Sunday School Lesson

May 12. Lesson VI—The Early Ministry of Jeremiah—Jeremiah 1: 6-10; 26: 8-15. Golden Text—We ought to obey God rather than men.—Acts 5: 29.

ANALYSIS.

I. TITLE OF THE BOOK AND STORY OF THE PROPHET'S CALL, ch. 1: 1-10.

II. HIS MESSAGE OF WARNING AND OF SORROW, chs. 6: 10, 11; 8: 18; 9: 2.

III. HIS SPEECH IN THE TEMPLE COURT, ch. 26: 1-24.

INTRODUCTION—Jeremiah has been called a "moral enthusiast," but that name might have been given to any of the great prophets. They were all moral enthusiasts Jeremiah has been called also, more appropriately, "the prophet of personal religion" (see Gordon—Prophets of the Old Testament). He saw perhaps more clearly than any of that age that true religion enters deeply into the minds and hearts of men and controls the whole life. To him religion and morality, religion and righteousness, were one and inseparable. It is a mistake to call him the "weeping prophet." While it is true and altogether to his credit that he could and did weep over the sins and misfortunes of the people whom he loved, it is also true that he could blaze with indigation against foul iniquities, and, shrinking and sensitive though he was, could stand like a rock of adamant for what he held to be right.

Jeremiah's prophetic ministry began in the reign of Josiah, about B.C. 626, a little more than one hundred years after Isaiah, and continued for more than forty years Like Isaiah his lot was cast in a period of great and tragic change]. He saw the decline and fall of the Assyrian empire, the triumph of the rising power of Babylon, and the end of the kingdom of Judah, together with the captivity and exile of multitudes of her people and the destruction of their beloved holy city and temple. He felt most keenly the miseries of his time, and they are reflected in many passages of his book of prophecy.

I. TITLE OF THE BOOK AND STORY OF THE PROPHET'S CALL, ch. 1: 1-10.

Verses 1-3 give title and late and tell us of Jeremiah's home and parentage. Anathoth was only a short distance to the north of Jerusalem, a city of priestly families (Josh. 21: 18), to one of which eJremiah belonged. It was to Anathoth that Abiathar, the priest, the friend of David, was banished by Solomon, because he had conspired against him, 1 Kings 2: 26. We may assume, therefore, that Jeremiah was well brought up and instructed in the religion of his fathers. The thirteenth year of Josiah's reign was B.C. 626. His ministry continued until the eleventh year of Zedekiah, B.C. 586. For the contemporary history of Judah see 2 iKngs, chs. 22 to 25.

Jeremiah is presented to us as the child of destiny, known and ordained before his birth to be God's prophet unto the nations. And yet, in the fulfilment of his destiny, his own consent and obedience have a part, vs. 5, 6. Gordon (Prophets of the Old Testament) writes, "Jeremiah's call is more of the nature of a spiritual birth, in which the gracious influences of bygone years come to their fruition. As he walked through the fields of Anathoth in quiet communion with his God, the meaning and purpose of his life lay suddenly unveiled before him; and with a full sense of responsibility he accepted the divine commission, and went forth as Jehovah's prophet." At first he shrank from the task. He was young—a child—how could he speak the words of God? Then comes to him the divine commission, the encouraging assurance of the ever-present help of God, vs. 7, 8, 17-19. It is a high commission, indeed, that is given to the young prophet, to speak words of authority and of power over the nations and over the kingdoms, to break down and destroy the evil, to build and to plant the good. How faithfully and how truly he performed his task, history abundantly shows.

