Sunday School Lesson

November 6, Lesson VI—Amos Pleads for Justice, Amos 5: 1, 2, 10-15, 21-24. Golden Text—Let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.—Amos 5: 24.

ANALYSIS.

I. A DIRGE AND AN EXHORTATION, 5: 1-17.

II. A SOLEMN WARNING, 5:18-27.

III. VISIONS OF INTERCESSIONS AND A PRIEST'S OPPOSITION, chap. 7.

INTRODUCTION—Like the true prophets of Israel in every age, Amos held that the mere formalities of religion were not in themselves pleasing to God. He saw in Israel, at the sanctuary of Bethel, multitudes who offered their sacrifices at the altars and paid their tithes, and who were careful to observe the ancient forms, but to him it was not worship, but rather transgression against God. He knew the lives which these people lived, their many acts of injustice, their cruel conduct toward the poor, their greed, their self indulgence, their deeds of violence, and their disloyalty to Jehovah in the recognition and worship of other gods. He saw doom coming upon a wicked nation and declared that Jehovah would not turn it away. He reminds the people of the warnings which they have had, drought and famine, blight and locust swarm, plague and a recent earthquake, yet they have not repented. In the greater calamity that is coming upon them they will meet an offended God whose laws of justice and human kindness they have not obeyed.

And yet Amos, true prophet of a merciful God, hoping against hope that a way of deliverance may yet be found, exhorts this sinful people to repentance, and intercedes for them with God that they may be forgiven.

I. A DIRGE AND AN EXHORTATION, 5: 1-17.

The lamentation, or dirge (v. 1) is cast in the form of a verse of poetry (v. 2) with a peculiarly mournful rhythm, which may be imitated in English as follows:

"Fallen, no more to rise, the virgin of Israel;
Cast down upon her land, none to lift her up."

Here Amos is anticipating the calamity which he expects to fall upon Israel as a punishment for its sins, and in his prophetic vision he sees it as already present, and the land fallen into ruin and decay. The prophet's messages of warning and of exhortation were spoken as early as B. C. 750, and in 722, after a long period of civil strife, and a long siege of the capital city of Samaria by Assyrian armies, the kingdom of Israel came to an end, and many of her people were carried away into captivity, see 2 Kings 15:8-31 and 17:1-23. The prediction of Amos was fulfilled.

In v. 3 the prophet describes the condition to which the country will be reduced as the result of internal strife and invasion by foreign enemies. Only one-tenth of the men able to bear arms will be left in the cities of Israel.

Nevertheless he believes in the mercy of God and urges repentance and the seeking of his favor, if by any means his anger against them may be appeased and he may yet deliver them. Jehovah is to be sought, he declares, not in the gorgeous and corrupt ritual of the great sanctuaries at Bethel, Gilgal and Beersheba, but in just and upright dealing, by putting away their manifold transgressions and their weighty sins (v. 12), by loving and doing good and not evil. For Jehovah is not only the great God, the Lord, maker of the starry heavens and ruler of light and darkness, of sea and land, but he is able to read the innermost thoughts of men's hearts, and he is the defender of the spoiled against the strong (vs. 8-9, compare 4:13).

The Gate was both the entrance to a walled city and the broad square within. The latter was the market place and the place of public concourse, where the judges of the city held daily session. An upright judge who rebuked evil-doers was hated. The prophet indignantly denounces the rich who oppress the poor, who posed as feudal lords over their poorer neighbors, exacting from them gifts of the produce of their labor in return for their patronage, who took bribes and perverted justice, a particularly despicable kind of sinners (vs. 11-12). The day of calamity, and so of wailing, for such is surely coming, when the cry of distress and of mourning will be heard in street and highway, in farm and vineyard (vs. 16, 17).

II. A SOLEMN WARNING, 5:18-27.

The prophet rebukes those who desire the day of the Lord, vs. 18-20. There seems to have been a popular expectation that in some great war Jehovah would lead the armies of Israel to victory over their enemies and to wealth and power. Amos turns this desired day into a day of judgment upon the evil nation. Jehovah will indeed come, but in wrath and not with favor, and his instruments of doom will be these very foes whom they hope to conquer. It will be a day of defeat and not of victory, of humiliation and not of triumph, in which there will be no safety and no escape for those who have sinned against their God.

