

Asa's Religious Reforms

ILLUSTRATED SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By Alfred J. Buescher

Scripture—II Chronicles 14-16



Asa succeeded his father, Abijah, to the throne of Judah. "And he took away the altars of the strange gods, and the high places, and brake down the images, and cut down the groves."

The Ethiopians, having a huge army, attacked the kingdom of Judah, but Asa the king appealed to the Lord, who smote the Ethiopian hosts, so that they fled, pursued by the army of Judah.

Asariah the prophet went to meet Asa, telling him that as long as he and his people were true to God, He would be with them; but if they forsook Him the Lord would forsake them.

King Asa gathered his people and the strangers in his realm. They came to Jerusalem for a great revival, vowing to seek the Lord with all their souls. **MEMORY VERSE**—II Chronicles 15:2.

Laying Flock Prospects Good For Next Year According To Market Specialist

Prospects for profits from well-managed laying flocks appear very good for next fall, according to C. P. Libeau, State College extension marketing specialist. Long-run competition in laying flocks point toward lower income per bird but also lower costs per hen and flock of 1,000 hens or more over the next 10 years.

Libeau points to the fact that in the past five months, fewer pullets have been started than last year at the same period. Greatest reduction in potential layers for next fall has been in the surplus egg producing states of the mid-west that send many eggs to North Carolina.

Price outlook for future months may be used in making farm plans for higher incomes and profits. The present strength in egg prices in relation to the expectation of a smaller supply of eggs next fall, he adds.

Farmers received an average of 23.7 cents per pound live weight for chickens (farm chickens and commercial broilers) in mid-February, compared with 22.4 cents a year earlier. Farm chickens averaged 18.8 cents and commercial broilers 25.2 cents, compared with 21.7 and 22.6 cents, respectively, in mid-February last year. Farm turkey prices on February 15 averaged 28.1 cents a pound live weight, compared with 32.2 cents a year earlier.



Scripture: Mark 16:1-7; John 11:26-27; 14:1-9; Corinthians 15.

We Shall Live

"ETERNAL LIFE" has two meanings in the New Testament. One meaning refers to life beyond death. And yet this meaning is never applied to all human beings. It is either taken for granted or taught outright in the New Testament that all persons survive what we call death. But "eternal life" refers in this sense only to the survival of those who have accepted God's grace, never to those who have rejected it. The other meaning has to do with a quality of life itself, here and now, in this world, this side of what we call death.

Everlasting Life Can Be Terrible
The point is that if this quality of life is lacking in this world, the prospect of immortality is the most dismal that can be imagined. A modern pessimistic poem ends with the thought that in our whole universe we find everything contemptible,—there is nothing to praise, not even ourselves. Suppose a person who has come down to that wretched conclusion goes on out through the curtain of death into the beyond,—facing the prospect of endless existence, still seeing nothing but the contemptible within and without? What worse hell could be needed than that? So in the New Testament, immortality, as such, the mere prospect of personal survival after death,—is never held out as something to be desired in itself. Eternal life, life that endures beyond death, is desirable only when the person who looks forward to it already possesses eternal life, as a changed and new life. To put it another way: Only those who have been born again can be happy in looking forward to their "birthday in heaven." A corpse lying in the baggage car does not look forward to the train's arrival at its destination; only the living may have that pleasure. The corpse exists; the passengers live. So the Christian thought of life—beyond is not "We shall exist" but rather "We shall live."

Christ Lives in Me
The other argument which lies at the heart of the Christian's faith in a "life everlasting" which is worth looking forward to, is based on personal experience. "Christ lives in me" was the testimony of Paul first, and it echoes from the hearts of Christians ever since. When a man honestly thinks himself over, and asks, "What have I done, what am I, that God should trouble himself about me any longer? What right have I to expect, much less to demand, life everlasting?" his answer will be a melancholy "Nothing." Life that has no present sheen or strength of eternity about it or in it, has outlived itself in less than three score years and ten. But if there is anything in a man that Christ has touched, if there is anything in a man that warrants saying, "Christ lives here," then he will dare and rejoice to say "Christ, 'We shall live.'"

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-Go To Church Sunday-

OUR RESURRECTION HOPE

BY REV. C. HERMAN TRUEBLOOD

Scripture lesson: "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even then so shall they which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the arch-angel, and with the trumpet of God; and THE DEAD IN CHRIST SHALL RISE FIRST. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore COMFORT ONE ANOTHER WITH THESE WORDS." I Thes.

Any one who believes in the supernatural power of God, and the divinity of Christ, should have no difficulty in accepting wholeheartedly the doctrine of the Resurrection of Christ. The three basic fundamental tenets of the Christian religion are found in 1st Corinthians 15: 3-4: "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that (1) CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS, according to the Scriptures;

1. OBSERVE THREE STUPENDOUS SPIRITUAL CONSIDERATIONS (1). THE MOST FEARFUL SUPPOSITION. "If in this world only we have hope we are of all men most miserable" I or. 15:19 (See 1 Cor. 15:12-19).

2. THE MOST INSISTENT INQUIRY. "In a man die shall he live again?" Job. 14:14. This is the oldest, as well as newest, and most universal of all questions.

(3). THE MOST GLORIOUS FACT. "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of the mthat slept." I Cor. 15:20.

2. THE RESULTS OF THE RESURRECTION PROVE THE FACT OF THE RESURRECTION.

The shirking, shrinking, deserting disciples were changed into bold, courageous witnesses for Christ, and were accused of "turning the world upside down." All the previous claims of Christ were vindicated; the church emerged on the day of Pentecost as a conquering spiritual force; a new day, the Lord's first day of the week, instead of the seventh day) became the most prominent day of "worship; the most inspiring incentive for Christian living, and the MOST ENDURING CHRISTIAN HOPE is based upon the resurrection of our Blessed Lord.

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