

Sunday School.

LESSON 1.—OCT. 1, 1911.

The Prophet Ezekiel a Watchman.—Exek. 3: 12-21.

Commentary.—I. Ezekiel's commission (vs. 1-11). When the Lord had secured the attention of Ezekiel by the marvelous vision described in Ezek. 1, and had shown him his future work, he began to give him the preparation immediately essential to the prosecution of his mission. From the figure of his eating, at the command of God, the roll handed to him (Ezek. 2, 9, 10), we understand that he received the message which the Lord would have him deliver to his people. As the roll was sweet in his mouth so there was a sense of satisfaction and blessing that grew out of his communion with God and the commission which he received from him. His appointment was to go to his own people, and not to strangers. The unfruitfulness of the field is revealed to him in the statement, "Surely had I sent thee to them (strangers), they would have hearkened unto thee. But the house of Israel will not hearken unto thee; for they will not hearken unto me" (vs. 6, 7). The prophet was given to understand that his words would be rejected because of the hardness of the people's hearts, but the promise was, "As an adamant harder than flint have I made thee forehead" (vs. 9). The fact that the people to whom he was sent were hardened would by no means excuse him from delivering the words of Jehovah, "whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear." It would appear that the prophet was inclined to shrink from the difficult task before him.

II. The message (vs. 12-21). 12. The spirit took me up—as the vision was about to be withdrawn there came into the prophet's heart a strong impulse to enter upon his divinely appointed mission. I heard behind me—The chariot of Jehovah heard at the same time as the prophet, and in the distance he hears the wings of the cherubim "like the noise of the wheels" (vs. 12). As they rush forward—Whedon. Blessed be the glory of the Lord from his place. This may have been an outburst of praise from the living creatures. By a change of one letter in the original it could be rendered, "I heard, the voice of a great rushing when the glory of the Lord rose up from its place." 13. A great rushing—As the chariot of Jehovah passed away.

14. Took me away—From the scene of the vision toward the place of his labors. Thus Isaiah went from the place of his vision in the temple to the place of hard labor, and from the vision of the Lord to the vision of the people. When Ezekiel rightly understood the roll, the word of God, he was no longer self-contained. He was overwhelmed with grief for the sins and miseries of his people and ready to be the bearer of a divine message for the correction and moral awakening of his countrymen. Under the mighty efficacy of the Spirit of God the prophet was brought to the execution of his office. He needed prudence, knowledge, divine grace to enable him to present God's truth in the most profitable manner and at the same time escape those snares which came in the performance of so difficult a task. In sending his message to Judah God sought to win them and draw them back into the path of rectitude or else by his word make them execrable for their sin. He made his prophets witnesses for or against their hearers. Ezekiel was to perform his duty without fear, because the fear of man disappears and takes away liberty. Ezekiel's ministry was pre-eminently a ministry of penetration into character. His method was to deal closely and severely with conscience. He insisted upon the responsibility of the individual, which was surely contrary to the prevailing ideas of the time. He had been called "The prophet of personal responsibility." A corrective, stimulating message made his ministry a spiritual force to his hearers. He did not seek controversy or opposition, but the condition of things involved such. The people hated the things of God and therefore hated his prophet. Ezekiel could not do otherwise than stand opposed to the age in which he lived.

III. Was dependent upon strict obedience. In his uplifted life the prophet was brought into deep sympathy with the divine will and was fitted to do the Lord's work, yet Ezekiel would have felt the divine presence and protection by the people. He was not to distort the message. He was not to amend the terms on which the Lord would deal with his rebellious subjects. He must demand that the people comply with God's word. The position of a watchman, though dangerous, was important in Judah. It was a great mercy that they should be given one who should hear from God and make known what he said concerning his people. Ezekiel was assured that God and angels would concur with the predictions he uttered.—T. R. A.

