

Sunday School Lesson

July 21. Lesson III—Ezekiel's Vision of Hope—Ezekiel 47: 1-9. Golden Text—Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end.—Isaiah 9: 7.

ANALYSIS.

I. THE RIVER OF LIFE, vs. 1-5.
II. A RESTORED PARADISE, vs. 6-12.

INTRODUCTION—Ezekiel believed, as Jeremiah did, that a time of restoration would come, and that the exiled people of Israel would return to their own land. In exile a remnant, escaped from the sword, would repent, and would remember the Lord, ch. 8: 9-10. Then the Lord would gather them and bring them back, and put a new spirit in them, and renew with them the ancient covenant bond, ch. 11: 17-20; 18: 60-68. He believed also that the kingdom would be restored and would become prosperous, ch. 37: 22-24.

For, the prophet declares, Jehovah will be the good shepherd of his people, caring for them and keeping them in the happy days that are yet to come, ch. 34. "And thou shalt say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden," ch. 36: 35. A new David will arise whom the Lord will make king over a purified nation (ch. 34: 23; 37: 24), and his sanctuary will be established in Israel for ever, ch. 37: 27, 28.

It is in harmony with this expectation that Ezekiel presents to us, in chs. 40 to 48, a remarkable picture of the restored city and temple to which he believes the Lord will return, and in which he will once more make his dwelling. The picture is presented as though seen in a dream or vision. He stands upon a high mountain, he sees "a building like a city in front" of him, "he passes through its courts, he watches the service of its great altar." An angel guides him and instructs him as he goes. He sees coming back from the east the glorious majesty of the God of Israel whom in a similar vision he had seen departing years before (compare chs. 10: 18, 19; 11: 22-24; and 43: 1-7). There also is a place for the prince or king who will rule justly and equitably over the people (ch. 45: 7-17).

I. THE RIVER OF LIFE, vs. 1-5.

The vision of the holy city, the temple, and the glorified land continues to the end of the book. In the last verse the new name of the city is given, Jehovah-shammah, "the Lord is there." Here (v. 1) he is brought by his guide to the door of the temple which looked toward the east. He sees a river of water issuing from the temple, from under the threshold on the right, or south, side, flowing eastward past the altar. The eastern gates were apparently closed (ch. 46: 1), and, therefore, he was led out of the temple court by the north gate and "found upon the outside of the outer gate that faced eastward" (v. 2. Note that the gate was closed, not the waters were flowing out into the open country. The man with the line . . . in his hand is, of course, the angel guide (ch. 40: 3). The river as it advances becomes deeper. At four thousand cubits it becomes waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over.

The vision is no doubt, to be interpreted in terms of spiritual realities. The sanctuary, which represents the dwelling of God with his people, becomes a source of blessing to the entire country. The influence of the sanctuary goes out, broadening and deepening, to enrich the life of all the land, bringing life and fertility even into dead and barren places. "This splendid imagination vividly suggests the beneficent and life-giving influences that will stream forth from the church of God upon the sick and famished souls of a dead and arid world," Baker's Commentary. It was by a true insight into the prophet's meaning that the writer of the book of Revelation (ch. 22), was led to use this same figure—"a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb," the river of divine grace, and of spiritual blessing. See also Psalm 46: 4.

II. A RESTORED PARADISE, vs. 6-12.

The country to the east of Jerusalem, extending to the Dead Sea, is for the most part rugged and barren. G. A. Smith describes it as a "hazzy desert." The life-giving river, in the prophet's vision, flows through this dead land into a dead and bitter sea, and makes the desert a paradise. Trees grow and bear fruit, and their leaves have healing virtue, and the bitter waters become sweet so that there shall be a great multitude of fish.

It is quite possible that the prophet associates closely in his mind material with spiritual blessings. The river

and the paradise which it creates may represent both. God is in the midst of his people. His favor is restored. He bestows his gifts upon them bountifully, food for the bodies and for the souls of men.

Apparently Ezekiel regards salt as one of the necessities of life, and sees, therefore, in his vision the salt-marshes preserved, v. 11. "They are to be left for supplying salt."

The word *desert* (v. 8, Hebrew *Arabah*), is used to designate the deep valley, below sea-level, south of the Sea of Galilee, in which is the Jordan River and the Dead Sea. The Arabs call it the *Ghor*.

En-Gedi was on the western side of the Dead Sea. The other place mentioned in v. 10 is unknown.

Toning With Sun-Tints

The vogue for a sun-tanned complexion influences women in the selection of their lingerie. Frocks, too, are chosen with an outdoor sport emphasis in style and color. White is the outstanding success for both daytime and evening wear but some vivid splash of color is introduced through accessories—one of the new choker strings of wooden beads, a gay blocked linen handbag, or an ensemble of matching hat and bag. All the pastel tints in orchid, rose, but-tercup-yellow and indigo, rank next to white in favor, while red stands side by side with white for smartness. Even shoes show the influence of the sun-tan vogue. Either they have much openwork or flaunt themselves frankly as sandals.

