

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

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Lesson VI. February 7, 1915.

Ruth chooses the true God.—Ruth 1: 16-18.

Commentary.—I. Removal to Moab (vs. 1-5). We are not told at what time during the period of the judges Elimelech and his family left Canaan for Moab. It has been thought by many that it might have been during the years in which the Midianites were overrunning the land of Israel, ravaging the people of their produce. There may have been a famine because of long-continued drought. It is clear, however, that scarcity of food led this family, consisting of Elimelech, Naomi, and her two daughters, to seek better conditions in the land of Moab. The years spent by Naomi there were years of distressing experiences. Her husband died. Her two sons died, leaving her alone with her two daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth. Jews are disposed to consider the afflictions that came to this family in the light of punishment, inflicted upon them for leaving the land of Israel and going into a heathen country, and for intermarrying with people of another race and religion. However this may be, we have the assurance that the Lord, by a peculiar train of providences, brought high honor to Ruth because of her choosing to live and die among God's people.

II. The return (vs. 6-10). 6. Then she arose.—Naomi, after living in the land of Moab ten years, decided to return to her former home. This was Bethlehem, called Bethlehem-Judah, as distinguishing it from the Bethlehem in Zebulun. The country of Judah—this was a region forty or fifty miles from north to south, and twenty miles from east to west, lying west of the territory occupied by the tribes of Israel. She had heard—As there was not much intercourse between Israel and the nations, it was probably some time before the news reached Naomi. Giving thanks to the Lord.—Acknowledgment is here devoutly made to God for the prosperity that Israel was enjoying. 7. They went on the way to return.—Naomi and her daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth, set out together on the way to the land of Judah. Naomi and Ruth were going to Naomi to keep her company, for a part of the distance, out of respect and love for her. Naomi said—Go, return.—The time had come when Naomi thought for them to part. She was leaving the place where her husband had died, and now she must bid her loving daughters-in-law farewell, to go on alone. She thought they would be better off to remain in their own land and among their own people, than to go into the land of Israel, for she well knew the attitude of the Israelites toward people of other nations. Ruth, to her mother's house.—To the land of Judah, Naomi is given the special privilege of returning to her own land. Naomi would depart with an earnest wish that she had dealt more generously with her sons. Naomi's tribute in these words to her character and conduct of her daughters-in-law. She approved of their treatment of her sons and of herself.

3. That ye may find rest.—To rest is an Oriental form of expression for entering the marriage state. This is the general idea of the order for men and women and they who are happily married are testified. Each of us in the house of her husband. Naomi was making for Orpah and Ruth the best wish and prayer that she could frame. Then she kissed them.—She was leaving them forever, as she thought, and bade them an affectionate farewell. Lifted up their voice and wept.—They thus expressed their grief at parting. 10. We will return with thee.—Naomi's attempt to send her daughters-in-law back was apparently unsuccessful. Her life in Moab and her attitude and conduct toward them were such as to win them to herself. So greatly were they taken up with her that they would bid her adieu to country and kindred rather than say good-bye to her.

Two choices (vs. 11-18). 11. That they may be your husbands.—The Jewish law required that if a man should die, leaving a wife and no child, the man's brother should marry the widow. Naomi's husband had died, and she had no more sons who could do it. In this connection and in allude to their husbands. 12. Go your way.—She would persuade them to return to their respective homes, for there were better prospects for them there, as she viewed the situation, than in the land of Israel. 13. Would ye stay for them from having husbands.—Naomi first sets forth an improbable suggestion, and then makes the thought of Orpah and Ruth's marrying sons that they might yet bear, to appear ridiculous. The heart of the Lord that saw out against me.—Naomi felt that the Lord was permitting severe afflictions to come upon her in taking away her husband and her sons. 14. We will go.—The Oriental is demonstrative in their grief. This scene must have been a most impressive one. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law.—The last and kiss of a tearful separation; after which she, unlike Ruth, turned back to her people and her gods. The great deity of the Moabites was Chemosh (Num. 21: 23; Judges 11: 24). Ruth chose to go with Naomi. Ruth was not so convinced that it was best for her to return, nor was she persuaded to do so. 15. Return thou.—Naomi tried to see to advantage the argument that Orpah had gone back, therefore Ruth should go also.

16. I trust me not.—Ruth's mind was made up. She had chosen to go with Naomi. Orpah might choose to return, but she was determined to go to the land of Israel. Whether thou goest, I will go.—There was no hesitancy on Naomi's part. She knew she was going among a strange people, but she also knew the crown she had chosen was the right one. The people shall be

FAIR GARDEN

ALFALFA

The tenth annual report of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association, issued at Ottawa, contains papers and reports on various vital topics in agriculture. Following are statements extracted from papers on alfalfa by Professor C. A. Zavitz, and potato diseases by Mr. H. T. Gussow, Dominion Plant Pathologist.

