

### Sunday School Lesson

by Henry Radcliffe

MICAH: A MESSENGER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

International Sunday School Lesson for September 17, 1939.

Golden Text: "What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with thy God?"—Micah 6:8.

(Lesson Text: Micah 3:1-12; 6:6-8.)

Micah, a young contemporary of Isaiah, wrote in the last decades of the eighth century B. C. He was a peasant, living in More-sheth, an obscure hamlet on the western foothills bordering the Philistine Plain, about twenty-five miles from Jerusalem. While his prophecies were addressed to both kingdoms, they refer more particularly to Judah, or Jerusalem.

In reading the Book of Micah, one is not always able to catch the actual meaning of every phrase and reference, even students differ upon some passages, but a careful consideration makes plain some of the evils he denounced in that ancient society. While social customs and usage have altered in the course of years, human nature is much the same, and we can profit by the frank judgment of the prophet.

The picture of social conditions as painted by Micah reveals how selfish and degenerated were the ruling passions of the day, and show their similarity to undesirable tendencies in our own modern world. Avarice, oppression of the poor, love of luxury, hypocritical worship and leadership, injustice in the administration of government, dependence upon material factors, and other things mentioned by Micah have not been entirely removed from among mankind.

The rulers were described as hating good and loving evil and their oppressions of the people so exacting as to be covered in a figure of speech as eating their flesh and flaying their skin. Those in the office of prophets were represented as making the people err, as being susceptible to bribery, and as blinded to genuine truth. Could leadership sink any lower than such a state of affairs that Micah said "the best of them is as a briar?"

As a true prophet, an exponent of sin and an advocate of righteousness, Micah delivered a message of punishment. As Samaria had recently been destroyed, so would be Jerusalem, which would "be plowed as a field." A period of punishment and penance would be experienced, but Micah in the promise of a happier day for the faithful remnant recognized the forgiving love of Jehovah and looked forward to the time when "they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and none shall make them afraid."

The sixth chapter of the little book called Micah presents the picture of Jehovah himself challenging the sinful Israelites to "testify against me." There was none to make accusation, whereupon historical events of the past were cited to prove God's devotion and care for Israel.

The impressed people then inquire of the prophet as to the method by which their thankfulness might be shown, asking in terms of offerings and ritualistic observances, even as extreme as the sacrifice of their own children! How far had they missed the spirit of God's kingdom. Micah's answer is clear and easily understandable. He disregards all petty ceremonies and outward symbols of religion and declares that all God seeks from his followers are lives in accordance with justice, mercy and the fundamental spirit of goodness.

David, in years gone by, realized that "the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit" and that a contrite or repentant heart meant more to God and a sinner than thousands of inoffensive beasts sacrificed. So, Jesus, replying to a question as to the proper place of worship sought to drive home the same great ideal, that "true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth."

Do we need to recognize these messages today? Is religion in our own time too often confused with material resources, expressed not in cattle offered on altars but in mere numbers, dollars contributed, records made, buildings possessed, and the like? Are men and women inclined to put their faith in place in the church institutions, outward conformance to its superficial requirements, attendance upon its public ceremonies, and other ritualistic dependencies?

In the selection quoted above designated as our Golden Text, we have what is probably one of

### Judge Joseph Cox passed away in a Roanoke hospital

Saturday morning, September 9, after having been in bad health for several years, although he was

critically ill for only a few days. He was 63 years of age. Judge Joseph Winston Cox, who was an associate justice of the District of Columbia Supreme Court, was a son of the late Captain Melville B. Cox and wife, Mrs. Mattie Fulton Cox, and was held in high esteem as a lawyer, jurist and man, by his legal associates and those who knew him in Grayson, his native county, and in the national capital. Death was attributed to peritonitis and a bad heart condition.

Judge Cox was taken to Roanoke near the middle of last week from his farm, "Summerfield," near Independence, where he had been resting during the summer.

The deceased justice is survived by the widow, Mrs. Emma L. Cox, who was formerly Miss Emma Leckie, of Pennsylvania; three sons, Captain Joseph W. Cox, Jr., West Point, N. Y.; Melville B. Cox and A. Leckie Cox, both of Washington, D. C.; a daughter, Miss Carol McNeir Cox, Washington, D. C.; six brothers, Brigadier General Creed F. Cox, Philippine Islands, Dr. Vance M. Cox, Bristol; Kyle T. Cox, superintendent of Grayson County schools, and F. Mack Cox, both of Independence; Daniel E. Cox, Barbenton, Ohio, and Samuel M. Cox, Rockingham County agent, Harrisonburg; and four sisters, Mrs. D. D. Cole, Chilhowie; Mrs. S. G. Thomas, Grant; Mrs. Boyd C. Etter, Rising Sun, Md., and Mrs. S. G. Sarrett, Union, S. C.

