germany and all other countries, except England. No doubt King Peter can get along without the approbation of the outside world, until he needs a loan. But the conditions under which he gets his new dignity augur ill for its duration.

Gold Ore Worth \$50,000 Ton. SALISBURY, July 1.—Mr. Frank H. Mauney, of Gold Hill, a mining man of many years, experience and one of the leading citizens of the community in which he lives, said to-day, regarding the rich strike recently made by the Whitney Reduction Company at the Barringer mine, that he believing it to be by far the greatest ever made in a Southern State. He was convinced that large bodies of the ore are worth as high as \$50,000 a ton and that half a million dollars is now immediately in sight. Mr. Mauney would not hazard an opinion as to the continued yield of the vein beyond this point, but said that it might be immense. He was greatly impressed by the presence in the ore of masses of nearly pure gold larger than a man's fist. Especially because the Whitney people do not court publicity or care about issuing statements. The Observer correspondent was very glad to get Mr. Mauney's testimony, which is both expert and thoroughly reliable. He is a conservative man by nature and habit and has no interest or connection with the subject matter of his statements to cause him to take a sanguine view.

Yesterday afternoon the two-foot vein which yields this extremely rich ore was struck by a second level from the parallel shaft at a depth of slightly more than 100 feet, all the indication for a much greater depth continuing good. The vein was first struck at a depth of 35 feet.

Sunken Mountain Smoking. Charlotte Observer. A letter received in Charlotte recently says that there is renewed excitement in the vicinity of the mountain in Alexander county that was reported to have sunk, a few weeks ago. Out of that part of the mountain which still appears above ground smoke is seen to be issuing. The excitement of the natives is said to be equal only to that which prevailed when Bald Mountain was seen to be smoking after a slight tremor, about 20 years ago.

That something is doing in the vicinity of the Alexander county mountain, there can be no doubt. It began to sink 30 days before the going into effect of the Wattle law, and on the very day that laws became operative smoke was seen issuing from the hole which the sunken mountain left in the landscape. The inference is that the smoke from the sunken mountain indicates that moonshine operation have begun. "The mountain sure did sink," said the letter in question, "and it is either a volcano or a still. The people up here are nervous about the matter and want the revenue department to make an investigation."

Anti-Saloon Law in Tennessee. The Supreme Court has held the Adams law passed at the last session of the Legislature to be constitutional. The action is a permanent measure and provides for the abolition of saloons in all towns having a population of 5,000 or under, upon submission of the question to a popular vote. There were only eight towns in the State that are exempt from its operation.

## LYNCHING BOLDLY UPHELD.

Dr. Bartlett Preaches a Sermon to a Chicago Congregation in Which He Expresses His Views in Strong Language. Chicago Dispatch. "I am no advocate of lynching or mob law, but I would rather see a community wrought up to the highest pitch over crimes that would seem impossible this side of hell, than to remain apathetic," was the declaration of Rev. Dr. Bartlett, at the First Congregational church to-day, in a prelude on "Lynching From Another Point of View." Dr. Bartlett said, among other things: "I have seen so many sermons, editorials and resolutions denouncing lynching and mob law that one gets the impression that the citizens who hang or burn the destroyer of life, home and all that is held sacred by womanhood, are the race offenders rather than the monsters whom they destroy. "We seem to be so absorbed with the majesty of this vague term 'law,' that the notion appears to prevail that the real criminals are those who do not wait for legal processes, and the violator of womanhood is the abused party. "We shudder at the torture of the criminal who is burned, but apparently forget to shudder for the innocent girl, whose mental and spiritual agony is tenfold greater than that of the fire. This is not a race problem, except so far as one race are the offenders. The white man who commits the same crime is just as guilty. "The indignant uprising of a community, and some of the best men in it, to avenge a wrong of such awful magnitude may be technically lawless, but the spirit which causes the uprising is the reflection of a higher civilization. There are crimes so dreadful that the pure and the chivalrous and the strong find it well nigh impossible to endure the thought that such a degenerate should pollute the earth with his presence. It is easy to theorize about the anarchy of mob law, but the same hand which penned the calm editorial might be the first to grasp the torch if it were a mother, wife or daughter who was the victim. "I say that when you look at a lynching from another view point, it is simply the bursting forth of an indignation and loathing that will not be checked. In the Old Testament days, they make short work of such an offender. "Lynching is certainly a bad method, and forms the habit of disorder and makes men bloodthirsty. But if it is to be avoided, there certainly is call for a more sure and speedy trial of these wretches, who often brazenly deny crime amid the red tape of legal processes and confess abjectly when confronted with determined men. It is useless to bring to trial good men who rise up to protect their firesides. The community will not bear it. If men object to being burned, let them cease from crimes which make a nation sick."

"Trust in God and Shotgun." WASHINGTON, Pa., June 29.—Rev. M. F. A. Easton, pastor of Wright's African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, preaching, on the Wilmington lynching last evening, advised his hearers to arm themselves for the "impending conflict" between the white and the colored races. The white race is deteriorating, he said, lapsing into barbarism and savagery, while the negro race is "coming gradually up and will be dominant." If he were in favor of mob violence, he declared, he would first hang "Ben Tillman and some other Senators."

"But two things are open to the negro," he said. "Trust in God and the shotgun. The devil and the mob will get you on the streets of Washington. The whole country is going money mad."

Letter Returned After Four Years. Statesville Landmark. On the 5th day of September, 1899, Mr. R. V. Brawley mailed a check to Mr. A. L. Miller at Venis, Ashe county. Mr. Miller notified Mr. Brawley after a reasonable time of his failure to get the check. Nothing more was heard of the missing check or letter until last week, when the letter was returned to Mr. Brawley. It had not gone to the dead letter office and had not been opened. The envelope had Mr. Brawley's name and address printed on it. Where it spent nearly four years is not known.