ADOLORO TRAGEDY

Bones of Man Found by Prospector in Bush, Porencine, Sept. 25.—Mr. J. Jogee, a prospector, whose home is in Toronto, states that while prospecting in Deloro on his way through the Jimminal claim he discovered the remains of a man, which, as nothing but the bones are left, is beyond recognition. He thinks the man was frozen to death. Asked if he thought the man might be a victim of the fire, he answered no, that the remains did not look as if they had gone through the fire, as the bones were not charred. The bones were moved apart by hand, and the head and one leg is missing. The bones have not been brought to town, but will be shortly. A surface gold discovery has been made on the Shield-Dickson claim in Deloro.

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away from God. At this time—If the prophet fails to warn a man who once was righteous but is now wicked, and he does without repentance, he will be lost, and his blood will be upon the head of the silent watchman.—Whedon. 21. And he doth not sin—This indicates how large an influence is wielded by a faithful watchman.

THE VISION OF THE DIVINE GLORY (vs. 22-27). Through the discourse of Jehovah with Ezekiel, the prophet had come to realize his duty and responsibility, yet he needed another vision of the divine glory, and further preparation for the great task before him. He stood that he had power to declare the message, only as he was assisted by the Lord. He could be silent of his own volition, but he could not effectively deliver God's message without divine direction and assistance.

PRACTICAL SURVEY.

Topic.—The uplifted life.

I. Followed a thorough consecration.

II. Found expression in active service.

III. Was dependent upon strict obedience.

I. Followed a thorough consecration. Ezekiel lived during the stormy transition period of the Jewish race. Judah was in captivity as a chastisement for rebellion against God and the abuse of his prophets. God knew the degeneracy of those times, the corruption and obstinacy of the people, the hardness of their hearts against divine truth, and that they would use every method of resistance in proportion to the hardness of their hearts, and to destroy their influence, yet God gave courage and assurance in proportion to the hardness and impudence of the people. He provided sufficient to bear Ezekiel out in his work. He required decision and uprightness and readiness to act. It was a notable privilege to be a messenger of the Lord, but the commission brought with it much sorrow. The Lord required Ezekiel to receive into his mind and heart the revelations which were made to him without objecting to any part. He was to take in the meaning of it, understand it aright, admit it into his heart, apply it, be affected by it, and be full of it. He must meditate on every part of the "roll" that his judgment might be formed on it, his memory stored with it and his affections regulated by it. With what unctious could Ezekiel preach when he had taken to his own mind and to his own heart and to his own conscience the word of God, both in its terrors and in its surpassing mercies? God thus sought to bring Ezekiel into close fellowship with Himself. Perfect accord with the will of God turned the bitter into sweet. By being "lifted up" Ezekiel was brought into sympathy with God and man, and strengthened to do a very difficult work.

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THE OLYMPIC AT SOUTHAMPTON

Will be Laid Up Months for Repairs.

Room for Passengers on Steamers.

Man Left Vessel and Left Wife Behind.

Southampton, Sept. 25.—The White Star liner Olympic which was damaged by collision with the British cruiser Hawke yesterday, left her anchorage in Southampton water early this morning and assisted by six powerful tugs, made her way slowly back to the dock here which she had left less than 24 hours before on her voyage for New York.

Great crowds watched the passage of the steamer into the harbor while the passengers who had spent a comfortable night on board lined the rails. Special trains were waiting for the first and second class passengers, a majority of whom were going to London to await the sailing of other vessels on which the company had obtained accommodations for them.

It is expected that all of these will get away within ten days. The American Line steamer St. Louis will take a few on Saturday and others will go on the Holland-American steamer Noordam, sailing Sunday and on the White Star Liners Arabic sailing next Tuesday, the Majestic sailing Wednesday, and the Olympic sailing Thursday; and on the American Line steamer New York, which is scheduled to leave on Sept. 30. The third class passengers will proceed on the St. Louis and the Majestic.

As soon as her cargo has been discharged the Olympic will be patched up sufficiently to enable her to proceed to Belfast where the repairs will be completed.

A naval enquiry will be held at Portsmouth soon to fix the blame for the accident. However, as was the case with the steamer St. Paul, which collided with the British cruiser Gladiator, the decision of the naval court will be withheld until the civil courts decide the question of damages as between the two vessels. The Hawke, attracted many curious on-lookers throughout the day. The cruiser is so badly damaged that she has kept her pumps going and her collision masts remain in place. Like the Olympic she will have to be in dock for several months for repairs.