Judge Cox went to Washington as a young man and practiced law there successfully until his elevation to the bench. For several years he had spent his summers at his country home at Summerfield.

Funeral services, which were attended by a large concourse, were conducted Sunday afternoon, the 10th, at two o'clock, in Sacred Creek Church, a few miles west of Independence, by Rev. L. D. Mayberry, pastor of the Independence Methodist charge. Judge J. C. Padgett, Independence, was present and read a sketch of the life history of Judge Cox that he had prepared. The body was interred in the family plot in the Saddle Creek Church cemetery.

### Turkey Knob

Piney Creek P. O., Sept. 4.—Mrs. Columbus Hill visited Mrs. Laura B. Rutherford recently. Mrs. Howard Smith and children and Mrs. Mazy Halsey spent Saturday night with Mr. and Mrs. Joe Halsey.

Mrs. Jennie Anderson visited Mr. and Mrs. Allen Halsey during the past week-end.

Mrs. Nannie Williams spent Tuesday with her father, Steve Rutherford, at Baywood.

Mrs. Ennice Hask and daughter, Zella, were guests of Mrs. Laura B. Rutherford Monday.

Jimmy Campbell spent the week-end with his aunt, Mrs. Cleo Cook. He was accompanied back to camp Sunday by Mrs. Cook and daughter, Elizabeth.

Mr. and Mrs. Deltan Deboard spent Sunday with Mr. DeBoard's brother, Blain, who is in poor health.

Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Landreth and children, Ozena, Wanzalena and Jimmy, visited Mrs. Laura B. Rutherford Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. Carl Kennedy, who has been in Roanoke receiving medical treatment, has returned home, much improved in health.

L. Z. Parsons and Mrs. Cleo Cook were business visitors in Sparta Saturday afternoon.

Carl Kennedy has moved into his new store building which he recently had erected by a contractor from Wytheville.

### Sublime Credulity

"Brown's wife thinks the world of her husband."

"Does she?"

"Yes; she even believes that the parrot taught him to swear."

### His Reason

"Speaking of signs," writes W. P., "I remember once standing in front of a grocery store and noticing the sign, 'A Swindler,' on the window. Entering, I asked the proprietor if it wouldn't look better if, instead of 'A,' he printed his full Christian name. 'No,' he said, 'it would look worse. My first name is Adam.'"

the greatest definitions of worship in literature. Note the simplicity of its elements—"do justly," "love kindness," and "walk humbly" with God.

### Tense Faces In Downing Street



LONDON, England.—Worried expressions appear on the faces of the people who crowded Downing Street during the crisis to watch Cabinet members arrive to discuss the European situation.

### The Slow Minded

From the Writings of Dr. Frank Crane

If you feel that you have a "slow" mind, don't worry about it. Pretty good company exists in that class.

Pierre Curie, the famous discoverer of radium, which is one of the great achievements of the generation in which he lived, used to say to his wife and co-worker, Marie, that he always felt that he possessed a "slow" mind.

Charles P. Steinmetz, the electrician, who was called a "wizard" because of his genius in mathematical work, said he hated the multiplication table because he was a boy in school because it took him such an extraordinary length of time to master it.

It is a familiar tale that Edison's teacher wondered if he were really bright, and that Grant's mother almost concurred in the acceptance of the popular nickname for her son of "useless Grant."

Thackeray, the English novelist, once said that he often felt that he "had no head above the ears."

"And Moses said unto the Lord . . . 'I am slow of speech and of a slow tongue.'"

Yet all of these men achieved superlative things.

There are other qualities in character more valuable than nimbleness of wit and the faculty for making immediate decisions. The mental hares hop about

conscious of their springing superiority.

Over a short course they have things their own way. But the course of Life is a long one.

An immediate viewpoint gives all advantage to the nimble mind, a long time bird's-eye view reveals the power for perseverance which lies in minds which are thought to be "slow."

"Thou sayest," wrote Marcus "Men cannot admire the sharpness of thy wits . . . Be it so. Show these qualities then, which are altogether in thy power—sincerity, gravity, benevolence, frankness, endurance in labor."

The main thing is to acquire the habit of thinking things through.

Do not be satisfied with what some one else has said. See a thing clearly in your own mind.

A man who acustoms himself to relying upon his own mental processes has accomplished a great deal.

