

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

THE EVER-PRESENT GOD—A Psalm 139.

PRINTED TEXT, Pa. 139: 1-12. GOLDEN TEXT—If a man love me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. John 14: 23.

THE LESSON IN ITS SETTING

Time.—We are not able to ascertain when this psalm was written, though its title makes it to be a product of the time of King David.

Place.—There is nothing in the psalm to indicate at what place it was first written.

In this lesson we have the opportunity of considering a subject which has almost fallen out of modern thought, i.e., God's perfect knowledge of all a man's deeds, even of his inner life. Nowhere else in the Bible is this so strikingly set forth as in this magnificent psalm.

There is a more overwhelming sense of the fact that man is best and compassed by God, and pervaded by His Spirit; and yet nowhere is there a more emphatic assertion of the personality of man as distinct from, not absorbed in, the Deity. In this psalm, the power of conscience, the sense of sin and of responsibility, are felt and acknowledged, and prayer is offered to One who is not only the Judge, but the Friend.

His Perfect Knowledge

The first section of the psalm is a declaration and confession on the part of the psalmist of God's absolute omniscience, acknowledging that God knows all things including the psalmist's own life and thoughts and deeds.

1. O Jehovah, thou hast searched me, and knowest me. 2. Thou knowest my down-sitting and mine up-sitting; Thou understandest my thought afar off. 3. Thou searchest out my path, and my lying down. And art acquainted with all my ways. 4. For there is not a word in my tongue, but lo, O Jehovah, thou knowest it, and before, And laid thy hand upon my mouth.

5. Jehovah knows every individual thoroughly; knows, with first-hand knowledge, as the result of personal search and tracing and testing. The hand suggests the sweet sense of companionship; the ministry of guidance.

6. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain unto it. Our mind has no line with which to measure the Infinite. Do we therefore question? Say, rather, that we therefore believe and adore.

His Omnipresence

As many thoughts can never be hidden from God, who knows all things, so now the psalmist declares that man cannot hide himself from God, who is everywhere present in the world.

7. Whether shall I go from thy Spirit? Or whether shall I flee from thy presence? 8. If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there; if I make my bed in Sheol, behold, thou art there. 9. If I take the wings of the morning, and soar in the uttermost parts of the sea; 10. Even there shall they hand lead me, And thy right hand shall hold me. 11. If I say, Surely the darkness shall overwhelm me, And the light about me shall be hid; 12. Even the darkness hideth not from thee, But the night shineth as the day: The darkness and the light are both alike to thee.

Abhorrence of Wickedness

In the 19th verse the psalmist switches abruptly from contemplation of the divine to expression of a hope that righteous vengeance will overtake the wicked. Yet the psalmist does not think of himself as incapable of sinning in his own life—he is suddenly overwhelmed with a new longing to be utterly clean from any possible sin in his own inner life.

And thus he brings his marvelous confession of God's omniscience and omnipresence to a close, with a personal prayer that God would make his own life what it ought to be in the light of these truths. 24. Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my thoughts. 25. And see if there be any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way of thy righteousness.

And the psalmist felt that what he wanted was a guide, who would take him by the hand and hold him up when he was ready to fall, along the rugged journey of life, or on the brink of a dangerous precipice, lead me in the way everlasting.

NAVAL CRAFT LAUNCHED AT KINGSTON



The ship is one of the most successful animals in the struggle for existence. It has adapted itself to life under almost every condition, in all latitudes and in all temperatures.

Spiders vary very much in size, from the tiny garden spider to a South American form that preys on humming birds.

It is hard to account for the fear so many people have of spiders. They are valuable animals which do a lot of good. All degrees of development can be found amongst spiders, from the bustling variety to the web-spinning garden spider, which snags a plentiful supply of food with its beautiful geometric web. An insect destroyer, the spider demands respect. Its appetite is insatiable.

COULD BE COMMERCIALIZED

A well-known scientist has stated that a man, eating at the same rate as a spider, would require a "whole cow" for breakfast, six or seven sheep for dinner, two bullocks, and eight sheep and four hogs for supper, and just before retiring nearly four jars of fresh fish.

The question of food has so far prevented much use of the spider's silk for commercial purposes. Gloves have been made, and are said to be more durable than those made of silk spun by the silk-worm; but the feeding is a serious item.

THE SECRET OF SILK! THEY MADE THE OUTSIDE WORLD BELIEVE IT WAS COMBED FROM TREES!

FOR MANY CENTURIES, THE CHINESE KEPT THE SECRET OF SILK! THEY MADE THE OUTSIDE WORLD BELIEVE IT WAS COMBED FROM TREES!

APRIL, 1917, TO APRIL, 1919, THE WORLD WAS COST A MILLION AND A HALF DOLLARS AN HOUR!

IN SYRIA, GIRLS OF MARSEILLE AGE IN THEIR WINDOWS

THE secret of silk leaked out at A. D. 552, when two Persian monks visiting in China, concealed silkworms' eggs and mulberry leaves in a hollow staff and smuggled them into their own country.

NEXT: Does our food just slide down when we swallow?

MAP OF EMERALD ISLE

HORIZONTAL

1. Pictured is the map of

7. It has a large center—

11. Auto body.

13. Waterfalls.

17. Cover.

18. To emit vapor.

20. Unit of work.

21. Crime.

22. Antiquated.

23. Bartered.

25. Part of a drama.

26. South America.

28. Field.

29. Perched.

30. Preposition.

32. To eject.

33. Lights.

38. Opposed to whole sale.

40. To habituate.

41. Devoured.

42. Ancient Egyptian deity.

43. Sun.

44. Loss.

49. Pays one's debt.

51. Constellation.

52. Luke-warm.

53. Not common.

56. Condition.

58. To increase in price.

59. It has a mild taste.

60. This land's chief river.

61. Existence.

62. Small memorial.

63. Decree.

64. To drain.

65. Form of "a."

66. Deity of war.

67. Door step.

68. Gull.

69. Circle part.

70. Three.

71. Metal fastener.

72. Street (abbr.).

73. Footnote.

74. Gaiter.

75. Sound of inquiry.

76. Existence.

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