The feast days, solemn assemblies, and offerings are not acceptable, because they have in them no content of true worship. For the same high emphasis upon righteousness and justice, and upon pure worship, see Isa. 1:10-17; Jer. 7:1-15; Hos. 6:6; Micah 6:6-8. The question of verse 25 seems to imply that such forms of worship were not used in the wilderness period, but that is quite inconceivable. The intention seems to be to introduce a comparison between the simpler and purer worship of that early period, and the ornate and idolatrous rites of Amos time (compare Jer. 7:21-24).

III. VISIONS OF INTERCESSION AND A PRIEST'S OPPOSITION, chap. 7.

In a series of dream visions Amos prays for the people of Israel, beseeching the mercy of God upon this little nation of Israel. In the third of these he predicts the fall of the royal house of Israel. The king mentioned is Jeroboam II. a short account of whose reign will be found in 2 Kings 14:23-29. This declaration made at Bethel, a sanctuary under royal patronage, aroused the wrath of the chief priest, who ordered Amos to return at once to his own country of Judah. The prophet's simple defence of his divine commission and statement of his call to the prophetic office (vs. 14-15), is very impressive.

British School System Praised

They Express Genius of Empire's People, is Declaration

Toronto.—"The public schools are an expression of one of the best and finest sides of the genius of the British peoples, and do their part to strengthen and develop this genius," said Dr. R. W. Livingstone, President and Vce-Chancellor of Queen's University, Belfast, Ireland, speaking in Toronto recently.

Dr. Livingstone admitted that there were certain drawbacks in the public school system, but expressed complete assurance that it serves more than any one factor to bring out the best and most desirable qualities of English youth and develop unselfish community service to a high plane.

Commenting on the Irish situation, the speaker said that Northern Ireland is no less peaceful than Ontario at present, while the political situation in the south is rapidly mending. He affirmed that "everyone would be glad to see the south settle its own problems, with prosperity and success to itself."

As They Breezed Along

"I'm out to raise the wind for a very necessary thing these hot days"

"And what is that?"

"I'm going to blow myself to a new electric fan."

Bloody But Unbowed.

Beat me, kick me, cheat me, lick me,
Throw me down the stairs;
Gash me, pound me, slash me, hound me,
Make me say my prayers;
Though we'll always have a fight,
Life, I'll love you just for spite!
—New York Evening Post.

Fashion

A SMART NEW FROCK.

Exceedingly smart is this attractive one-piece frock having the modish two-piece effect. The skirt has an inverted plait at each side, front and back, and is joined to the bodice having a V neck, long sleeves gathered to wrist-bands or short sleeves with cuffs. A chic bow is placed at the left shoulder and a buckle finishes the belt in front. No. 1643 is for Misses and Small Women, and is in sizes 16, 18 and 20 years. Size 18 (36 bust) requires 3⅝ yards 39-inch, or 2⅝ yards 54-inch material, and ½ yard 39-inch contrasting for binding. Price 20 cents the pattern.

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS.

Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such patterns as you want. Enclose 20c in stamps or coin (coin preferred; wrap it carefully) for each number and address your order to Pattern Dept., Wilson Publishing Co., 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto. Patterns sent by return mail.

Capital and Labor

Edinburgh Scotsman (Cons.): Between capital and labor in the abstract, as used by the economist, there is and always must be a fundamental identity of interest. Each is necessary to the other, and the product of both, in harmonious and active co-operation, is essential to the well-being of the whole—namely, the community. The divorce of the laborer from the ownership of his tools and instruments of production, combined with the divorce of economics as a study from philosophy and the humanities, have caused this great truth to be overlain or forgotten, to the great hurt of industry and the nation. The change has produced in the mind of the workman distrust, suspicion and rancour, while it has bred in the mind of the capitalist the tendency to be selfish, hard, and inhuman in his regard for and treatment of his fellow men, his co-workers, in the production of wealth. A new spirit is abroad, and let us hope that it will grow, deepen, and broaden, so that peace and prosperity may abound to gladden the hearts of men.

Easy Way to Clean Silver

Put a teaspoon of salt and a like amount of soda in a new aluminum pan and pour boiling water over them. Place your tarnished silver in the solution. When the tarnish is removed, wash and dry with a soft cloth. The method will not injure the silver, which is cleaned as thoroughly as by hard rubbing and is not scratched as it may be when pastes or powders are used. This method leaves the silver with a soft dull finish, which can be heightened to a high polish by rubbing with a chamois or soft cloth and the use of silver paste.