II. HIS MESSAGE OF WARNING AND OF SORROW, chs. 6: 10, 11; 8: 18; 9: 2.

Very faithfully and very earnestly the prophet has warned the people and urged them to turn from their evil-doing into the way of righteousness. He has pointed to the Scythian hordes from the orth, which at that time were spreading themselves far and wide over the territories of the now weakened and helpless Assyrian empire, as the instruments of Jehovah's punishment. His warnings and pleadings are unheeded. Shameless iniquities are still practiced, ch. 6: 7. He breaks forth in 6: 10, 11, in furious protest. The inevitable penalty of their sins in the just judgment of God, will have to be borne both by them and their children, by husband and wife, by young men and old together. These verses show clearly the difficulties which Jeremiah had to face and the passionate intensity of his message. His heart is faint with sorrow, and there were moments when he would fain have abandoned his thankless task and sought the rest and peace of the wilderness. The whole of the passage, chs. 8: 18 to 9: 6, should be read.

III. HIS SPEECH IN THE TEMPLE COURT, ch. 26: 1-24.

This speech appear to be the same as that reported in 7: 1-7, but with the events immediately following described at length. The reign of Jehoiakim began in B.C. 608 and continued to B.C. 597. Although a son of the good king Josiah, he proved to be one of the worst and wickedest of the rulers of Judah (see 2 Kings 23: 36 to 24: 7, and Jeremiah's strong words in 22: 13-19).

Shiloh (v. 6.) had been destroyed by the Philistines in Samuel's time, after having been long recognized as a national sanctuary, 1 Sam. 4: 10-12; Psalm 78: 60; Jer. 7: 12-14. This declaration of Jeremiah aroused the anger of the assembled people, and they would have condemned him to death. The priests and the prophets accused him before the council of princes. For Jeremiah's denunciation of the evil-doing of these false ministers of religion see chs. 2: 8; 5: 30, 31; 8: 10; and 23: 13. Jeremiah's answer to the accusation was fearless and bold, and made a strong impression upon his judges (vs. 12-15). His one desire for them is expressed in his earnest exhortation, Amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the Lord your God. By repentance and amendment of life the calamity which he foresees may be averted (see also vs. 3, 19 and 18: 7-8).

The words of the prophet Micah were recalled by ne member of the court (Micah 3: 12). Urijah or Uriah (v. 20) is nowhere else mentioned. Jeremiah on this occasion had staunch friends who stood by him and protected him from the king's wrath, else his fate would have been the same as that of Urijah (v. 24).

Music Competitions at Toronto Exhibition

The syllabus of the music competitions to be held at the Canadian National Exhibition, at Toronto, from August 23rd to September 7th, has been issued, and shows that this year's competitions will be on an even larger scale tha nthose of previous years.

Competitions are divided into 46 classes, not including the classes for bagpipe and harmonica and for old-time fiddlers. There are eight classes for choirs and choral societies,—three of them graded according to the population of the places from which they come. Six classes are given to quartets and duets, male, female and mixed; thirteen classes are given to vocal solos, which cover nine different kinds of voice and two classes each for boys and girls. Piano and violin solos have each four classes,—under 9 years of age, under 12, under 16 and open; there are three classes for piano duos and one for 'cello solo. In the brass department there are two classes each,—under 18 years and open, for cornet, trombone and brass quartet. There are further three classes for harmonica, one for mouth organ band and two for old time fiddlers. The bagpipe competitions are divided into three classes and the professional championship of North America will be competed for.

