

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson I.—October 7, 1917.

Psalms of Deliverance.—Psalms 85, 124.

Commentary.—I. A plea for mercy (35-17). The plea made in verses 4-7 is pre-empted by a grateful recognition of what the Lord had already done for Israel; and a knowledge of what had been done inspired confidence that he would make further large requests.

QUESTIONS.—Upon what occasion are these psalms supposed to have been written? How long was Israel in captivity? In what sense is the name Jacob here used? What reasons had Israel for rejoicing? What is meant by the Lord's anger? How had God shown His mercy to Israel? Upon what conditions can one enjoy peace of soul? What promises were given to the nation? Why did the land of Israel become barren? On what conditions would its fruitfulness be restored? What is said about sowing and reaping?

PRACTICAL SURVEY.

Topic.—Restoration.

I. Of Israel to divine favor.

II. Of Israel's divided forces.

I. Of Israel to divine favor. Public interests were very near the pessimist's heart. He evidently belonged to the time immediately after the return from captivity. By strong faith he saw in vision a perfectly harmonious cooperation and relation between God and man. The people of God in a very low and weak condition were taught how to address themselves to God to acknowledge with thankfulness the great things he had done for them. Their return from Babylonian captivity was a restoration from exile, bondage and destitution to former religious privileges. In the misery of their servitude they realized the mercies they had so thanklessly enjoyed. Cyrus had proclaimed liberty to the captives, yet it was the Lord's doing according to His word. Many years before it was the divine purpose to reverse the moral state of things, so long prevalent among the people, to establish a blessed partnership in an endeavor to make humanity what God would have it be. From their past experiences, from the constancy with which God had kept his word, from his demonstrated and eternal unchangeableness they expected that for which they prayed. While the captives in Babylon the people were long suffering in tears, but they were at length brought forth with joy. Then they reaped the benefit of their patient suffering and brought their sheaves with them to their own land in their experiences of the goodness of God to them. God's law of compensation worked out its unfulfilling result in the experience of his people. In the various afflictions of the God appears in the stern or aspects of his character. In his pleasures and enjoyments he is seen in his tender aspect. This union and cooperation bring about the blessed result of training the soul for the higher life. The moral prosperity of earth will be a source of delight to heaven, a delight springing from the discovery of an increase of happiness in the universe.

II. Of Israel's divided forces. The release of Israel is called the turning again of the captivity of Zion. The restoration of their sacred interests and the reviving of the public exercise of their religion were the most valuable advantages of their return. The psalmist recalled the rejoicing which filled the hearts of the Israelites on their return from captivity in the midst of the knowledge by Gentiles and Jews that their deliverance was a wonderful and mighty deed of Jehovah. He prayed for a like restoration to their homes of their companions who still lingered in captivity. The bringing of those yet in captivity to join their brethren would be as welcome to both as water upon a dry land. A part of the nation had returned to a ruined city, a fallen temple and a desolate land, where they were surrounded by jealous and powerful enemies. Discouragement had laid hold on the feeble company. Restoration was but partly accomplished. After a retrospect of the former mercies bestowed upon the people, prayer was made for a renewed manifestation of the same mercy during present sufferings. The psalmist resolved to listen for God's pledge of peace to his people. His faith and expectations were grounded on what God had done. The remembrance of the bright beginning encouraged him to believe for complete triumph for the divided forces of Israel. Songs and sighs intermingled in his psalm concerning the restoration of Israel. His sighs sought forgiveness and consolation from God. He watched, waited and expected divine direction and blessing. God had done much for his ancient people. There was a striking contrast between the ruin of those who carried the Jews into captivity and the saving among them when their captivity was ended. They had won the confidence of their oppressors who rejoiced in their restoration and aided them with kindly gifts. They had witnessed their captivity and triumph and they observed that their deliverance and approval of their and their work worked inseparably in all God's dealings with His people. T.R.A.

Cancer Not Hereditary.

That cancer is not inherited in man seems to be proved by statistics collected by Arthur Hunter and presented to the Association of Life Insurance Presidents. Mr. Hunter investigated the history of policyholders and found that when both of a man's parents had died of cancer only two grandchildren out of 24 had died of the disease. Among 314 sons and daughters of parents both of whom had died of cancer he could find not one case of cancer. He considered only those above the age of forty.

He found only nine cases of cancer among 901 brothers and sisters of cancerous pairs. Of the 810 sons and daughters above forty in 488 families of which one parent had died of cancer only three were known to have had the disease.