He has the kind of independence that men need, independence of intellect. He is not so apt to give way in great crises as the man who forms quick conclusions, but forms them upon the ripe dicit of other people.

Don't be alarmed therefore if you feel that you are slow. The main thing is to be thorough and honest.

### THE DOCTOR Tells the Story

by W.E. AUGHINBAUGH M.D.

### ON DATES

To the Arab, the Egyptian, and millions of other people, semi-civilized and cultured, the date palm is accepted as a symbol of beauty and life—beauty because it stretches its graceful fronds toward the sky as if appealing to God for aid for those who tread the desert sands and the far reaches of Africa—life because its fruit feeds millions who inhabit these inhospitable lands.

To them the date palm is a divine gift, for it serves man in many capacities.

Houses and crude habitations are built from its wood; its fibre makes raiment especially adapted for the climate; its wine has special stimulating properties and lacks the aftermath usually attendant upon an alcoholic drink; its fruit feeds the hungry and is especially stimulating and body building, and when death comes to the follower of Allah, his body is wrapped in a shroud made from its bark.

No wonder the Mohammedan repeats daily as one of his prayers of gratitude, "Thanks to Allah, who gives the palm."

The date palm tree is spoken of and written about in documents which saw the light of day thousands of years before the coming of Christ. It played an important part in the husbandry and the religions of early men, and was the first tree on which artificial fertilization was ever practiced by the Mesopotamians, who were exceptional horticulturists and who later tried similar experiments upon the fig-tree.

History also credits these people with producing the nectarine, which is not, as some people believe, a cross between a peach and a plum, but a distinct species of fruit.

Mohammed, the founder of the Moslem religion, who lived during the years 570 and 632, and who began life as a camel driver, existed during the years of his dire poverty almost exclusively on dates and water—a diet, forced by necessity upon millions of nomads of the desert to this day. Later in life, when man rose up to call him the Prophet of

God, he added to his daily menu cucumbers and camel's milk. For stimulating purposes, he drank the fresh unfermented wine of the date, made by pouring water on fresh dates and allowing it to stand overnight. This drink, known through the East, is a favorite among Mohammedans still, and it is called Nabidah.

Perhaps there exists nowhere a more virile, vigorous and healthy race with less creature comforts than the Arabs, and dates, fresh or dried, with date wine, are their principal foods.

Dates and camel milk have all the food essentials of a complete diet. The fruit supplies sugar and minerals, with vitamins, while the milk provides the protein fat and calcium with other vitamins. Try a diet of fresh dates if you want to reduce and remain strong and healthy.

### This Week In Washington

(continued from front page)

ment figure it out that Italy would be crazy to throw in with Germany in a war against England and France, and they believe that Italy realizes that and will make as graceful an exit as circumstances permit when the blow comes.

All of which, Administration spokesmen pointed out, is a triumph for American diplomacy, a result of the bold action of the President in breaking off treaty relations with Japan without advance notice to anybody.

### Message From the Editor

Keep This Country Out Of War! That's about the biggest interest of everyone in America today.

The problems which might involve this country in war and suggestions for keeping out of war are thoroughly covered in two Autocaster columns—"This Week in Washington" by Frank Parker Stockbridge, and "Two Sides to Every Question," by Lytle Hull.

If you are not running these columns regularly, by all means start now. They give inside information on the subject which is uppermost in the minds of your readers.

### Where's The Stenog?

Ticket Clerk—Sorry, sir, I have nothing left but two single tickets on different sides of the orchestra.

Man—Those will do splendidly. It's my wife I'm bringing.

### Mt. Zion

Piney Creek P. O., Sept. 11.—Mr. and Mrs. Robert Weaver and Mrs. Nora Weaver, of Maryland, and Gaither Whittington, Washington, D. C., visited relatives and friends in this community and at Piney Creek last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Cox and small daughter, of Castleford, Idaho, are visiting Mr. and Mrs. J. Roy Cox and other relatives in this and nearby communities. Reed Douglas, of California, has returned home after spending some time with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Douglas.

S. E. Smith visited J. R. Pugh, Laurel Springs, Tuesday.

Cox Douglas, Roanoke, visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Douglas, last week.

Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Douglas and Reed Douglas spent Tuesday with Mr. and Mrs. Hallie Douglas.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Cox and daughter, of Castleford, Ida., Mr. Cox' father, J. Roy Cox, and Paul Cox spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Taylor and other relatives at Crant, Va.

Mrs. George F. Smith, Mrs. H. Clay Smith and Velma Pugh visited Lemma Whitley recently.

