Sunday School Lesson (Continued from Page 3)

As long as earth remains, God declared that order would persist. Day and night, summer and winter, cold and heat, seedtime and harvest, would never fail.

The meaning of this promise cannot be fully appreciated until it is placed beside the Canaanite idea that the changing seasons and, with them, agricultural productivity were dependent upon the unpredictability of the Baals. The biblical

plant with the confidence that a harvest will surely follow.

The second part of God's pronever again cestroy all life by water. In then of this player God set a rinbow in the sky. Obviously, the intent of this story was not to account for the origin of the rainbow. Doubtless, rainbows had appeared folowing rains before. The point of emphasis is that God chose true of Noah. the rainbow as a symbol of his promise.

A Story With a Point The episode in the Noah story

is embarrassing for many Christians. They see Noah's behavior as unfitting for a hero of the mise to Noah was that he would faith. However, the candor with which the Bible treats the story fended by nakedness than is refreshing. We can appreciate drunkenness; yet both were conthe fact that the Bible is a trary to their concepts of rightrealistic book. It presents human nature with both its lights and its shadows. Sometimes good men fall victim to the evils they deplore. This was, no doubt,

But we must not lose sight of a larger consideration the author had in mind in including account affirms that one can that refers to his drunkenness as now, drunkenness was count-

ec undesirable. And added to the problem was Noah's exposure, resulting from his stupor. The Hebrews were more ofeousness.

In particular, however, the attitude toward Noah's drunken exposure reflected Israel's dislike for the drunkenness, sexual perversion, and sacred prostitution common among the Canaanites. Thus, appropriate to this attitude, the story concludes with a curse being placed on Canaan because of her moral laxity.

Conclusion

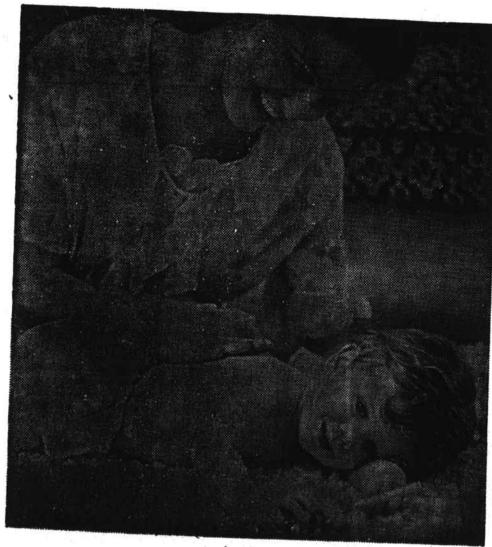
We conclude this lesson with appreciation for the contribution the Flood narrative makes to our faith. Obviously moral corruption did not end with the Flood. Nor in Noah do we find the perfect example of regenerated man. But these episodes, when seen in the Christian perspective, do remind us of one in whom true righteousness was manifest and through whom the new age of God's grace was truly begun.

Father, we thank thee for deliverance through Christ from

(Continued on Page 8)

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