"Looks like rain to-day," said the milkman, as he poured the customary quart of milk.

"It always does," replied the housewife.

A THANKSGIVING STORY

Much and more were two boys in school. Much was a little bigger than More; so that the school boys, in fun, used sometimes to call Much, "a little More," and More, "not Much."

More had finer clothes, and more spending money than Much. Yet Much seemed very much happier than More. He always wore a smile. More usually had a frown. More was always saying, "Give me this," and "Give me that," until the boys in fun called him "Give Me." Much, on the other hand, was always glad for what he had, and he never forgot his manners. It was "Thank you for this," and "Thank you for that," until the boys nicknamed him "Thank you." So it came about that the two were called "Thank You" Much and "Gim Me" More by all the boys in school.

On the Friday afternoon before the Thanksgiving holiday, the boys sat restlessly in school waiting for four o'clock to come. Mr. Master talked to them about Thanksgiving. He said something about the Tranksgiving Spirit and dropped a hint that this Spirit was a magician. But the boys did not pay much attention to him, they were too busy planning their holiday.

When the gong sounded the boys rushed out of school and Thank You and Gim Me rode away in an automobile, for Thank You was to spend the holidays at Gim Me's house.

The night before Thanksgiving, the two boys went to bed in Gim Me's room as usual. "What did Mr. Master say about the Tranksgiving Spirit, the other day?" asked Thank You.

"I don't know," said Gim Me.

"I wonder if we could see the Thanksgiving Spirit?" said Thank You. But Gim Me did not answer him, because he was asleep. Thank You shut his eyes for a moment and when he opened them he saw, sitting on the footboard of the bed, the heartiest, happiest, and handsomest Thanksgiving Spirit you could imagine. He wore a long crimson coat that was buttoned up with great shiny buttons. It was furnished with many pockets all of which were bulging.

"Come with me and see my room," invited the Spirit. "Wrap a blanket around you and step out of the window into my aeroplane." The two boys got in and whirred away. They could not see where they stopped, because it was so dark. "Is this where you live?" asked Thank You. "One of the places," answered the Spirit. "I always live in other folks houses, and I have a room here." He lighted a candle and set it on a table.

"This is a pretty small room," said Gim Me critically.

"Small?" said the Tranksgiving Spirit, "Why I think it's big. At that, the walls and ceiling began to move, going farther away until the room was like a great reception hall.

"Now, that you may have some to remember your visit by, I want to give each of you one of these," said the Spirit, as he handed each boy a little box with a silver ring in it.

"Oh, thank you," said Much. At these words the ring turned to gold. "Thank you very much!" A diamond came out i nthe middle. Thank You was too surprised to say another word.

Gim Me looked at his ring. "Give me a gold one," he said. At that the ring turned to brass. "I want a gold one, like Thank You's." At that the ring turned to tin.

"Just so that you may know when Thanksgiving Day comes around, I will give you this," said the Spirit, as he handed each boy a fine silver watch.

"Oh, thank you!" said Thank You. At that the watch turned to gold. "It is beautiful, sir!" The face became so shiny that you could see what time it was even at midnight.

Gim Me watched his gift a minute to see if it would become like Thantk you's, but it did not. "Give me a nicer one," he said. The watch stopped ticking. "One like Thank You's." The watch shrank and became small and light.

"Now it is time to go," said the magician, buttoning up his crimson coat. In less time than it takes to tell, they were back again in Gim me's room. The Thanksgiving Spirit tucked them into bed. "I hope that you will have a happy Thanksgiving Day," he said, and disappeared.

The two boys never talked about their strange visit. They grew up to be men. Mr. Much was never rich, and he had many troubles, but people said he was the happiest man in town. Mr. More was very rich, but he was discontented. People said that he was so anxious to have more that he never really enjoyed the much that he had.—Adapted from story by Jay T. Stocking in The Mayflower Programme Book.

Air News.

Montreal Airport Well Under Way to Make Quebec City a Real Factor in Aviation

ORDERS MOTHS

Ottawa.—The Montreal airport, the construction of which is now beginning, will, according to plans approved by the government, be much more than a mooring station for transatlantic aerial navigation.

Montreal is to be used as a general base for all airways in this part of the country. Recently, between St. Lambert and St. Bruno, 715 acres were purchased as a site for a mooring mast, and the initial outlays are now authorized. About $90,000 is to be spent on the site this fall in preliminary preparations for the mast, and also for the larger base. The property is to be levelled and graded, and a variety of smaller works carried on.