GOT AWAY IN A HURRY.

Directly the collision occurred Thomas Magee, of San Francisco, who found himself close to the waterline among through the rent in the Olympic's side, hailed a boatman and offered him three sovereigns to be rowed ashore. In explaining the incident of his leaving the vessel so hurriedly he said:

"I realized that the Olympic would be laid up for some time, and my wife and I were in a hurry to return home to see our three-year-old baby. I observed a rope coiled up by a port-hole, and throwing it over the ship's side I climbed down hand over hand. For five minutes I hung there until the boat could reach me. The boatman made three attempts to get alongside before he succeeded, and there was nearly two feet of water in the boat. We had a hard row against the wind and the tide to Cowes. "Directly I got a shore I rang up the White Star office at Southampton and gave them the first tidings of the collision. They were so astonished that they refused at first to credit my story. I succeeded in reaching Southampton just in time to book three berths by the Adriatic leaving Liverpool to-morrow."

"My wife did not know of my leaving the ship," said Mr. Magee in conclusion, "and was greatly alarmed as to what had become of me."

OTHER STORIES.

Thomas Hastings, of New York, telling of the accident, said: "I was watching the warship coming up astern. For three or four hundred yards we were steaming side by side. Just as we had apparently forged clear the warship altered her course as though to go under our stern. Instead of clearing as she swung into us on the starboard side, tearing a great rent which I could see extended right down to the water line. Most of the passengers happened to be at lunch and were quickly assured that there was no danger. Many did not know that there had been a collision, so slight was the shock felt in the saloon."

Waldorf Astor, member of Parliament for Plymouth, said that the hole made in the Olympic's side was wide enough for him to stand upright in. It extended from the top deck to the water line, how much farther he could not tell, but as the cruiser had a ram below the water the damage must have been very great. "At the moment of the collision," he added, "I was preparing for lunch. I felt nothing but a slight shock. There was absolutely no panic aboard."

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Goderich Township Farmer Killed at Goderich.

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Room for Passengers on Steamers.

Man Left Vessel and Left Wife Behind.

Southampton, Sept. 25.—The White Star liner Olympic which was damaged by collision with the British cruiser Hawke yesterday, left her anchorage in Southampton water early this morning and assisted by six powerful tugs, made her way slowly back to the dock here which she had left less than 24 hours before on her voyage for New York.

Great crowds watched the passage of the steamer into the harbor while the passengers who had spent a comfortable night on board lined the rails. Special trains were waiting for the first and second class passengers, a majority of whom were going to London to await the sailing of other vessels on which the company had obtained accommodations for them.

It is expected that all of these will get away within ten days. The American Line steamer St. Louis will take a few on Saturday and others will go on the Holland-American steamer Noordam, sailing Sunday and on the White Star Liners Arabic sailing next Tuesday, the Majestic sailing Wednesday, and the Olympic sailing Thursday; and on the American Line steamer New York, which is scheduled to leave on Sept. 30. The third class passengers will proceed on the St. Louis and the Majestic.

As soon as her cargo has been discharged the Olympic will be patched up sufficiently to enable her to proceed to Belfast where the repairs will be completed.

A naval enquiry will be held at Portsmouth soon to fix the blame for the accident. However, as was the case with the steamer St. Paul, which collided with the British cruiser Gladiator, the decision of the naval court will be withheld until the civil courts decide the question of damages as between the two vessels. The Hawke, attracted many curious on-lookers throughout the day. The cruiser is so badly damaged that she has kept her pumps going and her collision masts remain in place. Like the Olympic she will have to be in dock for several months for repairs.

GOT AWAY IN A HURRY.

Directly the collision occurred Thomas Magee, of San Francisco, who found himself close to the waterline among through the rent in the Olympic's side, hailed a boatman and offered him three sovereigns to be rowed ashore. In explaining the incident of his leaving the vessel so hurriedly he said:

"I realized that the Olympic would be