

## Sunday School Lesson

August 18. Lesson VII—The Return From Captivity—Ezra 1: 1-6; Psalm 126: 1-6. Golden Text—The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.—Psalm 126: 3.

### ANALYSIS.

I. THE PROMISE, Jer. 29: 10-14.  
II. THE PROMISE FULFILLED, Ezra 1: 1-11.  
III. A SONG OF DELIVERANCE, Psalm 126: 1-6.

**INTRODUCTION**—Both Jeremiah and Ezekiel predicted deliverance of the captive Jews and return from Babylonian exile. Jeremiah rebuked those who, after the fall of Jerusalem and deportation of Jewish captives in B.C. 597, predicted a speedy return, he declared, but not until after many years, ch. 25: 12. Ezekiel, himself in exile in Babylon from the year B.C. 597, foretold to his fellow captives in B.C. 586, and after 1 at foretold the restoration. The Lord who had scattered the Jewish people abroad among the nations would bring them back and would cleanse them from their evil ways and their idolatries, would give them a new heart to serve him faithfully, and put his own spirit within them. Once more would he renew his ancient covenant with them and they would be his people and he would be their God, ch. 36: 19, 24-28. He likened the resurrection of the Jewish nation to the resurrection of a great army of the dead whose dry bones lay in the valley where they had fought their last fight. For the Lord said: "Behold, I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, O my people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel. . . . And I will put my spirit in you and ye shall live, and I will place you in your own land."

But the most immediate and striking predictions of return are those found in the so-called Second Isaiah, Isa. chs. 40 to 55. There it is declared that the years of banishment will lead to a close, that the Lord will lead his returning people as a shepherd his flock, preparing all their way, that Babylon will be overthrown, and Cyrus, the conqueror, will give permission to rebuild their city and the temple. (See chs. 40: 9-11; 41: 18-20; 43: 1-7; 44: 24 to 45, 17; 48: 2-23, etc.).

I. THE PROMISE, Jer. 29: 10-14.

It was after Jerusalem had been taken by Nebuchadnezzar's army in B.C. 597 (ch. 29: 1, 2; compare ch. 24: 1 and 2 Kings 24: 10-16), and many of the best of the people had been carried away to Babylon, that Jeremiah addressed to the captives a letter, the substance of which is given in this chapter. It seems that other letters had been sent, and other predictions made quite different from that of Jeremiah by men professing to be prophets born in Jerusalem and in Babylon, chs. 28: 1-4; 29: 8, 9, 20-23; etc.). Jeremiah, however, these men as not only false prophets, but also as morally unfit to be the spiritual guides of the people.

After seventy years, Jeremiah declares, the Lord will fulfill his promise, will perform his good word to them. Moffat renders v. 11, bringing out the meaning more clearly, "For I keep in mind my purpose for you, a purpose of weal, not of woe, to let you have hope for the future." The return described in Ezra, ch. 1, took place shortly after the fall of Babylon in B.C. 538, less than seventy years after this first deportation.

II. THE PROMISE FULFILLED, Ezra 1: 1-11.

The first six chapters of Ezra tell the story of the return of the exiles by the decree of Cyrus after the fall of Babylon in B.C. 538 and of the rebuilding of the temple in the years B.C. 520-516. The latter part of the book tells of Ezra's own mission to Jerusalem some eighty years later. The first year of Cyrus is here to be understood as the first year after his taking possession of Babylon, that is, B.C. 538-537. Previous to that time he had been ruler of the empire of the Medes and Persians for eight or nine years. His consistent policy seems to have been to cultivate the good will of the subject people of his empire, attaching them strongly to his own central government by favors and benefits bestowed upon them. He and his successors have aimed to add the rich and fertile lands of the Nile valley, and one reason of state policy for the restoration of the Jewish exiles to their own land may have been the planting of a strong outpost of empire of the border of that land which might serve some time as a base of operations

against it. See the promise of Egypt, Ethiopia, and Saba in the same price of Israel in Isa. 45: 3.

Cyrus is represented here (v. 2) as recognizing the supremacy of the God of Israel, the Lord God of heaven. The language of the decree, however, is most probably diplomatic, and is similar to that of a proclamation issued by him after the taking of Babylon, the great god of Babylon, gives permission to all exiles to return to their homes with their gods, and asks them to pray for him. Of course it is possible that this was more than mere political policy and the Cyrus was sincerely religious, but the prophet who predicts his success (Isa. 45: 1-5), and represents him as the appointed agent of Jehovah's will, says distinctly that he did not know Jehovah, vs. 4, 5. No doubt Cyrus learned from leaders of the Jewish communities in Babylonia their desire both to return and to rebuild their temple, and in his decree gives permission accordingly.