"The production of hardy alfalfa seed is limited to a small area. The farmers of Haldimand knew that they had a hardy strain of alfalfa. They knew that farmers were 'hungry' for a strain that would withstand climatic conditions. But the growers lacked organizations; they lacked a selling medium. The District Agricultural Representative put them in touch with the Canadian Seed Growers' Association, and the upshot was the Grand River Alfalfa Seed Centre, having for its object the production and sale of Registered Grimm's Variegated Alfalfa Seed. This centre is selling throughout Canada its home-grown seed, without employing a seed merchant or middleman. The secretary books orders, not for one man, but for the Circle. They have grasped the real principle of co-operation, and are being repaid.

"The status of alfalfa in Canada is almost critical at the present time. How important may be the results of such work as that of the Grand River Seed Centre is shown by the fact that the decrease in alfalfa of over 22,000 acres in one year in Ontario alone, was due to the planting of tender varieties. In no case has the seed of the common variety, obtained from the United States, given satisfactory results. Varieties are wanted such as the Grimm and the Ontario Variegated. Last year, the alfalfa crop was practically annihilated. A plot of Ontario Eastern Variegated, near Morrisburg, stood the winter well, when all the surrounding fields were killed. Alfalfa seed can be produced successfully in several places in Ontario, and also in the comparatively Southern Alberta Country, in Ontario, there is no place more suitable for its production than on the rolling clay land extending along the Grand River and eastward through the central part of the Niagara Peninsula. In that country, alfalfa has been grown successfully for more than forty years, and a hardy strain has been developed.

POTATO DISEASES AND REMEDY.

"Plant disease and you will harvest disease," says Mr. H. T. Gussow, Dominion Plant Pathologist. The only way to prevent potato diseases from being propagated is to plant sound tubers. The potato crop is one of Canada's most valuable and necessary crops. There is no other crop that will require so well a little care and labor spent on it. What is the position of matters? The examination of many hundreds of samples shows it is rare to receive a sample that can be recommended for seed. The situation is serious, and the need for improvement urgent.

Seed treatment does not control diseases of a fungus or bacterial nature such as 'bowlidry scab,' 'potato canker,' 'dry rot,' 'late blight,' 'fusarium rot,' and 'bacterial ring' disease. Powdery scab, canker, and probably dry rot are visible externally; the others appear only when cutting the tuber.

Potato canker does not exist in Canada. Upon this disease and powdery scab is based the United States potato embargo, recently enforced against Canada.

Some potato diseases, particularly powdery scab, may live in the ground for years. If not, it is in order to plant on ground that once produced a diseased crop, the resulting crop will remain turn out diseased.

To protect himself, the grower must familiarize himself with these troubles. No official action will succeed in controlling disease unless the farmer will do his share. Make it a rule to plant only sound potatoes on land that has not produced previously a diseased crop. This is the whole secret.

NON-WEED SEEDS.

In wheat seeds you find quack-grass, wild oats, chick and dock. In oats, wild buckwheat, false flax, wild oats, and quack-grass. In barley, wild oats, wild buckwheat, mustard and lamb's quarters. In rye, wild oats, quack-grass, wild buckwheat, and mustard. In flax, green, oxtail, lamb's quarters, false flax and dock. In timothy, Canadian thistle, small fruited false flax, dock and plantain. In Kentucky blue grass, giant flowering catch fly, shepherd's purse, pepper-grass and sheep-sorrel. In bromes grass, quack-grass, lamb's quarters, wild oats and fawnweed. In alfalfa, lamb's quarters, dock and Russian thistle. In medium red clover, lamb's quarters, green fennel, plantain and curled dock. In mammoth red clover, fawnweed, lamb's quarters, Russian thistle and sheep sorrel. In alsike clover, lamb's quarters, fawnweed, pepper grass and curled dock. In millet dock, black bindweed, yellow foxtail, fawnweed and mustard.—Morris Ex. Station.

NOTES.

Cabbage should not be planted the second year where the first season's crop has shown much cutworm, and potatoes should not be sown where saw has prevailed, according to the Geneva, N. Y., Experiment Station; but careful tests in two seasons carried on by the station, have given no evidence that the blight fungus can survive the winter in the field. It would seem, therefore, that the Geneva Station concludes, to change the location of the potato crop to avoid this disease, especially as we know that thorough spraying will control both the blight and rot and will increase the crop and such taking care with neither is necessary.

MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS.

FARMERS' MARKET.	
Eggs, well laid, doz.	40 45
Butter, dairy	23 32
Chickens, dressed, lb.	16 18
Ducks, dressed, lb.	15 18
Turkeys, dressed, lb.	22 25
Geese, dressed, lb.	14 16
Potatoes, bag	65 70

WHOLESALE MEATS.	
LIVE STOCK.	
Cattle, choice	11 50
Do., medium	9 50
Do., common	7 50
Veals, common, cwt.	12 50
Do., prime	14 00
Mutton	8 00
Do., light	10 00
Lamb, spring	13 50
Hogs, light	10 00
Do., heavy	9 00

SUGAR MARKET.	
Sugars here are steady at the following wholesale prices:	
Extra granulated, Redpath's	56 35
Do., 20-lb. bags	6 46
Do., St. Lawrence	6 35
Do., 20-lb. bags	6 46
Extra S. G. Acacia	6 25
Dominion, in sacks	6 21
No. 1 yellow	5 96