Summer Grass

With gentle dignity they bend before the wind, the summer grasses, rhythmically, quietly, as the wind passes. The golden light of evening bathes in colour their bending heads, gliding the pathway where the wind treads. Endlessly they bend and rise and bend again, and when day fades and night's blue supplants its golden shades

Still quietly they bend their tufted heads— Though no one sees— In silver ripples Under the breeze.

Highwaymen

La Patrie (Cons.): (A motorist in the Eastern Townships was prevailed upon to stop by bandits, who pretended that an accident had taken place.) Would it not be better to continue on one's way, especially at night, when people make signs of distress? This is what some motorists are asking themselves who believe prudence to be a mark of wisdom. But if there really are wounded, can we abandon them on the road, without attempting to help them? Most accidents happen at night, so that it is pretty hard, if people ask you to stop and their car is upset in a ditch, not to pay any attention to their appeal for help. . . . If people signal to you to stop at night, you had best be cautious; if there is any doubt about it, don't stop.



BOVINE OBJECTION

"College boys can't work their way to Europe on cattle boats any longer!" "No—the cattle kicked." Brown was loaded up with parcels when his friend met him. "Been doing a bit of shopping?" asked the friend. "Yes, I've bought my wife two hats, two boxes of chocolates, and a string of pearls." "Good heavens! what an awful quarrel you must have had!"

Mrs. Fuss Has Right of Way



CLEVER POLICEMAN SAVED 18 LIVES

Traffic officer on Michigan Boulevard saves eighteen feline lives by holding traffic until Frosty got her kit safely across the street.

Economy in Business Clothes

London—Smart summer clothes for the business woman may seem an extravagance, but in a season when printed crepe de chine and many other kinds of crepe are more than ever popular, one finds the difficulty already solved. The widest variety in patterns is available, and the small designs, so popular this year, are readily worn. For instance, a crepe dress in dark blue and beige is most suitable for office wear; this mixture gives a feeling of freshness, but is not really a light dress, and therefore will not quickly get dirty as the pattern is small. The tendency in other years has been to adopt a plain material for the coat. This season we see a leaning to coats of the same design as the frock, and this model gives an air of gayety outdoors, is pleasing, and is particularly attractive when a seven-eighths-length coat is edged with dark or light fur as the case may demand.

In the accompanying sketch is given an impression of the popular ensemble made in beige-and-black printed crepe de chine with black fur (the back of the neck and small tufts and these are four or five inches long, forming a yoke effect across the shoulders, and give fullness).

There are many types of materials. A new silk-and-cotton crepe has appeared which is guaranteed uncrushable and is considerably cheaper than marocain and promises to be practical for hard wear. A loose canvas kasha—a sort of crepe—is good for sports skirts and looks well with jersey fabrics.

Taking trouble over one's wardrobe, over the little things, is rewarded and due consideration in the beginning is always an economy of time, for it is the little things such as collars or cuffs or belt, that make a dress. The individual touch in such things just lifts a dress above the ordinary. In the case of the costume illustrated, an individual touch might be added to the dress by the belt. For this two belts, one black patent leather, the other chine-suede, might be combined, using the shiny black for the back section and keeping the front red.

There is, at the moment, a great fancy for bows and knotted ends, also for flounces, shirred and knotted. Sleeves are caught in at the wrist and knotted and several bows may appear on the gown, but one needs to be careful not to overdo this motif. The scarf is very fashionable tied in a small bow over one shoulder. Skirts for street wear are mostly even round the hem. A pretty model shown in printed crepe, showing a beige-colored daisy on a black back-

ground, has the skirt edged with black, the hem mounting up the skirt about 12 inches on one side.

Great variety is expressed in fashions, not so much on account of the materials, and the season may well be called one of patterned fabrics.

On Being a Snob

New York Sun: (Professor Rogers of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has advised the boys not to marry the boss' stenographer, but to marry his daughter; always to buy clothes with extra pairs of trousers and have one suit pressed each week; to buy a second suit as soon as they can get the money; to buy shoe trees for every pair of shoes; to be freshly shaved and shined each day; to eschew in the evening a collar which has done service in the morning. Excellent suggestions these and capitally designed to achieve the end in view, of becoming a snob, of "putting up a front." There is one thing, however, the Professor failed to tell the boys, a bit of warning that seems necessary. That is, if one of them ever goes into the office of a real gentleman asking for a job, that he keep secret both his great purpose in life and the technical method by which he has acquired his own sham gentility. Otherwise, the gentleman might forget he is a gentleman and call upon some husky and unscrupulous person to come in and throw his unwelcome visitor down a back staircase.

Silence

Silence, the lone, mustang Who races thunder, Calls on space to give him Voice for his wonder.

Deep and deeper ever Into night he goes, Yet, from his still breathing Drops a gold rose.

His hoofs of flint Hammer rocks sealed and dumb, Open the veins Whence mighty rivers come.

Drunken Drivers

Saint John Times-Globe (Ind.): Drivers of automobiles owe it to themselves and the public to remain sober. People who go to the suburban areas during the week end, not infrequently encounter drivers who are under the influence of liquor. In every such case where the fact is proved, the penalty should be prompt and severe.