The gifts of the people who remained in Babylon, who were unable at this time to return, were generous and abundant. No doubt the king's gift of the vessels of the house of the Lord, which had been carried off as spoil by Nebuchadnezzar, was most highly prized. Who Shebazzar, the prince of Judah, was is not certainly known, but he was probably identical with Zerrubabel (2: 2; 3: 2; etc.), grandson of the king Jehoiachin who was carried captive in B.C. 597, and who lived many years in Babylon.

III. A SONG OF DELIVERANCE Psalm 126: 1-6.

While not very much is told us in Bible history of the events of the return from exile the evidence is sufficient to establish the fact beyond reasonable doubt, "obscure" the first company to return was few in number. Other companies followed from time to time, and the list given in Ezra, ch. 2, may have covered a hundred years. But there must have been much rejoicing. This simple and beautiful psalm contains both rejoicing and prayer because of what had already been done in the way of restoration, and prayer that the full flood of return might soon come, as with the winter rains, and hope that the harvest long waited for would soon be ripe for the reaping.

### The Aged Poor

New York Times: There has been a lengthening of the average life in America. This does not mean that the maximum span of life has been increased, but only that more people live to a greater age. Child mortality has been greatly diminished — this is the brightest achievement. But there has been an extension of life at the other end. This means that more people live to be old, and in so doing live further beyond the period of greatest vigor, of easy adaptation and of adequate earning ability. Thus this lengthening of life makes the problem of old age more acute and difficult. It makes more imperative, too, some friendly provision for care in that period, even if there is increased saving against old age and its severities.



He: They have a wonderful new altar at the new church. Would you like to see it?  
She: Sure. Lead me to it.

### Light and Shadow

Light and shadow follow one another in life as the sunshine and the shadows over the countryside, and he who would escape dark days must bury himself in a hole of one kind or another before his time, and live a life of neutral tints, a life not worth the living. For it is the lights and the darks that go to form the pattern in the web which without them would be naught but hidden grey.—John Oxenham in "Flower of the Dust".

## Farm Notes

### ADVICE ON SELECTING SHEEP

A fourth edition has just been published of pamphlet No. 106 entitled "Advice to the Beginner in the Selection of Breeding Stock." This advice is good is evidenced by the demand for the pamphlet. It deals with the breeds and types of sheep, with illustrations and a classification of the most important breeds.

Over confidence on the part of beginners in the sheep business spells disaster, and the selection of breeding stock is the particular point upon which beginner need advice and direction. A wrong start means an early abandonment of the business, or an expensive experience in starting again.

A confession of ignorance on the part of a purchaser will generally bring out the best in a salesman, and much help in selection.

The pamphlet will assist the beginner on the matters of choice of breed, uniformity of type, and further it outlines the assistance made available by federal and provincial departments of agriculture through their officers and policies.

A cord to the Publications Branch, Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa, will cause this pamphlet to be mailed to any part of Canada.

### MITES IN THE POULTRY HOUSE

One of the reasons for hens not laying in the warm weather is vermin. There are logical cycles or laying periods and these change at different seasons, which causes a fluctuation in egg yield. This is particularly noticeable as the molting season approaches. Exceptional layers continue well into and in some cases right through the molt.

At this season some birds simply stop laying for no apparent reason and it will pay the breeder to examine such birds for lice. Look in the fluff and under the wings.

The red mite is the most troublesome of the many varieties of vermin that infest chickens and for this reason a circular has been published entitled "How to Rid a Henhouse of Mites." A copy will be mailed on request by the Publications Branch, Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa.

In this the remedies are outlined and disinfectants fully described. All poultrymen should secure a copy, and even if their poultry is not bothered with mites, it may be some day, and it is a good thing to be prepared and know how to treat the situation should it arise.

### BIGGER EGG PROFITS.

Country dealers who are desirous of helping to market better quality eggs and who see increased business for themselves in bigger profits to poultry breeders, would be well advised to secure and tack up in their stores a small circular entitled, "Suggestions for Bigger Egg Profits."

This may be secured from the Publications Branch, Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa. It is printed in black and red on white, and contains the following suggestions:

1. Market clean eggs. Never wash eggs. Use plenty of litter on floors and in nests. Do not let hens out in muddy yards.
2. Keep eggs in a cool, dry, well-ventilated room. Heat causes rapid deterioration in quality, while excessive moisture is conducive to mould development.
3. Keep eggs away from foreign odors. Unpleasant flavors result when eggs are kept near fish, onions, coal oil or other foreign odors.
4. Market eggs promptly—don't hold. Eggs deteriorate in quality rapidly when they are held for any length of time except under proper cold storage conditions.

### HOGS AND HOG GRADING.

The bacon hog is the result of a concerted effort on the part of breeders to produce a finished animal the carcass of which will meet the requirements of the consuming public. The housewife, first in Britain and latterly in this country, has been demanding leaner quality bacon; so that to-day bacon must be lean and of good quality. Fat, heavy, or coarse bacon is not popular.