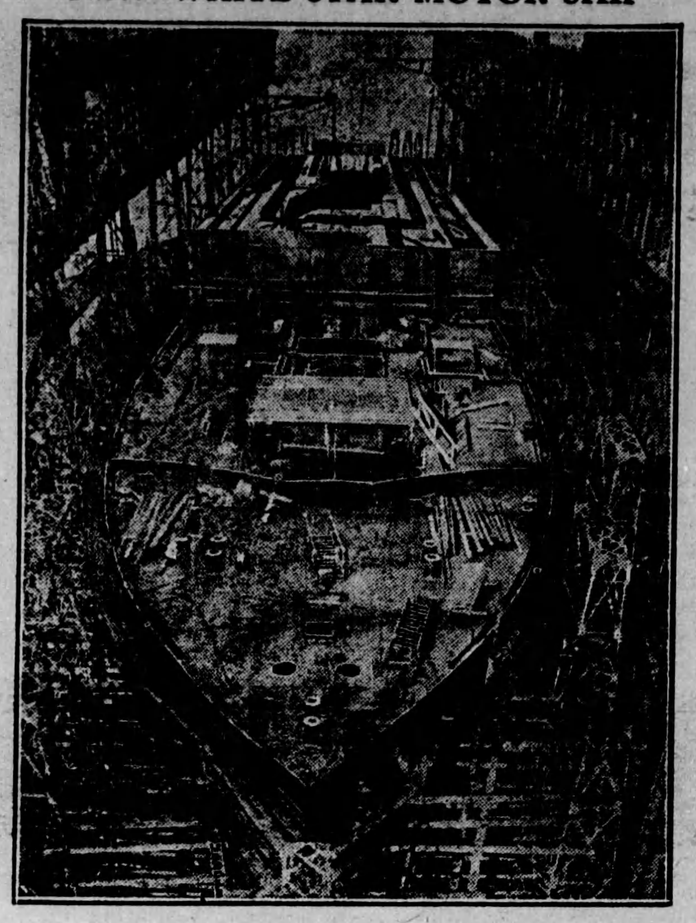
In addition to the ordinary prizes, which are medals, with a challenge shield for choir, four scholarships of $75 will be awarded,—one each for woman's voice, man's voice, piano and violin.

Every cmpetitor must be an amateur—that is, a person whose principal means of livelihood is obtained from non-musical work and who does not receive for musical services more than $150 per annum.

Information, entry forms, etc., may be got from J. S. Atkinson, 407 Ryrie Bldg., Toronto, or the Canadian National Exhibition, Lumsden Bldg., Toronto.

It was the evening after the night before. "How did you find yourself this morning?" asked one wan participator of another. "Easily," was the reply. "I just looked under the table and there I was."

NEW WHITE STAR MOTOR SHIP



The new SS. Britannic, of which the first announcement containing details of this new White Star motor ship, were received recently.

The steamer will be launched in about two months' time and will enter the Atlantic trade in the fall. Her length, between perpendiculars, will be about 680 feet, 80 feet longer than liners of the type of the Doric and Regina which are in the company's service on the St. Lawrence route during the summer season.

The Britannic will have a gross tonnage of 27,000 tons. The motive power to drive this latest motor ship will be supplied by two 10-cylinder Harland B and W double acting motors, while throughout the ship the fullest use will be made of electricity, for navigating and controlling the ship, for cooking, ventilating, and for operating the enormous amount of service machinery necessary in a ship of the size of the Britannic.

Designed to carry cabin, tourist third cabin and third class, the Britannic will have a passenger capacity of 1,500. One of the outstanding features of the passenger accommodation is the provision of a large number of single rooms.

The steamer will be used on the Liverpool-New York route, but during the winter of 1930 she will make two cruises to the Mediterranean.

PATRICK BURNS

Patrick Burns, of Calgary, outstanding figure in western range and ranch life of Western Canada for many years and founder of the great packing business which bears his name, is here seen on the steps of the Empress Hotel at Victoria, during a recent trip to the coast.

Since the war 1,230,000 new houses, with accommodation for more than 5,000,000 people, have been built in England and Wales.

A few days afterwards the reply was inserted:—"The 'recognized' gentleman who picked up a purse in the High Street requests the loser to call at his house."

Cars Do Not Run Better at Night

Research Engineer Points Out Fallacy of Popular Impression

Many motorists are under the impression that automobile engines function more efficiently in the damp of evening or rainy days than at dry times, but this idea is erroneous, Arthur W. Gardiner, research engineer, says.

Tests made under standard laboratory conditions show that engine power decreases with increasing humidity of the air, and that a large increase in spark advance is required to obtain best power at high humidity. Similarly, in damp air the spark advance for incipient detonation may be considerably increased, compared with dry air conditions.

What happens is that under conditions of high humidity the combustion rate is slowed up, resulting in apparently smoother engine operation, which the car owner is likely to mistake for improved power. In spite of this, however, water vapor is relatively ineffective in suppressing detonation.