The crowd can thunder for itself.—Queen Elizabeth.

rushing torrents. The psalmist prays for great streams of his people to return from the land of their exile. 5. Sow in tears . . . reap in joy—If there was no sowing in tears, there would be no reaping in joy. If we were never captives, we could never lead our captivity captive. Our month had never been filled with holy laughter if it had not been first filled with the bitterness of grief.—Spurgeon. 6. Goeth forth and weepeth . . . come again with rejoicing—Earnest and perhaps toilsome sowing for the Master will surely be rewarded by a heart-cheering harvest. A most blessed promise is here given.

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How to Gather Seed Corn

Seed corn should be selected from stalks standing where they grew. This is necessary, because it is the means of making sure that the seed will have the power to yield well, as shown by the superiority of the stalks over surrounding ones that grew under the same conditions. This sort of seed inherits high producing power.

It must be understood, that like produces like, and that an early-maturing corn yielding abundantly on short, thick stalks is likely to repeat these same characters in the next generation. For this reason, seed corn should be taken from the stalks without suckers; such seed may produce some stalks with suckers, but it will invariably produce fewer suckers than seed from sucker-bearing stalks.

All seed corn should be selected by hand, as a special task, and not incidental to husking. The corn should be gathered as soon as thoroughly mature and before the first hard freeze. Enough should be gathered for two seasons planting to insure a supply of seed if, for example, the first planting is drowned or if the next crop should be hurt by early frost.

As soon as the crop ripens the wise farmer will go through the field with seed picking bags, and husk the ears from the stalks that have produced the most corn without having any special advantages, such as space, moisture or fertility. He will pass by the large ears or stalks standing alone with an unusual amount of space around them. Strains that do well in competition for light and moisture, and soil fertility are likely to repeat under the same conditions. The most important consideration is to select seed from those plants which have the ingrained ability to furnish the largest quantity of dry shelled corn.

Early maturity is a desirable quality, and so are short, thick, wind-borne top high ears likely to mean losses. Breeding experiments have proved that the tendency to produce suckers is hereditary in corn. Other things being equal, take the seed from sucklerless stalks.

MACHINERY FOR SILO FILLING.

The silo-filling season is at hand. In some communities in Ontario this is the busiest time of the year. Because of the large number of silos, the scarcity of filling outfits, the short space of time in which the work must be done and the scarcity of farm labor this year, silo-filling will be a larger task than ever. Therefore it is necessary that we do all we can by way of preparing for it.

THE CORN BINDER.

A corn binder is subject to greater strains than a grain binder and though the parts upon which most of these strains fall are built more heavily than those of a grain binder, yet the fact remains that a corn binder wears faster and needs more attention. Before the season's cutting is started the machine should be examined. Knives should be ground, parts which show excessive wear or play should be replaced, and the whole machine should have a general tightening up. Then, just before the machine is started it is well to give all bearings a thorough oiling.

Then eats out the dust and dirt, smooths the bearing surfaces and makes a free path for lubricating oil which is to follow. This practice on any farm machine makes for light draft and eliminates excessive wear. If these things are done the binder will do the season's work in the shortest possible time and with a minimum amount of trouble.

THE CUTTING BOX.

Nothing is more annoying in silo-filling time than a filling outfit which fails to do its duty. A cutting box is subject to great strains and the best of care should be given it throughout the season. An ordinary cutting box often cuts from twenty to twenty-five tons of corn per hour and elevates it to a height of thirty feet and over. This is a feat which requires a great deal of power and it is sure to tell on the machine even with the best of care. First of all, the condition of the knives is an all important factor, both from the farmer's and machine owner's standpoint. In order to make first class ensilage the knives should be changed once in two and a half hours of running. It is also necessary that this be done in order to get the greatest amount of service out of the machine. Nothing is harder on a cutting box and the engine than driving it than dull knives. The cutting blade of the mousetrice should also be kept sharp and the adjustment of the knives is likewise important. They should cut so close to the mousetrice that the corn will be cut off with a shearing cut.

A machine with knives which are quickly interchangeable should have a preference with farmers over one in which the changing of a set of three knives means the removing and replacing of twenty-one bolts. Time at silo-fitting is too precious for such performances.

The blower pipe should always be set as vertically as possible. If set on a slant, the heavy corn will "slide up" the low side of the pipe and the air will pass it over. This causes a blocked pipe and a clean-out with a loss of at least twenty minutes of precious time.

When the season is over and the defects and weak points in your corn binder or cutting box are still fresh in your mind, make notes of the things which should be done for next season and do them. This is good farm management.—Canadian Countryman.

Improving Fudge.

A few drops of molasses added to fudge after it has boiled for about five minutes will improve the flavor and keep it from getting sugary if boiled a little too long. Substituting sweet cream for milk also adds to the richness of fudge.

Around the Farm

THE TRACTOR HAS COME TO STAY.

