SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON XIII

Mesages from Genesis — John 1:1-5; Luke 17:26-32; Galatians 3:6-8; Hebrews 11:1-12 ; 2 Peter 2:4-10.

Printed Text - Hebrews 11:3-10, 17-22

Golden Text — "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. — Hebrews 11:13.

THE LESSON IN ITS SETTING

Time — John wrote his Prologue about 90 A.D. The teaching of Jesus recorded in Luke 17 was given in the winter of A.D. 30. Paul wrote the Epistle to the Galatians about A. D. 57. The date of the Epistle to the Hebrews may be placed about A.D. 65-A.D 68.

Place — There are so many different places recorded in various passages that it would only be confusing to enumerate them, except to say that most of the examples of faith given in Hebrews are from events which took place in Palestine, in which country also Jesus taugh, Paul wrote his Epistle to the Galatians while at Corinth. We do not know with certainty where the Epistle to the Hebrews was written.

"By faith we understand that the world's have been framed by the word of God, so that what is seen hath not been made out of things which do appear." There are fifteen special instances of the work of faith in this chapter, in addition to the general enumeration beginning at verse 32. Here in the third verse we have the first specific instance, namely, that it is by faith in God's revelation to us how creation took place that we believe that the world was framed by the word of God, i.e., by God speaking, and that the visible world was not made from things that already in existence.

"By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he had witness borne to him that he was righteous, God bearing witness in respect of his gifts — and through it he being dead yet speaketh." The offering of Abel is recorded in Gen. 4:4-5, where we read that it was accepted by God, who, at the same time, refused the offering of Abel's brother, Cain. The offering of Abel was a slain lamb, while the offering of Cain was some product of the ground. It would seem that God had told these brothers that an animal sacrifice was necessary when making an offering for the atonement of sin, and Abel, by faith in what God had said, and carrying out God's command, showed himself to be a true man of faith.

"By faith Enoch was translated so that he should not see death; and he was not found, because God translated him; for he hath had witness borne to him that before his translation he had been well-pleasing unto God." The reference here is to Gen. 5:24. Enoch pleased God because he had faith in God, and God, in turn, delivered him from death, and took him to glory because of his faith. This does not mean that all people who have faith should expect to be translated as was Enoch. However, it is clear from the New Testament Scriptures, that all who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, when Christ returns to his church, will not die, but will be caught up to be with the Lord, undergoing a change but not suffering the death (1 Thess. 4:17).

"And without faith it is impossible to be well-pleasing unto him, for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarded of them that seek after him." To question God's justice is to show a lack of faith, and this is sometimes a hard point with Christians who have endured must suffering or great losses. We must throw ourselves completely on the love of God and believe that he does all things well.

"By faith, Noah, being warned of God, concerning things not seen as yet, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; through which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith." Here again we note that faith on the part of Noah was not only a conviction of the truthfulness of the warning of God, but actually acting in the light of that warning — God warned him that judgement was coming, and that only an ark would ever preserve him during the flood; Noah believed that warning and prepared the ark.

"By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed to go out unto a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing whither he went." God's call to Abraham is recorded in Gen. 12:1-3. Abrahaam had no idea of the nature or the location of that land to which God was calling him. He knew that God called him to go, and that God had promised to give him an inheritance, and he simply followed the leading of God until he came to that place that God then told him was to be a perpetual possession for his descendants.

"By faith he became a sojourner." The word sojourner means "one who lives in a place without the right of citizenship," and, consequently, "one who lives on earth as a stranger." The idea is perfectly expressed in 1 Peter 2:11, and also in Phil. 3:20 — "our citizenship is in heaven." "In the land of promise." Of course this refers to Canaan, which is called the Land of Promise, simply because God promised it to Abraham and his descendants,, as we read continually in the book of Genesis. "As in a land not his own." Abraham never actually did come to possess the Land of Promise. It belonged to the Canaanites when God promised it to Abraham, and, during his life and the lives of Issac and Jacob, the land, except that particular portion in which their families lived, never was their own. "Dwelling in tents, with Issac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise." This trait of dwelling in tents, pitched today in one place and tomorrow in another, indicates the temporary, unsettled nature of Abraham's abode in Canaan, which his immediate descendants, Isaac and Jacob shared.