LIVE STOCK.	
Butcher cattle, choice	7 25 to 7 50
Do., do., medium	6 25 to 6 50
Do., do., camera	5 50 to 6 25
Butcher cows, choice	4 00 to 4 25
Do., do., medium	3 75 to 4 00
Do., do., camera	3 50 to 4 25
Do., do., bullock	6 50 to 6 75
Feeding steers	6 25 to 6 50
Stockers, choice	5 75 to 6 25
Do., light	5 25 to 5 50
Milkers, choice, each	50 00 to 55 00
Sprimmers	50 00 to 55 00
Spring ewes	5 00 to 6 00
Ducks and culms	3 50 to 4 50
Lamb, fed and watered	7 75 to 8 00
Hogs, f. o. b.	7 50 to 7 75
Calves	7 50 to 11 00

Wholesale houses are quoting as follows:

Beef, forequarters, cwt.	9 50	10 50
Do., hindquarters	13 00	13 75
T. m.		
Carcasses, choice	11 50	12 50
Do., medium	9 50	10 50
Do., common	7 50	8 50
Veals, common, cwt.	12 50	13 00
Do., prime	14 00	14 50
Mutton	8 00	10 00
Do., light	10 00	12 00
Lamb, spring	13 50	15 50
Hogs, light	10 00	11 00
Do., heavy	9 00	9 50

AN OBSERVING DAIRYMAN SAYS THAT COWS OFF FEED ARE USUALLY THE OWNS WITH SMALL MOUHS.

The Pennsylvania Experiment Station concludes, as the result of tests, that the amount of silage fed to the breeding cows should be limited to two pounds daily per head. Experiments at this station gave proof that feeding corn silage as a whole roughage is fatal to pregnant ewes in a high percentage of cases. For that reason, conclude the experimenters, it should be fed in conjunction with other roughages, as alfalfa or clover hay, allowing two pounds as the maximum amount of corn silage to be fed to the pregnant ewes. Feeding of spoiled silage causes death of lambs.

ALFALFA RESPONDS QUICKLY TO APPLICATIONS OF BARNYARD MANURE. While manure benefits an old-established stand, the greatest benefit is usually derived by applying manure to the crop preceding alfalfa in the rotation.

U. S. IS WARNED THAT ALLIES WILL NOT CONSENT AND POLITICIANS ARE WAKING UP TO THE DANGER.

Washington Despatch.—It may be stated with positiveness that if the United States purchases interned German and Austrian ships under the provisions of the pending ship Purchase Bill, it will become involved with the Governments of Great Britain and France and Russia in a controversy vastly more serious than any that has confronted this nation in many years.

While the Administration is reluctant to disclose just what it intends to do if it succeeds in passing the ship purchase bill, there is no mystery at all about what the allied Governments in the European war will do in case the proposed Government-owned corporation buys and puts into trade with Germany and Austria vessels now owned by their enemies. Positive and authoritative statements that these vessels under such circumstances will be treated as enemy vessels are now outstanding in Washington, and leave not the slightest room for any doubt as to where the allied Governments stand on the issue.

Not only is there no uncertainty about the position of the allied Governments in principle, but it is also clear that all are in the mood to treat this possible emergency just as seriously as they have treated other emergencies in the war which have been regarded as likely to result in aiding their enemies or injuring themselves.

Realization of the stand of the allied Governments on this issue has in the last few days begun to dawn more fully upon those in Washington interested in the proposed legislation. This realization has come with startling force to many Democrats who were proceeding under the impression that the Administration has received assurances in advance that there would be no objection to the plan of purchasing belligerent ships for the proposed steamship line, or at least that such assurances would be obtained before anything was done. The knowledge that not only have such assurances not been obtained, but that the allied Governments take the stand emphatically to the contrary, has come as a shock to these legislators, and the indications are now that serious consideration will be given to the issue involved in the Administration plan.

In the present Administration is standing on its statement that there will be no foreign complications. This expression was used at the White House yesterday in response to an enquiry regarding the delicate questions which the operation of the ship purchase plan bring up, but in no responsible quarter of the Government can a positive statement be obtained that the President's plan does not contemplate the purchase of interned German vessels. According to views of the three allied Governments, however, any attempt of that character is certain to lead to complications. It is not possible to conclude, therefore, the positions of the views of the allied Governments on this question.

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Realization of the stand of the allied Governments on this issue has in the last few days begun to dawn more fully upon those in Washington interested in the proposed legislation. This realization has come with startling force to many Democrats who were proceeding under the impression that the Administration has received assurances in advance that there would be no objection to the plan of purchasing belligerent ships for the proposed steamship line, or at least that such assurances would be obtained before anything was done. The knowledge that not only have such assurances not been obtained, but that the allied Governments take the stand emphatically to the contrary, has come as a shock to these legislators, and the indications are now that serious consideration will be given to the issue involved in the Administration plan.

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