Some years ago there was some doubt in the minds of some of our leading agricultural authorities as to whether the farm tractor would ever prove practicable on the average farm. It was conceded that over the West the farms were very large that the tractor was a paying proposition, but it was doubted whether with our smaller farms here in the East that tractors would ever be generally used.

Anyone who had any doubts as to the growing popularity of the tractor had but to see the lively interest evinced by farmers at the Canadian National Exhibition in the display of tractors to have these doubts removed.

We venture to say that never was there a better exhibit of tractors and never was more interest shown in them. One fault we had to find with the earlier types of tractors was that they are somewhat difficult to handle and could not be turned sharply. The present day tractor, however, has not these defects and can be handled easily and turned in a very small space.

The wide use that the Ontario Department of Agriculture is making of tractors in its campaign for greater production has undoubtedly done much to draw the attention of people to the merits of the tractor, which is becoming more popular the better people become acquainted with it.

CLOVER SEED—WHY NOT GROW YOUR OWN?

In average seasons, red clover that has not been pastured after the first hay crop has been removed, will produce a crop of well matured seed. Instead of cutting the second crop of hay, pasturing it or, as it frequently happens, plowing it under, why not allow this crop to mature and save the seed from it?

By raising your own clover seed you are obtaining seed from plants which, by their very existence, have demonstrated their adaptation to the conditions prevailing on your farm, and in your immediate locality. Such seed, it is quite reasonable to suppose, will produce plants which are equally well adapted to local conditions. For this reason home-grown clover seed is really more valuable than most of the seed obtainable through ordinary channels of commerce.

Clovers often very poor looking fields of second growth red clover will produce a profitable crop of seed. In many cases fields where the clover is quite thin, and, say only eight or ten inches high, will yield over one hundred pounds of clean, well matured seed per acre. Usually, however, an average second growth will produce anywhere from 150 to 250 pounds of seed per acre.

The red clover seed crop should be cut when the heads are dark brown in color, and contain all the developed seed. In harvesting all unnecessary handling should be avoided. Rough handling, frequent turning, etc., will thresh or break off the most mature heads, thus wasting a portion of the most valuable seed.

Where the crop is less than one foot high it may be cut with an ordinary mowing machine. It is usually advisable to have two men follow the machine with hand rakes and move each swath out from the stand, one a few feet so that, on the next round, the cut clover will be out of the way of the horses and machine. By following this practice with short clover, a great deal of seed will be saved that would have otherwise been "threshed by the horses' feet and, therefore, left in the field.—Canadian Countryman.

SUNDAY AT HOME

THE GOOD SHIP TO-DAY.

Talk not a word of yesterday's sins, for they are a hundred years away. Though I of them could sing much praise.

Our large concerns are of to-day.

Sign not for god old days of yore.

There is no music in the tone.

To-day stand, wide the open door.

To-morrow is as yet unknown.

Seek not for things that used to be.

You are not equal to the strife.

As well attempt to drink the sea.

As bring the dead past back to life.

The past has its allotted space.

Yet we now have the right of way.

Who not the past, but present face.

And sail on the good ship To-day.

—Thomas F. Porter, in Boston Globe.

MADE US KINGS AND PRIESTS.

To God we stand, and hast redeemed us by thy blood out of every kindred and tongue, and people, and nation, and hast made us unto our God kings and priests.—Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Ye shall be named the priests of the Lord; men shall say, "The Ministers of our God—Priests of God and of Christ." Wherefore, beloved brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Jesus Christ.—By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually; that is the fruit of our lips giving thanks to him.

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.—The temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

SHADOWS.

(By the late Rev. T. H. Miller.)

What is a shadow? It is an interruption in the rays of light. I stand in the light and the scene is somewhat

darkened. My personality stands in another light and my character is portrayed. Where there is character there is influence. Some shadows have unlimited stretch, and we ask in vain, how far, how long, how much. The greater the man the greater the shadow. Emerson says: "All our institutions are to be regarded as the lengthened shadows of some great man." If I created a sentiment in favor of right; if I help another to bear trials with fortitude, to hold on to honor amid severe temptation; if I lead a prodigal back to his Father's house; if I bring a shadow across a hundred generations yet unborn. Shadows are not the newspaper reports of our doings, or the appreciation of those who love us blindly, but it is the influence we shed, largely unconscious, that gives the real measurement of our character. It is our souls, not our manners, which leave the greatest impression on the world. What we are in our innermost natures cannot be kept hidden and secret. A beast cannot cast the shadow of a man; the greater the man the greater the shadow. Each man's personality is unique; each man worthy of regard has seen visions of truth and life, and knows his relation to them. No man can do his work as he ought unless he feels that he is where the Lord wishes him to be. Do men, open their hearts to us as the flowers to the sun? Do tears start in the storm-chased cheek of ill-fated mothers? Do love and patience and aspiration bring up wherever we go? Then our shadows are bright as the light and warm as the sun, and lasting as eternity.