"For he looked for the city which hath no foundations." This city, of course, was not an earthly city, no matter how great or glorious it might be, but a heavenly city, "the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem" (Heb. 12:22), which is so continuously referred to by the apostle John in the last two chapters of the book of Revelation. "Whose builder and maker is God." Literally this might read "of which architect and master builder is God."

"By faith, Abraham, being tried, offered up Issac; yea, he that had gladly received the promises was offering up his only begotten son. "Even he to whom it was said, in Issac shall thy seed be called. "Accounting that God is able to raise up, even from the dead; from whence he did also in a figure receive him back." The reference here is to the events described in Gen. 22.1-14. There is one marvellous statement here which is not even found in the records of Genesis, namely, that Abraham believed when he was about to offer Issac, that God would actually raise Issac up from the dead, and that not in some long-distant future, but, then, so that the promises of God concerning the seed of Abraham would be kept. Abraham also knew that God's world would be kept, and he knew that if Issac died, the only thing that could happen so that God could keep his promises would be that God would bring his dead son back out of death again.

"By faith Issac blessed Jacob and Esau, even concerning things to come. The reference here is to Gen. 27:26-29 and 39 and 40. These promises to his two sons concerned the future in which he had absolute confidence because of his faith in God's revelation.

"By faith, Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff." The reference here is to the remarkable dying prophecies of Jacob, which he uttered after he went down into Egypt, recorded in Genesis 49. When it says he worshipped leaning upon the top of his staff, it simply means that he was too feeble to rise and kneel, or stand, and that he bowed his head in an attitude of prayer while resting his hands, probably on the top of his staff while reclining on his couch.

"By faith, Joseph, when his end was nigh, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave commandment concerning his bones." The reference here is to Genesis 50:24-25. Joseph, though hundreds of miles away from the land that God had promised to his great-grandfather, Abraham, to his grandfather Issac, and to his father, Jacob, was absolutely persuaded that that land belonged to Abraham's seed, and that some day the descendants of Jacob would go back to that land to receive it according to God's promise. These mighty patriarchs lived, spoke, planned, travelled, and blessed their children all in the light of, and in accordance with the word of God which had been given to them and in which they had such implicit confidence. To sum it all up, these men lived by the faith in God's word.

The Honeymooners

Fashions and manners may change but Niagara Falls still continues to draw the honeymooners and, according to local hotel-keepers and officials, more have registered at local hotels in the past two months than in six months last year. Immigration officials report large numbers of American honeymooners crossing to Canada every day. In any gathering, almost anywhere, it is possible to find a large number present who spent wedding trips here and look back kindly on their visits to the falls. All the world loves a lover and we have always had a kindly feeling for the honeymooners, so generation after generation of married lovers continue to come here. Long may they come. Welcome may they always be. —The Niagara Falls Review.

An obedient wife is one whose husband has told her to do what she pleases, and who does it.—Kitchener Record.

You may be able to get Australia, China and Russia on your radio. But try and get ten dollars on it at the dealer's. — Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph.

Law on Soil Drifting

A couple of years ago the legislators of the province decided that the time had come to take some compulsory action, and a soil drifting measure was passed which made it possible for neighbor to sue neighbor if drifted soil caused damage to land.

We have never heard of the act being invoked, but it might be a good thing if it were. It might focus public attention on the problem and bring about more concerted action in this phase of farm rehabilitation work in the West.

There is a strong tendency, we have noticed, for farmers to say that soil drifting control methods are fine "for the other fellow;" but they do not apply them at home.—Lethbridge Herald.

