

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL

# Sunday School Lesson

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LESSON FOR OCTOBER 21

## ISRAEL IN THE MIDST OF THE NATIONS

LESSON TEXT—Josh. 1:1-4; Isa. 2:2-4; Isa. 19:23-25; Ezek. 5:5.  
GOLDEN TEXT—"Look unto me and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth."  
—Isa. 45:22.

PRIMARY TOPIC—The Beautiful Land of Israel.  
JUNIOR TOPIC—The Land God Chose for His People.  
INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Israel in the Midst of the Nations.  
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—The Strategic Position of Palestine.

### I. Israel's Geographical Position (Josh. 1:1-4, cf. Ezek. 5:5).

Israel, God's chosen and most favored nation, the nation to whom He came nearest and gave most in order that it might pass on His goodness to the other nations of the world; was given a most strategic position in the earth. "Palestine was adapted as no other country for God's great purpose of preparing a pure religion and sending it to all the world. To this end a single nation was selected, trained and placed in the center of the world, so that when the time came to publish the true religion all lands could be reached. Palestine was central and isolated, yet accessible, for when the time came for the apostles to go from Palestine by the Mediterranean sea to the lands round about it, and from there to other lands, their way was open."

1. Their Leader. (Josh. 1:1). Joshua was Moses' assistant. He led the Israelites to victory over the Amalekites soon after their escape from Egypt. He was with Moses in the Mount when the law was given. He was one of the spies sent into the land of Canaan. When Moses knew that his time of departure was nigh he appointed Joshua his successor.

2. Condition of the Possession of the Land (v. 3). The land was theirs by God's promise, but it became theirs only as their feet advanced to take possession of it. Because of their lack of faith, courage and obedience they never enjoyed the full possession of it. Christians today lack the riches of the Heavenly Father's blessings because of their want of faith and courage.

3. Its Boundaries (v. 4). On the north it was bounded by the rugged mountains of Lebanon; on the east by the Euphrates river; on the south by the "great and terrible" desert, a barren region through which the children of Israel had wandered for forty years; and on the west by the Mediterranean sea. It included all of Mesopotamia. Israel's lack of faith prevented them from possessing fully this land.

4. Israel's Spiritual and National Position (Isa. 2:2-4; 19:23-25). This picture the place of influence which shall be exercised by Israel in a future time.

1. When it Shall Be (v. 2)—"In the last days." By "last days" is usually meant in Scripture the times of the Messiah, for this is the primary subject of all prophecy.

2. What it Shall Be (v. 2). The restoration of the kingdom of Judah to the place of pre-eminence among the nations of the world. "Mountain" in Scripture symbolizes kingdom (see Dan. 2:35; Rev. 14:1; 17:9-11). This vision of Zion's glory refers to the millennial age, at which time other nations of the world will learn of the true God through the chosen nation.

3. The Result of (vv. 2-4). The return of God's favor to this chosen people shall be "life from the dead." To the nations of the earth (Rom. 11:15). (1) Nations shall flow unto it (v. 2). This pictures the masses of the people moving toward Jerusalem like streams from all parts of the earth. (2) Nations encouraging each other (v. 3). All jealousies are now taken from nations, and with good will to each other they are moving to Jerusalem, the world's capital. They are going there to be taught of God the right ways to walk. They go to be instructed out of His holy Word. There is but one way to peace in the world, that is, back to God through His holy Scriptures. (3) Peace in the earth (v. 4). When Israel shall be in her God-appointed place with Jesus Christ as king, then war will be over. The implements of war will then be destroyed. (4) Friendly communication (Isa. 19:23-25). As soon as wickedness is taken from men's hearts they will establish means of friendly communication.

### Good Tidings.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings.—Isa. 52:7.

### Holy Scripture.

Holy Scripture is a stream of running water, where alike the elephant may swim, and the lamb walk without losing its feet.—Gregory the Great.

### Cultivated Countries.

Countries are well cultivated, not as they are fertile, but as they are free.—Montesquieu.

### Worship.

Be not so bigoted to any custom as to worship it at the expense of truth.—Zimmerman.

# RAPID GROWTH HAS COME TO BAPTISTS

75 MILLION CAMPAIGN HAS LENT STRENGTH TO EVERY DEPARTMENT OF WORK

## RESULTS IN SOUTH NOTED

Home and State Missions, Schools, Orphanages, Hospitals and Relief Report Marked Advances Under Forward Movement.



DR. B. D. GRAY, Secretary, Home Mission Board South.

Suggesting the growth which the Baptist 75 Million Campaign has brought to the general work of Southern Baptists, it is reported by the general headquarters of the movement that during the four years that have intervened since the Campaign was inaugurated in 1919, the denomination has gained 57 district associations, 881 active ministers, 3,068 local churches, 3,287 Sunday schools with 469,223 pupils, 8,683 Young People's Unions with 233,317 members, and 7,694 Woman's Missionary Union organizations, and baptized 762,880 persons. At the same time the churches have given \$28,776,937 more to missions, Christian education and benevolences than they did during the corresponding period prior to the Campaign, and have increased their investment in local church property by \$45,405,118.

Nitrate of soda doubled the yield of wheat on the farm of O. C. Brison near Mt. Gilead in Montgomery County. He applied 100 pounds per acre as a top dresser about the last of February. He made 10 1/2 bushels per acre where the soda was applied and only five bushels where no soda was used.

Black wool doesn't sell as high as the wool but the meat from a black sheep is just as good as that from a white sheep, so butchers the black animal say livestock workers at the State College and Department.