Give a distinct and well-built personality, what then? Why, in order for a shadow, the light must shine upon it. Here is the mystery and magnificence of life! Here I plunge into the deepest abyss. Here I stand in awe, for it is holy ground.

"Why was I made to hear Thy voice And enter while there's a room? Why is it given great to-day? Why is the Atlas of the world likely to be painted red? Mayhap it is partly owing to the songs of saints of a hundred years ago, whose lives and hearts and lines corresponded, as they sang: "Shine, mighty God, in Britain shine With beams of heavenly grace: Reveal Thy power through all our courts."

And show Thy smiling face." When a man or woman is lifted from the lowly and given work to do, the waiting watchers sing, "Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee." Is not the light sovereign? Is it not beyond man's control? How often we hear the saying, "He hath put down princes from their thrones, and hath exalted them of low degree; the hungry he hath filled with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away."

H. T. Miller.

Easy Ways.

To clean a cotton rug, lay it on the cement floor of the cellar or on the back porch and wet it well, then sprinkle naphtha powder over it and scrub briskly with a broom. Hang on the line and rinse with the hose or with several pailfuls of water.

To clean white kid slippers get a clean white cloth and soak it with gasoline, then dip in powdered chalk. Rub until all dirt is removed and then dry in the air, but not in the sun.

To remove grease from carpets or rugs, cover the spot with fuller's earth and wet with turpentine. Cover with paper, and at the end of two days brush clean.

Wet sawdust is a valuable aid in cleaning the cellar. It will take up the dust and ashes as you sweep and make the work less dusty.

A small dish-mop is a very handy thing to use when washing lamp chimneys, as it will go inside many chimneys that are too small for the hand and will not break with them.

BATHTUBS AND BATHING.

In many European countries the best bathing is done in a bath which means never bathe in water. Spanish matrons have expressed much regret at my complaints about the absence of bathing facilities in the Madrid hotels. One lady, wife of a distinguished member of the senate, told me she had never had her bath in a tub of water and never would.

A memory of London hotels goes back to 1875, when there was not a single bathtub in any hotel in that city. At the only time that I saw a bathtub was the only time that you were lucky to get it.

And in that same period in New York City the Metropolitan and St. Nicholas hotels, supposed to be models of excellence, were totally wanting in bathtubs.

Admittedly, it is so difficult to imagine life without bathtubs as without bathtubs, but the former are less than a twenty-year-old necessity, while the latter was an institution long before the times of the Egyptian pharaohs—Julius Chamberlain in England says.

Odd and Interesting Facts.

Japanese make a waterproof leather with many uses from the hides of sea lion.

Rats over-year destroy about 5 per cent of the growing sugar cane in Jamaica.

So many of our bulbs are stolen that a thiefproof electric lamp socket has been devised.

There is a great demand for road building experts and workmen in all parts of the United States. Manufacturers of that country are planning to establish the first paper plant in Argentina.

South Africa mines are experimenting with a dust laying preparation which has masses as its base. Indications are that after the war Europe will become a strong competitor of the United States for the trade of Guatemala.

Taking a Pill.

You can't. But you can. And it is easy. First, take a little liquid. Then put the pill in your mouth. And now let your head drop well back. Presently the pill will have worked down and back. Just then you swallow the liquid and down goes the pill! Even one who "never could take a pill" finds it easy managed this way. "You should weigh your words," said the orator's friend. "Yes," quipped in another friend, "and we don't mind if you give us short weight at that."—Washington Star.

MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS.

Table with columns for Dairy Produce, Eggs, Turkeys, Poultry, Fruits, and Vegetables, listing various items and their prices.

MEATS—WHOLESALE.

Table with columns for Beef, Pork, Mutton, and Lamb, listing various items and their prices.

SUGAR MARKET.

Table with columns for Local wholesale quotations on Canadian refined sugar, listing various items and their prices.

TORONTO CATTLE MARKET.

Table with columns for Cattle, Hogs, and Sheep, listing various items and their prices.

OTHER MARKETS.

Table with columns for Winnipeg Grain Exchange, Minneapolis Grain Market, Duluth Grain Market, and Chicago Live Stock.

What Do They Make in Germany?

What do they make in Germany? They make the books and toys that they used to make, and the War God makes.

What do they make in Germany?

They make the things that they used to make, and the War God makes.

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THE SMOCK.

It's the Thing for the Summer This Year.

Pages could be devoted to the subject of smocks, but we have no space for all the charming things that come from the hands of the smock makers. They are trimmed with bands of colored embroidery in various designs, and the wonderful combinations of color only to be found in antique tapestries.