To encourage flying clubs in Canada, the Government has just placed an initial order for ten "Moth" aeroplanes to be purchased from the De Haviland Corporation of England. The contract price is $51,000.

By the policy recently enunciated, the National Defence Department agreed to supply one extra aeroplane wherever a local club purchased another, and it is to prepare for this development that the 10 planes have just been ordered. They will be supplemented later.

The Government has also decided to convert the old Rockliffe Rifle Ranges at Ottawa into a central aerodrome and seaplane station for carrying on experimental flying by air and over water, and also to explore the possibilities of winter flying. With that object in view the site is to be enlarged by the addition of 21 acres.

Disaster On the Land

London Observer (Ind.): (Appalling weather this summer has ruined the British farmer.) Its onset has no parallel unless in the memorable '79 or in the earlier season which "rained away the Corn Laws." The ravages of flood and tempest are stupendous. Many a crop has sustained not merely damage, but obliteration. The labor of a whole season has been washed away, an dthe husbandman left with bare hands. It is a tragedy that will throw a host of cultivators bankrupt, leave much soil derelict and—what is still worse—strike despair into the hearts of a whole community. If it were not recognized now that the plight of agriculture has become a matter of national urgency, it would endorse the most cynical views of political psychology.

No Doubt They Did

Ready Orator—"Oh, yes, I can get up any time and make a speech and think nothing of it."

She—"Don't your audience usually think the same way?"

An auto-renting company in Berkeley, California, has learned that an average of 2.4 cents per mile is saved on gas when its cars are driven over concrete highways as compared with earth roads. It is concluded, therefore, that the hard surfacing of heavily traveled highways is in the interest of public economy.

British Rescue Crew of Steamer Taken by Pirates

Thrilling Scenes When Submarine Goes Into Action in China

BASE IS ATTACKED

Hong Kong.—The war against the pirates who prey on shipping along the Chinese coast has been carried into the pirates' stronghold at Bias Bay by a British submarine.

Thrilling Scenes.

Thrilling scenes were enacted during the rescue of the crew of the Irene by the submarine L-4.

The Irene, en route from Shanghai to Amoy, was attacked by the pirates. Captain Jahnsen, his second officer, and the engineer were at breakfast when they appeared. The pirates shot the steward in the chest and overpowered the officers. The passengers were robbed.

After ordering the vessel to slow down, the pirates spent their time in gambling and eating. The Irene reached Bias Bay that evening.

The submarine L-4, which was anchored near the shore, observed that the vessel was without lights and flashed a signal to it to halt. This was disregarded. The submarine then fired several shots across the Irene's bow.

Forced to Continue.

The captain was on the bridge under guard. He rang for the engines to stop but the pirates in the engine room forced the engineer to continue.

The submarine then dropped a shell into the engine room. The engine was disabled. A pirate who was about to shoot the engineer was killed.

The crew of the Irene started to jump overboard and the submarine came alongside.

The crew and passengers were rescued with great difficulty because of the heavy seas at the time.

Of Course He Turned Red.

"After he kissed Sall did you notice how he turned red?"

"That cheap stuff she uses always comes off."

The Decay of Agriculture

London Daily Mail (Ind. Cons.): No great nation has ever yet lived without a rural population. The health and stamina of the race must deteriorate if a people is entirely divorced from the villages and the fields, and if the great swarming modern cities cannot draw fresh blood into their veins from those wholesome sources. An England wholly made up of the "street-bred people" seems unthinkable. Yet we may have to think of it if the decay of agriculture is not arrested.

Charge Radio Battery on Car

"I take the six volt battery that is used in my car, and switch it to the radio, putting the radio battery in the car. By the time the battery on the radio is run down the one in the car is recharged. This eliminates the cost of a charger and also the expense and trouble of taking it to a battery station."

Gooseflesh Barred.

An old Southern planter was discussing the hereafter with one of the colored servants. "Sam," he said, "if you die first, I want you to come back and tell me what it's like over there. If I die first, I'll come back and tell you what it's like."

"Dat suits me, Massa," replied the old negro, "but if you dies first, Ah wants you to promise me dat you'll come back in de daytime."—Christian Leader.

"MUTT AND JEFF"—By Bud Fisher.

When Is An Omelet Not an Omelet?