A further indication of the influence of humidity on engine operation is the fact that approximately 8 per cent. more heat is dissipated through the radiator when the air is dry than when its relative humidity is 100 per cent.

Maud—So you married your employer. How long did you work for him? Myrtle—Until I got him.

Pluck, it is stated, accounts for much of the success in business. But you must first find someone to pluck, of course.

LIMERICK CORNER

Here are a few more letters from readers, some offering suggestions, some asking that the contest be continued as before. We want a real concensus of opinion from those interested and will be glad to hear from others.

Dear "Limerick Corner" Editor:—

Will you excuse the pencil? (Baby filled the ink bottle with water).

Something urges me to answer your appeal in the "Thamesville Herald" for opinions. It sounds so "friendly like".

I for one was immensely interested in the Limerick Contest and judging by the way answers poured in upon you "there were others".—It was something definite to fill up those hours "in the stilly night" when "slumber's chain" had unloosed one for an hour or two.—Let us have more or sumpin' else by all means

How about some real little verses—altho' it's harder thus to strike a funny vein. My failing was to be too serious even in the Limericks. I can see it now. . . . . .

There was a fine lot of jingles in this week.—Verses—any metre one wished, seems to be my only suggestion this morning—or a continuation. How about it?

Sincerely.
Mrs. Joseph M. O'Neill,
Kent Bridge, Ont.

Dear Sir:—

As I have been following your "Limerick Corner" in the "Milverton Sun" with much pleasure and some good "grins". I was wondering how the "idea" of giving a prize to the best "ad" sent in would appeal to you. Either written or drawn. Have a certain size space to work on or limited to so many words.

Yours truly,
(Miss) M. L. Bell,
Plattsville, Ont.

Editor, "Limerick Corner":—

As I sent in some Limericks some time ago and have been following the Limericks up in the paper and enjoyed them so much I would like to see them still continued. The Limericks I sent in could not have met with your approval but I did not get discouraged. Hoping to see the Limericks continued.

Yours truly,
Mrs. Wm. M. Love,
Proton Station No. 1, Ont.

Dear Sir:—

In the "Athens Reporter", from week to week, I watch for the interesting Limericks submitted, many of which are very clever and interesting.

Hoping that this feature may be continued indefinitely, and thus develop much latent talent.

I am your respectfully,
Louise Towriss,
(Mrs. William G. Towriss)
Box 171, Athens, Leeds County, Ont.

From Mrs. H. Fowler,
Clinton, Ont.

Advertistment seen in "Clinton News Record".

Ho! the fun of the "Limerick age."
How we always do watch for that page!
It can't be the "dimes"
That inspire all these rhymes—
We just write them because its "the rage".

P.S.—This one is sent for fun and good measure.

Dear Sir:—

I received my limerick dollar last night and wish to thank you for it..

I am sorry to see that the contest is closed. I hope you will open it again, however as I enjoyed both reading and writing limericks. I think its a splendid way to advertise.

Sincerely yours,
C. Grace Hubley,
Arundel, Que

It is said that the Government will open a new dry campaign in Chicago. It is not stated whether the old one has been closed or not.—Mobile Register.

A national election is impending in Mexico, but unfortunately it is not feasible for a newspaper to publish the names of all those who are running.—Chicago Daily News.

PROXY BRIDE ARRIVES

Zeegar Deenik, Dutch-Canadian farmer of Huttonville, near Brampton, Ontario, and his proxy bride, formerly Miss Boz of Holland. Bride and groom met while the latter was attending agricultural college in Holland, and before sailing for Canada Miss Boz went through a form of proxy marriage. Photograph shows the bride and groom reunited at the Canadian National Railways station, Montreal, where Mr. Deenik was waiting for his future wife. The couple left Montreal for Huttonville, where they were to be married on arrival.

MUTT AND JEFF— —By Bud Fisher.

Not the Kind of a Parking Space Mr. Mutt Meant.