SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON II
God Provides A Leader — Exodus 2: 1-22; 3:1-12

GOLDEN TEXT — "Come now therefore, and I will send thee." Exodus 3:10.

THE LESSON IN ITS SETTING

Place — The events surrounding the birth of Moses took place probably near the city of Tanis, one of the royal residences in the northeast of the Delta near the mouth of the Tanitic branch of the Nile. The call of Moses took place near Mount Sinai, located on the peninsula of Sinai:

Time — B.C. 1578—B.C. 1499.

"Now Moses was keepinng the flock of Jehtro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the back of the wilderness." That is, to the west of the wilderness, the east being in front. The wilderness was the tract of country south and west of Midian, reaching to the eastern shore of the Gulf of Akaba. In these years of oblivion, when he was quietly shepherding the flocks, there would be long hours during every day when Moses would be by himself, face to face with nature and God, gaining mental strength and vigor from his contact with the simplicity and solemnity of nature. At the same time, he would be disciplining his body by spare and simple meals, by much constant walking in the open air, by the sleeping on the ground, short nights and early risings; while he invigorated his whole character by communing with himself and with God, and by deep searchings of heart, sharp questionings of conscience, reflections upon his past life and repentance of his sins.

"And came to the mountain of God, unto Horeb." (See also 4:27; 18:5; 24 13) Horeb and Sinai are throughout the Scriptures almost interchangeable This mountain is located on the peninsula of Sinai. The mountain may have had previous sacred associations but we do not know. It may have been called holy in this text because the writer knew of the great events that were later to take place on its sacred heights.

"And the angel of Jehovah." We believe this to be none other than a manifestation of the Second Person of the Trinity, the Lord Jesus Christ. "Appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush." This bush was a bramble bush, or a form of acacia. "And he looked, and behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed." It should be noted that the manifestation of God was not through the majestic oak or cedar, but through a common bush of the wilderness.

"And Moses said, I will turn aside now, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt." Joseph Parker has suggestively arranged some of the words of this verse as follows: I will turn aside, and see — why not. And he remarks that many men turn aside to see why things are. Here is a man who turns aside to see why things are not. God is always looking for the man who asks How. When a man takes life seriously enough to ask the reasons of things, God is all ready to grant him his desire.

"And when Jehovah saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I." God calls to men in different ways, sometimes by sending an angel, sometimes by misfortune, sometimes in great opportunity, sometimes in an hour of defeat, overwhelmed by a great sin, sometimes when travelling and a great vision of work is opened, often when reading a book, and most of all, when we are engaged in meditating upon his word.

"And he said, Draw not nigh hither and put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou art standing is holy ground." God is about to call Moses to a great life-work; one thing is needed before God speaks — a bowed and reverant heart. The command of God to Moses to put off his shoes may be accounted for from the custom in the East of wearing shoes or sandals merely as a protection from dirt. When entering holy places the Arabs and Samaritans, and all Mohammendans, take off their shoes that the places may not be defiled by the dirt or dust upon them.

"Moreover, he said, I am the God of thy father,, the God of Abraham, the God of Issac, and the God of Jacob." These words are used by our Lord (Mark 12.26; Luke 20:37' to prove to the Sadducees the truth of the resurrection of the dead. The words imply a personal relation between God and man, which carries with it the germ of eternal life. "And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God." Moses was to be the first preacher of the holiness of God. From his lips the people of Israel were to receive the message, Be holy, I am holy I make holy (Ex. 19:6; 22.31; Lev. 11 44,45; 19:2; 20:26; 21:8). His preparation for being the messenger of the Holy One was here.

"And Jehovah said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people that are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows." Now for the first time, God calls Israel "my people" thus making himself their king and the champion of their cause.

"And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large unto a land flowing with milk and honey." This last clause is a frequent designation of Canaan in book of Bible see Ex. 13:5; 33:3; and Deut. 6:3; 11:9, etc). Milk is an essential article of diet in the East, especially among agricultural people; honey included, probably, not only the honey of bees, but also a grape juice boiled down to a golden brown syrup used as a condiment for food. "Unto the place of the Canaanite, and the Hittite, and the Amorite, and the Perizzite, and the Hivite, and the Jebusite." There were the six principle tribes occupying the land of Canaan at the time when Moses was called. Their various geographic boundaries need not concern us here.

"And now, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me; moreover I have seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them." We may be almost sure that Moses, way out in the desert, was not fully acquainted with the increasing suffering of his Hebrew brethren in Egypt at this time, and, even if he was, he could do nothing about it. God is never ignorant of the things which his own people are suffering, and he will never allow the tribulations of his people to continue one moment beyond the perfect time when he will bring them to an end.