In order to meet the demands of the fastidious housewife, both at home and in foreign markets, packers and others engaged in the killing of hogs and the distribution of their products, found that the hog with light shoulders, long sides, meaty backs, full loins and rump, and well-developed

## Competition for the Byrd Expedition



### READY FOR A TWO-YEAR CRUISE IN ANTARCTIC

Robert Falcon Scott's old ship, Discovery, will leave shortly on a voyage in Antarctic under command of Sir Douglas Mawson, noted explorer, with an Australian crew.

hams, carrying a uniform medium finish provided the cuts demanded in the retail trade. Progressive breeders naturally endeavored to produce hogs that fully met trade requirements, and to-day the efforts of such men have met with a high degree of success in that the present-day bacon hog of approved type leaves little to be desired from the standpoint of market requirements and is also a profitable pork-producing machine.

Canadian hogs must be of a type which will enable the product of their carcasses to meet successful competition in the world's markets. Fortunately, this type produces an ideal product for the retail trade in Canadian towns and cities. Wiltshire sides produced from bacon hogs provide a means whereby Canada's surplus of bacon can be marketed abroad at highest values, thus maintaining a steady demand and a good market for hogs throughout the Dominion.

We have an additional advantage in the production of this type of hog in that, firstly, the by-products of our great milling and dairy industries contain the necessary elements of good growing ration for pigs; and, secondly, the large acreage sown annually to small grains provides ample feed for finishing purposes. The whole subject is fully discussed in "The Bacon Hog and Hog Grading," a bulletin which may be had free on application to the Publications Branch, Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa.



He: Do you like the mine owner because he has a vein of humor running through him?  
She: No—because he has a vein of gold running through his mine.

A Manchester firm of engineers recently spent some time in pondering over a letter, written in Greek, which demanded the production of a (literally translated) "water sheep." After some racking of the brains, it turned out to be a request for an "hydraulic ram."—Manchester Guardian.



### SMART KILTIED SKIRT.

A crisp printed cotton pique in yellow and white with skirt pressed into deep kilted plaits is excellent all-day dress for the little miss of 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 years. It is girlish yet sophisticated. The comfortable neckline is finished with white pique collar with bow tie. White pique makes narrow belt that marks waistline, and ties in sash at back. Style No. 569 is easily copied, and at a very small outlay. You'll like it especially in white pique with sailor blue pique trim. Orchid chambray with white pique, sprigged dimity with white organdie, sportswear linen in daffodil yellow with green trim, pink shantung, brown and white checked gingham with white linen, and flowered cotton voile with plain voile are attractive combinations. Pattern price 20c in stamps or coin (coin is preferred). Wrap coin carefully.

### 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 Wilson Pattern Service, 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto. Patterns sent by an early mail.

Poet (Dreamily)—"I can see poems in the fire. Critic (arousing): "I've seen some that should be."

## Economy Corner

### Banana Bread Pudding

Three slices of bread or stale rolls, 2 cups milk, 1/2 cup sugar, 2 egg whites and 2 large or 4 small bananas. Break the bread in small pieces pour the milk over this and let it soak. Beat the egg whites very stiff and add to the bread mixture. Slice the bananas into a pudding dish and pour in the other on top. Bake about a half-hour. Serve with cream, custard sauce or plain.

### Fruitines

1/2 cup shortening, 1 cup sugar, 1/2 cup milk, 1/2 cup molasses, 1/2 cup grape juice, or any juice from canned fruit may be used, 2 cups flour, 2 teaspoons baking powder, 1/4 teaspoon soda, 1 teaspoon each of cinnamon, nutmeg and cloves, 1/2 cup chopped nuts and 2 cups raisins or raisins and dates mixed. Sometimes use chopped prunes.

Cream shortening and sugar; add milk, molasses and grape juice. Mix and sift dry ingredients; add fruit and nuts and combine the two mixtures. Roll and cut or spread on a large tin and cut in squares when baked.

### Orange Bread Pudding

One cup bread crumbs, 2 table-egg-yolks, 1 1/2 cups scalded milk, 2 eggs-yolks, 1 1/2 cup sugar, juice of 2 oranges, grated rind of 2 oranges. Add bread crumbs and butter to scalded milk and soak 30 minutes add egg-yolk beaten with sugar, and orange juice and rind. Pour into but-moderate oven until firm. Cool and cover with meringue.

### To Preserve Strawberries

Hull and wash strawberries. Weigh and add the same weight in sugar as strawberries. Let stand overnight and just see that they come to a boil all over the next morning, then bottle and seal in sterilized jars. Like fresh fruit in winter.