Milk Protection For Tourists

Ordinary raw milk heated to 142 degrees in a double boiler for thirty minutes and then chilled is free from dangerous bacteria. This process is called pasteurization, and from pasteurized milk there is little or no likelihood of contracting bovine tuberculosis, diptheria, typhoid fever, undulant fever or septic sore throat. Toronto and almost 5 other Canadian centres make pasteurization compulsory for the protection of their people. But when their people go touring the country, this protection, and the protection afforded by a pure water supply, can no longer be exercised by the home municipality. It remains for the individual to demand pasteurized milk and government tested water at the resorts which he patronizes.

The Health League of Canada is going to promote this form of tourist safety by listing the resorts in Ontario which furnish guests with pasteurized milk only. United States tourists are beginning to ask for such information, and to some this will no doubt be a deciding factor. It will, at any rate, do much to promote public health.

There have been in the past, resorts which prided themselves upon giving their guests "milk fresh from the cow — not like the poor stuff you get in the city." Such milk, unfortunately, may be full of harmful germs. The cow may have tuberculosis, or it may have been wading in a typhoid-contaminated pool. Pasteurization is a simple process which removes the liklihood that any disease will be transmitted.

"Any girl who is needed at home has a job just as surely as the girl who operates a machine in a factory."

"The fruits of the free spirit of the men do not grow in the garden of tyranny." — Stanley Baldwin.