A number of persons from this community attended the Memorial services, at Piney Creek Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Blake Hampton had as dinner guests Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Gilliam and son and daughter, of Sparta; Mr. and Mrs. Preston Phipps and children Lee and Ella Sue, and Mr. and Mrs. Loy Phipps and small son, of Independence, Va.; Rev. D. C. Fauson, Sparta; Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Lee Mitchell and daughter, Enma Lee, and Fred Mitchell, of the Turkey Knob community; Edna Sturgill, Piney Creek, and S. E. Smith and son, Thomas, of Mt. Zion.

Piney Creek P. O., Sept. 4.—Rev. L. F. Strader, Sparta, preached an interesting sermon at Mt. Zion Sunday. Rev. and Mrs. Strader were dinner guests in S. E. Smith's home.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith Evans, Sparta, visited Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Weaver Sunday.

Rev. and Mrs. R. N. Childress and children, Bill and Dorothy Mae, have returned to their home in Raleigh, after spending some time with Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Smith.

On August 27, there was a family reunion at Lee Black's home. Those present were Mrs. Lura Estep, Stratford; Mrs. Ada Halsey, of Nebraska; Mrs. Maggie Jones, New Hope; Mrs. Flora Moxley, Topia; Mrs. Lela Fender, Scottville; Mrs. Minnie Wil-

liamson, Dobson; Mrs. Ruth Osborne, Mt. Zion, and R. E. Black, of Sparta, eight of their children and their families. Mrs. Maude Mason, of Washington, D. C., could not attend.

Sallie Fowler and children, Barbara Lee and Dillard, spent last week with Mr. and Mrs. John Andrews, Furches.

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Taylor, Grant, Va., and Mr. and Mrs. Pat Patterson and children, of Burleson, visited Mrs. J. F. Shepherd and Mrs. Mary Cox recently.

Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Edwards, Topia, visited Mr. and Mrs. George Pugh Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Eustace Boyer, Furches, visited at George Black's home Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Pugh and Miss Ethel Pugh, Mt. Zion, and Miss Mary Carnes, Clendennon, W. Va., visited John Pugh, Laurel Springs, recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Clay Pugh visited relatives in this community, at Laurel Springs and at Linville last week.

Mrs. Andrew Fowler, Nathans Creek, and daughter, Mrs. Orris Johnson, of High Point, visited Leonard Fowler last week.

T. E. Pugh and family spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Pugh.

Mrs. Mary Cox visited Mrs. J. E. Miller, Piney Creek, Saturday.

Rev. and Mrs. R. N. Childress and children and Mrs. S. E. Smith and son, Thomas, spent a few days last week with relatives in Montezuma. They also visited the Banner Elk Hospital and Grandfather Mountain.

Jesse Cox, Piney Creek, spent the week-end with his grandmother, Mrs. Mary Cox.

A surprise birthday supper was given for Andy J. Pugh, of Glenn, W. Va., Friday night, August 25, in celebration of his sixty-seventh anniversary, by relatives at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. Clay Smith. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Pugh and daughter, Miss Ethel Pugh, Mr. and Mrs. J. Roy Cox and son, Paul, Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Pugh and children, Logene and Fred, Mr. and Mrs. George F. Smith, Miss Mary Carnes, Clendennon, W. Va., Earl Emory Bass, Winston-Salem, Mr. and Mrs. Clay Smith and Edna Rae and Howard Smith.

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### Opening exercises at Emory & Henry College will be held

—in the college auditorium on Thursday morning, September 14, at 10:30 o'clock, according to announcement made Tuesday in Emory by Dr. J. N. Hillman, president of the college.

"The prospects for a record enrollment at Emory and Henry college for the 1939-40 session are exceedingly good," said Dr. Hillman. "All dormitory space is practically taken and assignments are being made to private homes in the Emory community. Applications and transcripts received at this date are about ten to fifteen per cent more than they were at the same date last year," he added.

Two new teachers have been elected to the faculty of the college. Worth Young, a graduate of Emory and Henry college in the class of 1927 and a teacher in the Lansing (N. C.) High School for the past twelve years, has been elected as assistant professor of mathematics and physics to fill the vacancy caused by the leave of absence granted Prof. Sam W. Shelton.

Paul Somers, Jr., of Richmond, Va., and a graduate of the University of Virginia, has been elected to fill the vacancy left by Prof. John E. Allen who has accepted a position with Virginia Polytechnic Institute at Blacksburg, Va. Prof. Somers will teach accounting and business administration.

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