### Fluffy Hard Sauce

One-quarter cup butter, 1/2 cup powdered sugar, - egg white, 1/4 teaspoon vanilla, 1/4 cup cream. Work butter until creamy, add sugar slowly, egg white beaten stiff, add vanilla, and fold in cream beaten stiff.

### Scalloped Salmon

One can salmon, freed of bone and skin. Mince 6 medium, cold-boiled potatoes. Place potatoes and salmon in alternate layers in buttered baking dish. Season well with salt and pepper. Cover with buttered cracker crumbs. Pour over all 1 cup milk mixed with 1 beaten egg. Bake 1/2 hour. Serve hot.

### Potato Scones

Mash 4 boiled potatoes, cool and rub into 1 quart of flour, into which 2 teaspoons baking powder and 1/4 teaspoon salt have been sifted. Mix with milk into a dough about like biscuit. Turn out on a board, cut in any desired shape and fry in hot fat to a delicate brown. These are fine served with crisp bacon.

### Salmon Loaf

One can salmon, 3 eggs, 6 crackers, rolled fine, 1 cup milk, small piece butter, pepper and salt to taste. Steam three hours.

### Bran Muffins

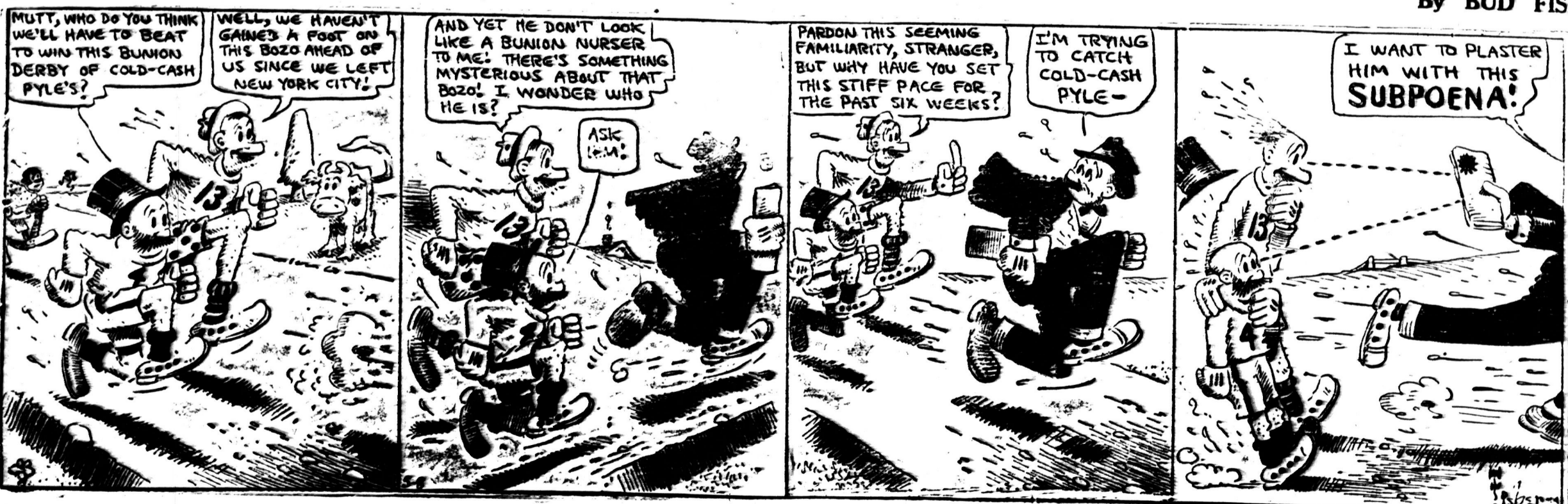
Three tablespoons butter, 3/4 cup sugar, 3 eggs, 1 1/4 cups flour, 1/4 teaspoon salt, 1 1/4 cups milk, 1 cup bran, 3 teaspoons baking powder. Cream the butter and sugar together, add the eggs beaten well; sift and add flour, baking powder and salt to the creamed mixture; add the bran, then the milk alternately with the sifted ingredients. Pour into greased muffin tins and bake in a moderate oven (375 degree F).

### Soups Made of Dried Peas or Beans.

Soups of Dried Peas or Beans—Pick over and soak split peas, dried green peas or white beans overnight. Drain, measure, add 4 times as much cold water, to each quart of water and 1/4 onion. Simmer slowly till soft. Rub through sieve. Return to fire, season with salt and pepper, and for each quart thicken with 1 teaspoon each butter and flour. Boil up again for a few minutes.

Mr. Ramsey MacDonald says (of his Cabinet): "He who has to leave out is even more pained in his heart than those left out." But no school-boy was ever impressed by the old "hurts me more than it hurts you" tag.

## MUTT AND JEFF



By **BUD FISHER**

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One Motto: