

Sunday School Lesson

July 14, Lesson II—Ezekiel Teaches Personal Responsibility—Ezekiel 33: 7-16. Golden Text—Every one of us shall give account of himself to God.—Romans 14: 12.

ANALYSIS.

- I. INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY, ch. 18: 1-32.
- II. THE WATCHMAN'S WARNING, ch. 33: 1-20.

INTRODUCTION—The earlier prophets address themselves to the nation as a whole, rather than to the individual. They emphasize the common duty and the common responsibility, and this surely needs emphasis, especially in our own age of somewhat exaggerated individualism. But in Ezekiel's time, the nation was swiftly going to destruction. The common life of nation, city, and country town, of sanctuary and temple, was being broken up. The people were emigrating to other lands, dispersed or captive. Individual character and faith now become all important. Only by these, in strength and purity, could the religion of the fathers be preserved. Only by a new sense of individual and personal responsibility could men meet the urgent need of their time, bear its heavy burdens, and preserve hope for the future. Only by faithful reliance upon the covenant faithfulness of God, could the inner life of the nation be saved from utter extinction and revived in the glory of the new age of deliverance toward which the prophets looked with eyes of confident expectation. In both Jeremiah and Ezekiel we find this new emphasis upon the relation of every man directly and personally to God upon the cultivation of the inner life of the spirit, and upon individual moral conduct and responsibility.

- I. INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY, ch. 18: 1-32.

Apparently it was a common thing in those first years of captivity and exile for the people to put the blame for all their troubles upon the sins of their fathers. "Our fathers sinned," they said, "and we bear the consequences." The fathers have eaten sour grapes and the children's teeth are set on edge" (compare Jer. 31: 29, 30). It was an easy way to throw off responsibility, all the easier because in some measure it was true. Children do suffer for the sins of the parents (see Exod. 20: 5 and 34: 7). The mistake they made was in supposing this to be the whole truth, and refusing to accept their own share of the blame. The prophet declares also the parallel and complementary truth that a man is not helplessly implicated in the penalties which follow upon the sins of the past. The way to life and the favor of God is open to him if he will turn from the ways of evil and do what is lawful and right in the sight of God.

The fundamental truth is that stated in v. 4. All souls belong to God. He is interested in, and concerned with, every soul of man, his character and his destiny. Ultimately every man will be judged according to his own deeds, whether they be good or whether they be evil (see Jer. 17: 10; 32: 19; Psalm 62: 12; Rom. 2: 6; 13: 8).

It is interesting and helpful to study the character of the "just" man as described by Ezekiel, vs. 5-9, 14-17. He does not frequent the idol sanctuaries, nor partake of their sacrificial feasts upon the mountains. He does not break the social laws by which the sanctity and purity of the home are guarded. He has considerable regard for the poor and the needy. In a position of authority he hath executed true judgment between man and man. He has reverently walked in and kept the laws of God. The character of the unjust man is just the opposite of this. The one is rewarded by a good life in the favor and under the blessing of God. The other is punished by the loss of that favor and blessing, in which is true life, and so by a death of sin, a spiritual death, which begins even while he lives, and from which he can escape only by the mercy of God, and by reformation of conduct, vs. 21-23, 27, 28; Isa. 55: 6, 7.

For God is merciful as well as just. He has no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that he should return from his ways and live. Compare Psalm 103: 8-12; Isa. 57: 16-18; Micah. 7: 18, 19; 1 Tim. 2: 4; 2 Peter 3: 9. His mercy covers a multitude of sins. It is not primarily God's will, but their own iniquity that brings ruin upon them, v. 20.

- II. THE WATCHMAN'S WARNING, ch. 33: 1-20.

There is much in this chapter that is a repetition of the prophet's teaching in ch. 18. But a new situation has arisen. It is the twelfth year of the captivity (B.C. 586), and news has

just come of the fall of the city of Jerusalem into the ruthless hands of the Chaldeans, v. 21. All hope of a speedy restoration of the captives was now gone. Ezekiel's prediction had come true, and the people could no longer doubt that he had spoken to them as a prophet of God. Formerly they had been excusing themselves, blaming the sins of their fathers for the calamities that had come upon them, ch. 18. Now they are in despair—hope and pride have vanished. Ezekiel feels very heavily the responsibility which rests upon himself as well as upon them, upon himself as God's watchman, charged with their care and right guidance, and upon them because they are now convinced of the truth of his repeated warnings, and that he has indeed spoken to them the words of God.

From the beginning of his prophetic ministry Ezekiel had been led to think of himself as a watchman unto the house of Israel (v. 7. Compare 3: 15-21). His duty was to warn the wicked of his way to turn from it. No man has ever felt more deeply than he the importance and obligation of such a task—the task of the spiritual leader in every age and in every nation.

The dependence of the people committed to his care is evident in their words as quoted in v. 10. Moffatt renders, "Son of man, tell Israel: This is your cry, that 'our transgressions and our sins press upon us, we are wasting away under them; how can we live?' " They no longer excuse themselves—they admit their sins, but despair of forgiveness. The prophet's words are full of comfort and of hope for the truly repentant. None of his sins that he hath committed shall be mentioned unto him. The way of repentance and of well-doing will be for him the way of life, v. 16. This is the justice, and this is the equity, of the way of the Lord.

Styles by A. NETTE

Paris—New York.



SMART BLOOMER DRESS

Printed linen takes its place in the mode and is used for a most unusual bloomer dress for the growing miss of 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 years. The back of waist extends over shirred front, forming yoke effect. The short puff sleeves are a new style feature. Collar can be made in plain or scalloped outline. The attached two-piece skirt with smartly pressed plaits, allow plenty of freedom for the activities of youth. Pattern No. 821 consists of dress and bloomers. For the 8 year size it requires 2 1/2 yards of 36-inch material with 1/4 yard of 18-inch contrasting. Printed sateen, chambray, tub silk, cotton broadcloth, checked gingham, printed crepe de chine and printed cotton foulard also smart. Price 20c in stamps or coin (coin 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.

Burglar (sternly): "Where's your husband?"
Woman (trembling): "Under the bed."
Burglar: "Then I won't take anything. It's bad enough to have such a husband without being robbed too."



Premier Ferguson of Ontario christening the "Imperoyal", a Gypsy Moth plane presented to the Aviation League of Canada by Imperial Oil Limited, at the opening of the Hamilton Airport recently. The plane is being used by Major Gen. J. H. MacBrien, C.B., C.M.S., D.S.O., in his travels about the country in the interests of aviation.

Farm Notes

The well arranged herbageous border is a charming feature of the well-kept home grounds. If the plants have been well selected there is assured a continuous flower display from early spring until the autumn frosts arrive. The perennial border may be started either by the purchase of plants in the fall or spring of the year, or by raising the plants from seed. The latter way is much more economical and this is the season of the year when the seeds should be planted for next year's border.

In a new bulletin on "Herbageous Perennials" by Miss Isabella Preston of the Horticultural Division of the Dominion Experimental Farms, it is recommended to establish the seed bed in a shady position though not under trees. The soil need not be rich, but it is very heavy it is recommended to lighten it was sand. For good germination the surface soil must be very fine. Miss Preston recommends a width of four feet for the bed and a length limited only by the available garden space and the quantity of plants desired to be grown. This bulletin, which contains a wealth of horticultural information, the result of many years' experience and observation, is now ready for distribution at the Publications Branch of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa. The perennials best suited for Canadian gardens in all parts of Canada are enumerated and described and their culture carefully dealt with.

Grades for Strawberries

The marketing of all kinds of produce is materially helped when properly graded. The Fruit Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa has offered recommended grades for strawberries. First of all it is recommended that the fruit be divided into Number 1, Number 1 Canning, and Number 1 for Jam. The specifications for Number 1 strawberries calls for fruit with the calyx and a short stem attached, which are well formed, of good color, firm but not over-ripe, free from surface moisture, bruises, bird pecks, mould, and from damage caused by sand, disease or other means. The minimum diameter for this grade is three-quarters of an inch, measured from side to side.

Number 1 canning strawberries are recommended to consist of field run fruit, clean, sound, ripe, firm, and of uniform size, of good color and free from malformed or monkeyfaced berries.

The specifications for Number 1 Jam strawberries call for field run fruit, clean, ripe, and of good color, free from malformed or monkeyfaced berries. In order to allow for variations incident to careful commercial grading and handling, an allowance of five per cent. under the prescribed size and five per cent. by volume may fall below the remaining requirements of the grade.

Hollywood children should be screened and not heard.

The Fairies

The fairies have never a penny to spend. They haven't a thing put by. But theirs is the dower of bird and of flower. And theirs are the earth and the sky. And though you should live in a palace of gold Or sleep in a dried-up ditch, You could never be poor as the fairies are. And never as rich.

Since ever and ever the world began They have danced like a ribbon of flame. They have sung their song through the centuries long. An dyet it is never the same. And though you be foolish or though you be wise, With hair of silver or gold, You could never be young as the fairies are. And never as old.

Food and the Girl

London Evening News (Ind. Cons.): When doctors are in conference they sometimes do agree. American doctors in their annual congress at Atlantic City differed in the blame they assigned to cigarettes, late hours and insufficient winter clothing as causes of illness among girls of 14 to 19 years; but they did agree that the chief cause of the high rate of tuberculosis among them was that they did not eat enough. Well, it is not so over here. Overeating is almost the universal fault, if by overeating one means taking a few ounces at each meal more than is absolutely needful to renew vitality. If the development of tuberculosis in the average English girl depended solely and wholly on her starving herself she would never get tuberculosis.

Public Health

Le Devoir (Ind.): Twenty-five years ago the United States was hardly more advanced in matters of hygiene than we are at present. Thanks to constant and intensive propaganda, in the art of which our neighbours are past masters, they have arrived at as astonishing results. The City of New York can show an incredible death rate for such a dense agglomeration of people. It is education in the school, the factor and the home which has accomplished these results. As soon, in fact, as the majority of citizens are convinced of the importance of hygiene, of the elementary truth that health is the first gift of nature and must be protected, public bodies are forced to adapt their budgets in consequence.

Wife (With newspaper) — "Just think of it! A couple got married a few days ago after a courtship which lasted fifty years."
Husband "I suppose the poor old man was too feeble to hold out any longer."

Tasty Dishes

Cheese Creole With Bacon

Saute 1 tablespoon diced onion, 2 tablespoons green pepper, chopped fine and 1 tablespoon butter. Add 1/2 cup tomato pulp, canned or fresh. Cook five minutes. Add 1 cup grated cheese, 1/2 teaspoon salt and a few grains cayenne. When cheese is melted, add 2 tablespoons milk and 1 egg slightly beaten. Cook, stirring until smooth, about five minutes. Serve on toast with broiled bacon.

Dark Fruit Cake

One-half cup butter, 2 eggs, 3/4 cup brown sugar, 1/2 cup milk, 2 cups flour, 3/4 cup raisins, seeded and cut in pieces, 3/4 cup currants, 1/2 cup citron thinly sliced and cut in strips. 1/2 cup molasses, 1/2 teaspoon lemon, 1/2 teaspoon soda, 1 teaspoon cinnamon, 1/2 teaspoon clove, 1/2 teaspoon mace.

Indian Tapioca Pudding

Three tablespoons pearl tapioca, soaked several hours in a little cold water, then add to 1 quart of milk and cook in double boiler until clear. Wet 2 tablespoons Indian meal with cold milk and add to above, cooking 10 minutes. Remove from fire and cool slightly, then add 1/2 cup each of sugar and molasses, 1 egg, a little butter, pinch of salt, 1 teaspoon each ginger and cinnamon, and bake in a very slow oven three hours.

Prune Pie

Cook one pound of prunes in water to cover well, as you would for sauce. When tender, remove stones, and sweeten to taste. Cover a deep pie plate with pastry, turn in the prunes. Sprinkle a little nutmeg over the top (if you like the flavor), cover with a top crust and bake until crust is browned and well done. Economical and easily prepared. Also delicious either warm or cold.

Spanish Soup

Two cups canned tomatoes, three cups Savita broth, two tablespoons butter, half cup chopped sweet peppers, salt. Melt the butter, add the peppers and simmer five minutes. Add the tomatoes and Savita broth, and simmer twenty minutes. Strain, season and serve.

Date Muffins

One-third cup butter, 1/4 cup sugar, 1 egg, 3 level teaspoons baking powder, 1/2 cup milk, 2 cups pastry flour or bread flour, 1/2 teaspoon salt, scant 1/2 pound dates. Cream butter and sugar, add egg beaten light. Sift together three times the dry ingredients and add to the first mixture alternately with the milk. Beat thoroughly and add the dates cut in pieces. Bake in hot well-buttered muffin pans.

Ottawa—The big Ford tri-motor seaplane, which was recently acquired by the Entomological Branch of the Department of the Interior, will leave Ottawa almost immediately for West Tree, Ont., north of Sudbury, where experimental dusting operations will begin in an effort to control the spread of the spruce budworm, which is ravaging the balsam and pulpwood stands of the district.

Art of the Arab Palace

About the construction of the Arab Palace there is something constantly substantial and other. The slender columns, whether single or grouped, seem quite unobtrusive by the apparently enormous weight of masonry which they sustain, and it is not until one realizes how much of this is merely wood that the secret is explained. Then the symbolic origin of the curious style becomes clear. It is all an idealized reminiscence of the nomad life of the desert. The columns are nothing more than tent-poles, the vaulted ceilings are the tents, while the brilliantly-colored walls, with their fantastic adornments, represent the flimsy, filmy draperies, the tapestries and hanging rugs that gave an air of easy luxuriance to the tent interiors.

The decorative work in the Arab palace is of that peculiar intricacy and richness which is popularly associated with the Alhambra. The walls, every inch of them are covered with arabesques of the most amazing splendor, which at first appear to have been traced and sculptured by hand, but are, in fact, worked on plaster of Paris laid in plates upon the smooth surface of the wall. Interwoven with the somewhat artificial geometrical designs and the less-frequent motifs of greater vitality are mottoes in Arabic characters, extolling the greatness of Allah, the exploits of Moslem sovereigns, the beauty of the Alhambra halls and gardens.

All this is so much unlike anything to which the visitor from the West is accustomed that he should not find it difficult to transport himself into medieval times of his own imaginings.

He can people the towers and terraces with Moorish knights in luxuriously-appointed armour—courts and halls, now empty and silent, with nobles and fair ladies in robes of brilliant whiteness or many-hued silks—the upper apartments used in stroyed-winter (most of which are now modified, neglected or destroyed) with those same courtiers and ladies, adorned profusely with gold and precious stones, reclining on luxurious divans, in halls lit with hanging lamps of brass or gold, heated with braziers of exquisite design, and perfumed by eastern gums burning in censers, the niches meant for which still remain. This imaginative transformation of the upper apartments is the most necessary of all for us to make, for only so can we enter into the life of the Alhambra during those brief Spanish winters, when there was less of western warfare and more of eastern delight. Oriental carpets of a luxury undreamed of were brought from Persia and Damascus to cover the marble floors, and, though the visitor to-day sees only the bareness proper to . . . summer, we may be sure that the short days in those halls of splendor were no less idyllic than long.

Debunking Debunkers

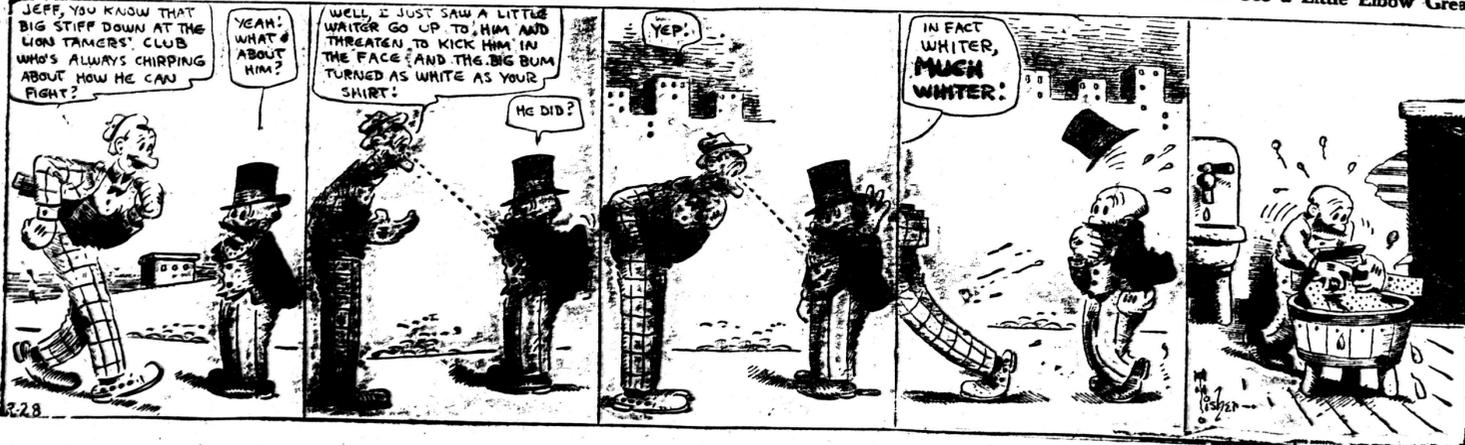
New York Sun: There are two kinds of biography which are equally bad. The one errs on the side of adulation; the other on that of refutation. The one makes imitation angels of all its subjects; the other makes of them limbs of Satan. Debunkers are entitled at least to this much credit: they have made sticky sentimentality unfashionable in biographical writing. But the debunkers themselves need debunking when they permit their method to degenerate into slander for profit.

The Cost of Crashing

New York Herald-Tribune: There is discussion among jurists as to whether airplanes should be liable only for damages they inflict through negligence or absolutely liable, and a strong argument for the latter view is the extreme difficulty of proving that the pilot (who is likely to be dead) was negligent. The Connecticut law makes the plane liable only when there has been negligence, but the law, already adopted in twelve States, which has been drafted by the Committee on Uniform State Laws makes it absolutely liable.

Pretty Nurse: "Every time I take the patient's pulse it gets faster. What shall I do?"
Doctor: "Blindfold him."

MUTT AND JEFF—By Bud Fisher.



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Bird In My Bird in my garden Why must you stay Bird with the bright Please go away! It's not that I love the blue, Nor grudge you the that I threew— But when your bea Straw, wisps and ha Bird in my garden, Please go away!



Joy and The joy that comes The sweet pains of I would not have the

About two hours people suffer from They call it indigestion the stomach nerves stimulated. There The way to correct alkali, which neutral its volume in acid. The right way is Magnesia—just a water. It is pleas