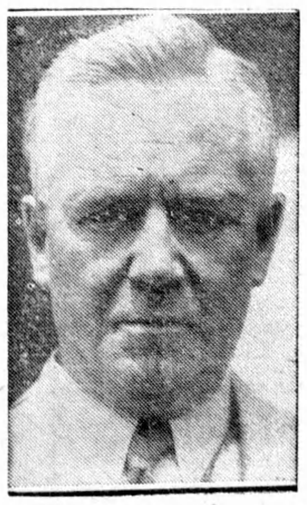
"Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt." And when the call of God comes to a man or to a woman to any kind of definite work, whether it be of public position or to some private piece of work more difficult to do, when the call comes, it is always perfectly clear. It will surely come in some uncommon way. I am sorry to think that, in these days, we have grown so much away from definiteness. Men think God does not speak; but the trouble is, not that God does not speak, but that men will not listen.

"And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?" If the former self-confidence of Moses had been such as to take the whole matter into his own hands, his self-diffidence now went the length of utmost reluctance to act even as only the Lord's messenger and minister. His first and deepest feelings speak themselves in the question here asked.

"And he said, Certainly I will be with thee." (Cf. Gen. 28:15; 31:3; and Josh. 1:5; 3:7; Judges 6:16). There are two wonderful parallels to this promise in the New Testament one from the lips of Jesus to all of his followers — "Go ye, therefore — and lo, I am with you always" (Matt. 28: 19, 20); and the last words of the apostle Paul — All forsook me — but the Lord stood by me and strengthened me. (2 Tim. 4:16, 17). "And this shall be the token unto thee, that I have sent thee; when thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain." This sign which was to be a pledge to Moses of the success of his mission, was one indeed that required faith itself; but, at the same time, it was a sign adapted to inspire both courage and confidence.

Until the accession of George IV, our sovereigns used to be crowned King of France as well as King of Great Britain, and to maintain the pretence of rule over long-lost territories across the Channel a curious piece of play-acting was customary. Two men, generally actors, were engaged to impersonate the Dukes of Aquitaine and Normandy, and, dressed for the part, were given a place of honor among the real peers in the Abbey. They did homage to the King in the same way as the other assembled nobles, and when the rest put on their coronets the sham dukes followed suit as if born and bred in the purple. — Manchester Guardian.

Kiwanis Head



F. Trafford Taylor, of St. Boniface, Man., lawyer, who was elected president of Kiwanis International for 1937-38 at the organization's 21st annual convention in Indianapolis, Ind.

Earl Baldwin At Cambridge

Earl Baldwin (former British Prime Minister) made his first public appearance as Chancellor of the University since his elevation to the Peerage, when he presided over the congregation of Cambridge University, presenting degrees to students and conferring honorary degrees on Empire Coronation delegates. This picture shows Earl Baldwin wearing his gold embroidered Chancellor's robe, in the procession to the University Senate House, where the ceremony took place.

Motor Accidents Reproduced In Court Room

Judge Marion Boyd of the Memphis, Tenn., City Court, with scale model of intersection evolved by Police Sergeant Hal Allen for use before him in traffic cases. With movable cars and pedestrians, accidents can be reconstructed.

School Fair Idea Gains Ground

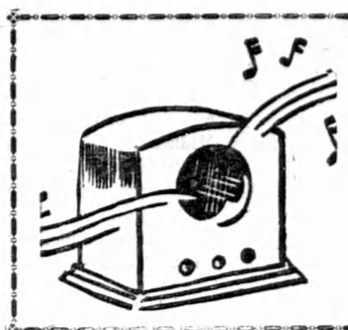
School fairs which have become an institution in the rural communities throughout the province are doing a meritious work that, in some instances, is not receiving the general recognition it is entitled to. At the moment organization work is being carried on throughout this district in preparation for the fairs to be held this coming fall.

The school fair movement, which only had its conception a few years ago, has made rapid strides, and is now a most important factor in the education of young people in the country districts.

In addition to engendering a spirit of friendly rivalry among the pupils that is wholesome, it creates an interest among them in gardening and other pursuits carried on in connection with farm and village life, that tends to keep the growing boy and girl contented and happy. Hobbies of every kind are encouraged; the arts are not forgotten. Prizes are provided for the best specimens of hand-writing, an art that is badly neglected these days, if one is to believe all one hears; there are awards for domestic science exhibits for the girls, and for livestock raised and cared for by the boys. It is in these latter classes that competition is always the keenest. Classes are also provided for sewing, preserving and other industries about the household in which girls are interested. It provides an opportunity for the school boy and the school girl to display their handicraft, and best of all, it instills in the young people a pride in a task well done.

Taken all in all, the school fair should be recognized and encouraged for the important work it is accomplishing among the boys and girls of all rural communities.

Despite its towering hulk, an elephant can lope along at ten miles an hour and cover long distances at that speed.



Around The Dial

RADIO HEADLINERS OF THE WEEK

G. C. MURRAY

Poor Old Timers

One of the saddest things to me is the radio entertainer who in the early days of broadcasting used to get so much fan mail and now can't get a spot on the air. Still he goes on believing his public is clamoring for his out-moded type of entertainment. Radio has progressed so much. And the audience is so much harder to satisfy than when it spun the dials mainly for novelty.