Postal Deficit Nearly Double That of Last Year. WASHINGTON, July 2.—Capt. Castle, the auditor of the Treasury for the Postoffice Department, to-day made the official estimate that the postal deficiency for the fiscal year just closed will be \$4,617,203. The deficit for the previous fiscal year was \$2,961,170. This big increase is attributed to the enormous increase in expenditures from the rural free delivery service during the past year. The receipts of the postal service for the year were \$134,268,000 and the expenditures \$138,885,812.

The Pennsylvania Railroad has ordered anybody arrested that throws rice around its depots when a bride and groom come to take the train.

Bloody Fight Over a Ditch. A bloody battle, the result of a quarrel over the cutting of a ditch, took place at Quaker Gap, in Stokes county, last week, resulting in the killing of Cap King and the serious injury of a deputy sheriff. King and Deputy Steven Smith went to the home of John Rhodes to serve a warrant. Rhodes open fire on them from the house. They retreated into the mountains, followed by Rhodes, Russell, Jones and three others. King and Smith were overtaken. Jones emptied the contents of a gun into the body of King, killing him instantly. Jones also knocked Deputy Smith down with a hoe, wounding him seriously. Rhodes and Jones surrendered and are in jail at Capilla, a town near the scene of the tragedy.

Montreat Bible Conference. The Montreat Bible conference will be held this year on August 9-18, under the direction of Rev. Walter Holcomb. This is the fifth session of the conference and will embrace a wide scope of biblical instruction. Among the speakers who will be present and deliver addresses are the following: Rev. Dr. W. E. Bridewell, of Monticello, Indiana. Rev. Dr. Charles W. Byrd, pastor of the First Methodist church in Atlanta. Rev. Dr. A. C. Barron, pastor of the Tryon Street Baptist church, Charlotte. Rev. W. M. Vines, pastor of the First Baptist church, Asheville.

Questions in Geography. Who Rhode Is and? Who did Tennessee? How much did Ohio? What can Colorado? What made Wisconsin? How many did Illinois? Who was it Arkan-saw? One must suffer in order to tolerate the sufferings of others.

## As to Character—A Low Standard of Morals.

Elder D. P. Gold, in Wilson Times. If a man who gets drunk and does vile things while drunk has a good character, except when he is drunk, what sort of a character does a man possess who never gets drunk, but attends to his duty as every man should? Is it not a shame for a man to get drunk even if he lie down asleep all the time he is drunk? What a low standard of morals do people have who excuse a man for crime because he commits it when drunk. What right has a man to get drunk. From the exhibitions of vile conduct in our town recently—all chargeable, they say, to drunkenness—surely our people could condemn that vicious habit. A man should be punished for the evil he does while drunk because he has no right to be drunk. What is character? It is the estimation one is entitled to be held in by those who love right and abhor evil. A man to be a judge of character should himself be honest and sober minded, having some intelligence. Vile men are not judges of character, for they love vile men, and hate good men. One that does well should be esteemed according to his doing; one who does evil should be rated according to his evil deeds.

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## Auditor Dixon's Strenuous Ways.

Raleigh Cor. Charlotte Observer. It is very safe to say that no man is more useful and more popular than State Auditor Dixon. He certainly leads what may be called a strenuous life, one which would delight President Roosevelt. A friend of the doctor tells the story of his work one day during his recent swing around the State, when he was making commencement addresses. No man was in such request this year for this purpose as the genial doctor. He arrived at the town of Winterville one morning and was met at the station by an escort composed of school committeemen and ex-Confederate veterans. On the way up town a horse met the procession, became frightened and ran away, throwing two ladies out of the buggy. Several front teeth of one of the ladies were loosened by the jar. Dr. Dixon was promptly on the spot and extracted the injured teeth. He then discovered that one of the horse's legs was broken. He at once proceeded to set the leg in splints, having made a practical study of veterinary surgery. The march was then resumed and on arrival at the school house the doctor made a ringing address. A barbecue was afterwards served and the doctor said grace for the thousand or more eaters present. This interesting event over, he made a stirring talk to the Confederate veterans, and was then hurried to the Methodist church, where he addressed the Sunday School. By this time supper was in order and after this had been disposed of he went to the town hall and made an address on education, urging local aid for public schools. This is the way the doctor fills in his days when he is on a tour. It may readily be imagined that he is tired when night comes. One incident of this particular day remains untold. A man fell out of a second-story window of the school house, dislocated his shoulder and broke his collar bone. The doctor stepped down stairs, reduced the dislocation and fixed the collar bone all right.

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Mistrial in Jones Case. WILSON, June 30.—After being out from 3 o'clock Saturday until 9:30 this morning, the jury in the Jones murder case had not arrived at a verdict, and as they stated that they did not think they could agree, Judge Shaw discharged them and a mistrial was ordered. Bail for the five defendants was fixed at \$6,000. Up to the present time none have been able to give it. Former Police Officer Snakenberg was indicted for criminal neglect of duty on the night of the killing, and placed in custody of the sheriff. His bond was fixed at \$200, which was quickly given. Luther Barnes, who has been under \$200 bond for perjury was fully exonerated.

Deacon Johnson—"No, Bredder Smif, we cant all be powful. You ant' be confinted to be a hewer ob wood an' a drawah of wash," Misto Smif "Laws abe yo', honey taint so had as dat. De ole woman does all dem little chores!"

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