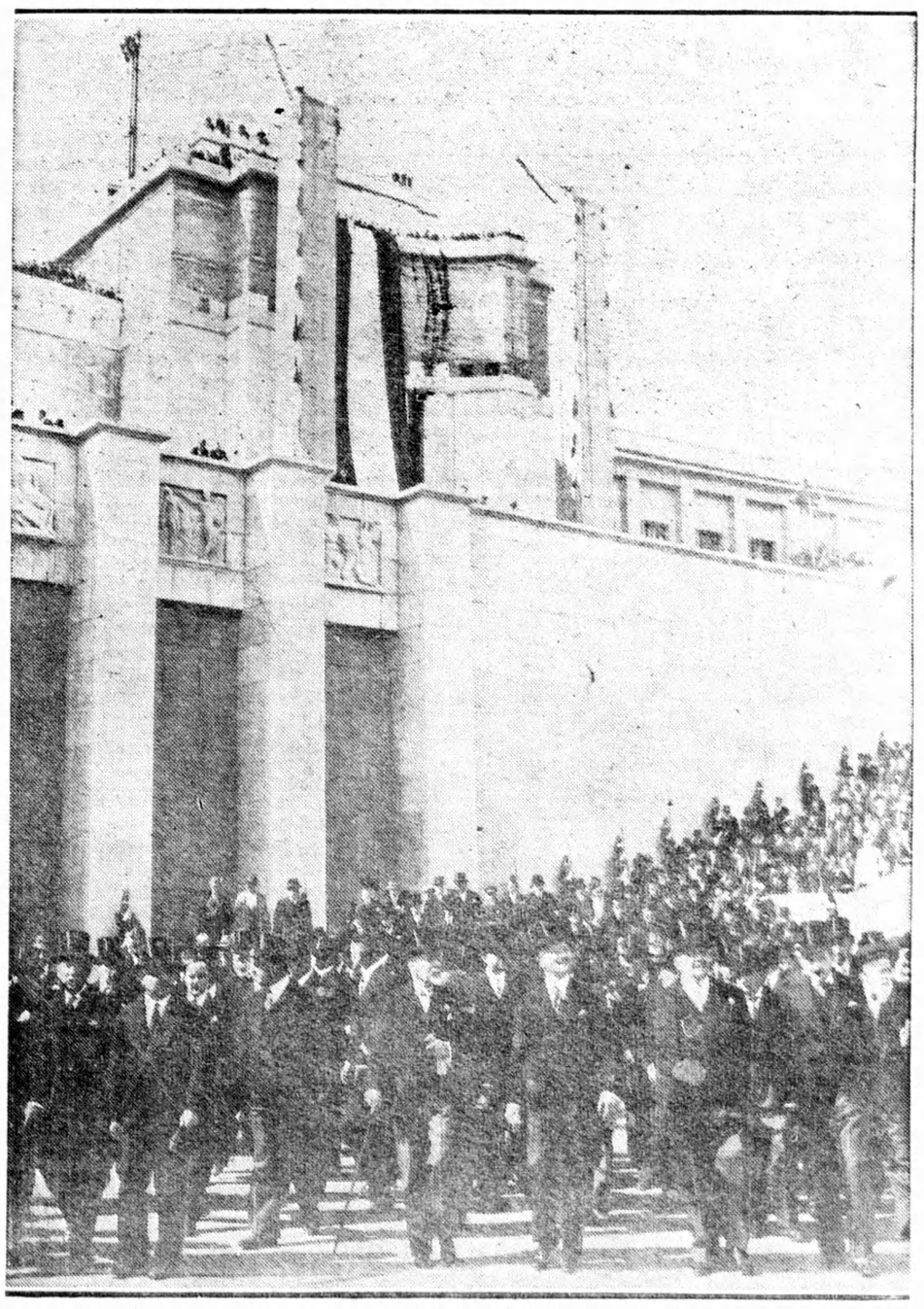
Typical City's Typical American Family

Muncie, Ind., recently studied as the typical American city, selected Mr. and Mrs. Glen Craig and their children, Emma Lou, 7, and Bill, as the "Typical American Family." They are shown in Chicago as they arrived by plane.

Youth "Emancipator"

Mrs. Kathryn Coburn, Albany, N.Y., with model and finished rotary yarn winder she is exhibiting at Inventors Congress in New York. It is designed to relieve impatient youth, whose arms mothers use while winding yarn.

Paris Exposition Formally Opened



The great Paris international exhibition was opened recently by President Lebrun. Our picture shows, from right to left, in first row; Paul Bastid, Minister of Commerce; Edouard Herriot, President of the Chamber of Deputies; Albert Lebrun and M. Jean-neney, President of the Senate.

Movie-radio gossip

By DOROTHY

Executives at the Twentieth Century Fox studio are disappointed the public hasn't made more of a fuss over Simone Simon, so they are going to put her in a comedy and see if she goes over better. They are teaming her with Jack Haley, who made such a hit in "Wake Up and Live," in a fast-moving comedy called "Love at Work."

Motion picture studio officials always change the subject when anyone asks if their stars really sing or if some singer substitutes for them, but radio listeners can recognize their favorite voices under any circumstances. They insist that Buddy Clark of the Hit Parade did Jack Haley's singing, that Virginia Verrill sang for both Jean Harlow and Virginia Bruce and that in "The Great Barnum" it was Francia White who sang for Miss Bruce.

Warner Brothers have arranged to borrow Miriam Hopkins for two pictures and it looks as if it would keep the entire studio busy for weeks finding stories to which she won't raise a violent objection. Scheduled to appear with Errol Flynn in "The Perfect Specimen," she flatly refused. Instead she will make a tearful little romance called "Episode" supported by Ian Hunter and Charles Winniger. After that, the Warner Brothers studio would like to have her in "Sisters," with Kay Francis.

Miriam Hopkins

Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., has decided that he likes the United States better after all. While he was in England, he realized his ambition to become a producer, and felt so grateful to the countrymen who backed him that he thought he would live there always. Coming back to Hollywood to make just one picture, "The Prisoner of Zenda," he found when it was finished and he was free to go back to England that he just couldn't bear to leave all his childhood friends.

ODDS AND ENDS — Joe Penner doesn't mention ducks even once in "New Faces," which is being filmed by R-K-O, and furthermore he appears black face for the first time. — Ken Murray always dresses most conservatively, when he shows up for a broadcast, but around home he goes in for the dizizest colored smoking jackets and lounging robes — Motion picture producers, are wildly enthusiastic over the intimate, caressing voice of Rosalind Greene who announces Mrs. Roosevelt's radio program, and since they have heard that she is young and extraordinarily beautiful they are rushing to her with contracts for the pictures.

Sensible Loveliness

This formal evening gown of sheer dotted swiss, a new, modern version of the old-time favorite, is made of pre-shrunk material and will withstand a season of tubbings in soap and water without the loss of any of its fit or style.