The larger resources made possible for missions and benevolences through the channels of the Campaign have been responsible for great advances in every form of denominational work, both at home and abroad.

**Complete Church Building Fund**  
Among the outstanding achievements of the Home Mission Board, operating throughout the territory of the Southern Baptist Convention, are noted the completion of its million dollar church building loan fund, the baptism of 173,602 persons, reception into the churches of 277,968 persons, enrollment of 11,772 young people in the dedication of their lives to some definite form of Christian service, building or improvement of 1,873 church houses, and organization of 935 Baptist churches and 2,898 new Sunday schools.

Practically twice the state mission results have been accomplished in many of the states since the Campaign began as were had for any corresponding period of time prior to that movement.

Southern Baptists own 118 Baptist schools, colleges and seminaries, where nearly 40,000 young people are studying to fit themselves for larger usefulness. The number of students has been greatly increased through the Campaign making possible the larger equipment of the schools, and the investment which that movement has made possible in the schools is equal to about 45 per cent of their total value at the time the Campaign was inaugurated.

**4,000 Orphans Cared For**  
Nearly 4,000 orphan boys and girls are cared for in the 19 Baptist orphanages of the South. Two new orphanages have been provided by the Campaign and practically all of the older ones have been given better equipment by this movement. The equipment is not large enough yet as 2,000 boys and girls had to be turned away last year because the institutions had no more room.

When the Campaign was launched Southern Baptists had only 12 hospitals. Today that number has been increased to 21. Last year over 47,000 patients were treated in these hospitals, a large number of these being charity patients who could not have had an opportunity to get well except through some such assistance.

The Relief and Annuity Board, serving aged ministers, is now aiding more than 925 beneficiaries and has expended in direct relief since the Campaign began the sum of \$44,892.46.

It will require \$21,000,000 additional cash to complete the Campaign by the end of the period in 1924, and every effort is being made to enlist all Southern Baptists in having a share in this task.

Miss Julia Moss of Edneyville won the prize offered by the Hendersonville News for the best farm story in September. Her article was about farm improvement.

Plant some nitrogen-gathering legumes for soil improvement and live stock pasturage.

A feed cleaner will increase crop yields and pay a profit for the investment. With cotton alone it will remove from 10 to 20 percent of its valuable feed, finds Dr. R. Y. Winters of the State College staff.

## THE BLIND PREACHER.

By William Wirt.

It was one Sunday, as I travelled through the county of Orange, that my eye was caught by a cluster of horses tied near a ruinous, old, wooden house in the forest, not far from the roadside. Having frequently seen such objects before, in traveling through these States, I had no difficulty in understanding that this was a place of religious worship.

Devotion alone should have stopped me, to join in the duties of the congregation; but I must confess that curiosity to hear the preacher of such a wilderness was not the least of my motives. On entering, I was struck with his preternatural appearance. He was a tall and very spare old man; his head, which was covered with a white linen cap, his shrivelled hands, and his voice, were all shaking under the influence of a palsy; and a few moments ascertained to me that he was perfectly blind.

The first emotions which touched my breast were those of mingled pity and veneration. But, how soon were all my feeling changed! The lips of Plato were never more worthy of a prognostic swarm of bees than were the lips of this holy man. It was a day of the administration of the sacrament; and his subject, of course, was the Passion of our Saviour. I had heard the subject handled a thousand times; I had thought it exhausted long ago. Little did I suppose that in the wild woods of America, I was to meet with a man whose eloquence would give to this topic a new and more sublime pathos than I ever before witnessed.

As he descended from the pulpit to distribute the mystic symbols, there was a peculiar, a more than human solemnity in his air and manner which made my blood run cold, and my whole frame shiver. He then drew a picture of the sufferings of our Saviour—his trial before Pilate; his ascent up Calvary; his crucifixion, and his death. I know the whole history; but, never, until then, had I heard the circumstances so selected, so arranged, so colored. It was all new; and I seemed to have heard it for the first time in my life. His enunciation was so deliberate, that his voice trembled on every syllable and every heart in the assembly trembled in unison.

His peculiar phrases had that force of description; that the original scene seemed to be at that moment before our eyes. We saw the faces of the Jews—the staring, frightful distortions of malice and rage. We saw the buffet, my soul kindled with a flame of indignation; and my hands were involuntarily and convulsively clenched.

But when he came to touch on the patience, the forgiving meekness of our Saviour; when he drew to the life, his blessed eyes streaming in

tears to heaven,—his voice breathing to God a soft and gentle prayer of pardon on his enemies, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do,"—the voice of the preacher, which had all along faltered, grew fainter and fainter, until, his utterance being entirely obstructed by the force of his feelings, he raised his handkerchief to his eyes, and burst into a loud and irrepressible flood of grief. The effect is inconceivable. The whole house resounded with the mingled groans, and sobs, and shrieks of the congregation.

It was some time before the tumult had subsided so far as to permit him to proceed. Indeed, judging by the usual, but fallacious standard of my own weakness, I began to be very uneasy for the situation of the preacher. For I could not conceive how he

would be able to let his audience down from the height to which he had wound them, without impairing the solemnity and dignity of his subject, or perhaps shocking them by the abruptness of the fall. But—no; the descent was as beautiful and sublime, as the elevation had been rapid and enthusiastic.

The first sentence with which he broke the awful silence was a quotation from Rousseau: "Socrates died like a philosopher, but Jesus Christ, like a God." I despair of giving you any idea of the effect produced by this short sentence unless you could perfectly conceive the whole manner of the man, as well as the peculiar crisis in the discourse. Never before did I completely understand what Demosthenes meant by laying such

(Continued on page three.)

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