And Was His Face Red

Jack Benny's face got quite red recently when he was on the air —reached for part of his script— only to find one of the studio audience had taken it as a souvenir. He was forced to do a little fast adlibbing until Mary Livingstone showed him her copy.

For your information . . Parkyakarkus writes his script in standard English . . and the dialect is extemporized when he goes on the air.

"Happy" Joe Gentile and "Toby" David are the two genial gentlemen of mirth and melody who attempt to send us forth to work in the mornings happily because of their capers in the CKLW studios. Many there are who will vote for them as being outstanding in their particular realm.

I hate to take your dreams away from you . . . if you think you can just step into the radio spotlight without talent and training you're all wrong. It has become a mighty specialized field and you have to have plenty to click.

Did you happen to know that Kate Smith is near sighted? — Well she is. Now I'll tell you a little secret, all the manuscripts used by Kate in her broadcasts are typed on her special machine on which the letters and numerals are twice the size as on an ordinary typewriter. This is imperative to Kate as she finds it very hard to read ordinary type.

Bing Crosby, the croon of crooners is leaving the air, but not for long. Bing, like the rest of us enjoy a wee holiday and during his absence is turning the job of leading the guests up to the microphone over to Bob Burns, who will introduce them as only B. B. can. By the way do you know how Mr. Crosby got the title of "Bing?" Well it was this way, a long time ago Harry Lillis Crosby like any other normal lad was very fond of playing "Cowboys and Indians" and with his old broom stick used to shoot it out with the other side, for each shot he would say BING —BING—BING, and so the boys tagged the nickname Bing on him and it has stuck like glue ever since. Bing is now 33 years old and was born in Tacoma, Washington on May 2nd, 1904. His father, who ran a pickle factory in Washington wanted Bing to become a lawyer, but the only lawyer Bing knew was earning $30 a week, $10 less than Bing was, who was a drummer in one of the local orchestras, so Bing kept on drumming and singing and has made himself to-day one of the great stars in both Radio and Screen, but again he might have been a good lawyer.

Don. Wilson has been signed to act as narrator for a series of 13 outdoor sports short subjects which RKO will release during the coming year. Before he became a mikeman for Jack Benny, Wilson was known as one of NBS's best sports announcers. He has done other picture work, also, notably in "Missus America" with Victor Moore and Helen Broderick.

Boating enthusiasts in America will be enabled to follow the country's defense of the America's Cup, which England has been striving to wrest from it since 1851, when Ted Husing, crack Columbia sports reporter, describes portions of the thrilling competition off Newport, R.I., in a broadcast from a Coast Guard cutter over the WABC-Columbia network, Saturday, July 31.

Lionel Barrymore, Helen Menken and Frank Morgan have been added to the imposing list of stars who will appear in Columbia's Shakespeare Cycle, while "Hamlet," with Burgess Meredith in the title role, has been chosen as the inaugural program to be heard over the WABC-CBS network, Monday, July 12, from 9 to 10 p.m., E.D.S.T.

Barrymore, one of America's outstanding dramatic actors, has been signed for the title role of "King Lear" and will be heard during the third presentation of the series on July 26. Miss Menken, as "Olivia," will join the previously announced cast of Sir Cedric Hardwicke, Tallulah Bankhead, Orson Welles and Estelle Winwood in "Twelfth Night" while Morgan is to be heard as "Jaques," the solemn comedian in "As You Like It." Dates for the two latter productions as well as for "Henry IV," which features Walter Huston, Brian Aherne and Walter Connolly, have not been set.

May Produce Silk From the Cow Herd

LONDON. — Canada, known for decades as the "world granary" may some day become a major producer of silk—synthetic silk from milk. But—and this is the important qualification—the cows must be fed a daily meal of mulberry leaves, diet of the silkworms.

The experiment already has passed through the slow and costly stages of research and been declared a success. For ten years Benjamin Roos, 41-year-old German chemist now residing in London, has been working on the idea. He has spent £25,000 (roughly $124,000) on his scheme, maintaining laboratories in four countries.

Samples submitted to analysis have come so close to the standard of real silk it has been difficult to distinguish between them. Roos, however, is not yet satisfied. He set an objective of trying to obtain five essentials—beauty of color, strength, softness, elasticity and non-shrinkability.

An average cow can produce enough Casein daily to manufacture nearly two pounds eight ounces of synthetic silk. It takes more than 30,000 silkworms, who will eat a ton of ripe mulberry leaves, to yield 12 pounds of raw silk.

Youth Movement Of The Oxford Group

Marching for God is what these young members of the Oxford Group New Empire Camp at Regina, Sask. (above), call their daily parades. They march singing songs not heard in this country before; songs written by fellow-campers from England. In the front row, left to right, march Ronald Hart, Melville, Sask.; Alex. Mackie, Winnipeg, Man.; Lynden Morrison, 16, Montreal, and John Garrett, Victoria, B.C. There are 200 in the camp.