The man who says he owes everything to his wife sometimes forgets what he owes to his tailor.

Graft in Turkey

Investigators Report Extortion by Customs Men

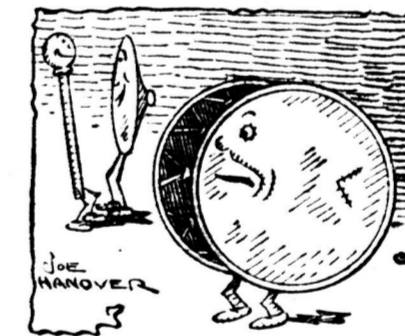
Angora, Turkey.—The high cost of bakshesh, Turkish economists have just declared, is an important factor in the cost of living in Turkey today, the necessities of life having soared to such dizzy prices during the last few years that the government has summoned its experts to find a remedy. One expert reports that in order to get merchandise out of the Turkish customs the importer is forced to distribute among officials a sum averaging 50 per cent. of the imported goods' value money which eventually comes out of the consumers' pocket.

A battle against bakshesh must be waged, the report concludes, before the government can check the soaring cost of living, which has already increased more than 2,000 per cent. over pre-war prices.

Squaw Wins Fight With Bear

Handicapped by Papoose, Kills Animal With Tiny Ax

Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.—Lrances Zuckigesick, an Indian woman of Franz, battled valiantly against a bear which attacked her as she was inspecting traps near her home. Carrying a papoose on her back, the woman was greatly handicapped when the bear which was followed by two cubs, charged her with savage fury. Armed only with a small axe, the woman fought for fifteen minutes, and finally killed the bear, escaping herself with a few scratches. The animal was a large one. The cubs escaped.



Cymbal: Mr. Bass Drum looks to be all in. Drum Stick: Yes, he got a good beating last night.

Our Lives

We make provisions for this life as though it were never to have an end, and for the other life as though it were never to have a beginning. Joseph Addison.

Impatience

Bangor Commercial: Impatience is a malady that afflicts a large proportion of Americans. This is manifest in many ways. Long before a train reaches the station many get up and stand in the aisles as if that would cause the train to arrive a bit sooner. Some feel that it is necessary to be the first to alight, though they may not be pressed for time at all. If a train is a few minutes late in arriving impatience is expressed in remarks about the poor management of the road. If these impatient people wait five minutes for a street car, they declare it is a half hour, and conclude that the road has gone bankrupt and has quit running cars. If an elevator is not available the instant they want it, they push the button and fuss and fume. It is not unusual for a pedestrian to take a chance on a crossing and then turn and watch the train go by. It is not the value of time which makes such people hurry so. Instead of being as busy as they think they are, they are merely impatient.

Farm Relief

Washington Post: The test of farm relief will come in the application of the \$500,000,000 farm loan fund and the attitude of the farmers. It will be no easy task to apply the fund wisely. Every penny that is expended will go forth as a two-edged sword, to the relief of the farmer, but, potentially and possibly, to the destruction of farm relief itself. For if the fund raises the general level of farm prices considerably the temptation may be to extend cultivation, and if further surpluses are harvested the farm problem will become greater from year to year. Herein lies the test of farm relief—will the fact that the Government has come to the assistance of impoverished farmers with a \$500,000,000 loan fund lead them to expand their acreage so that they can get as much of the "gravy" as possible?

Naval Disarmament

New York World: The fact that the most difficult of all international questions. The atmosphere is right, therefore, for such a frontal attack on the Anglo-American naval problem as Premier MacDonald has in mind. The immediate cordial response from Washington in every responsible quarter to the suggestion that he visit this country during the summer shows that the will to settle the question has been aroused. Men are ready to believe to-day what they would not have been ready to believe had Mr. Young failed in Paris—that a problem is soluble even if it is complicated. They are not prepared to believe that they will fail when in the face of greater difficulties their countrymen have just succeeded so brilliantly.

The Citizen's Responsibility

Detroit Free Press: Plainly, it is the duty of the Government to keep prohibition enforcement men within bounds and to stop the outrages some of them perpetrate. Equally it is the duty of citizens, and particularly of citizens in a city geographically situated as Detroit is situated, to assist the Government by themselves obeying the law, instead of hindering and thwarting it, by supporting and patronizing enemies of law and order. The blood of innocent victims cries out from the ground against both those who make reckless and criminal use of Government pistols, and those who create the occasion for the war against run runners and bootleggers, by patronizing them.

Reparations

Chicago Tribune: On the whole, the recent Paris Conference cannot be considered a triumph of American financial diplomacy. The settlement was arrived at partly at the expense of the American people. It is said the cost is a small one in exchange for world financial stability from which the United States will benefit. Possibly this is the fact, but it is significant that America has not been wholly lacking in prosperity in recent years without an international bank and a reparations settlement to contribute to our well being.

MUTT AND JEFF— Bankers Are Like That.



Time To Use a Little Elbow Grease.