SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON V

GOD LEADS A PEOPLE — Exodus 13:17 — 15:21

Printed Text — Exodus 13:17-22; 14: 10-15

Golden Text — "The Lord will guide thee continually." Isiah 58:11.

THE LESSON IN ITS SETTING

Place — The Israelities gathered together, as they went out of Egypt, at Succoth, which is to be identified with the city of Pithom in the northeast of this great country. Various events in this lesson occurred between the city of Succoth and some part of the Red Sea, which is not today easily identifiable.

Time — B.C. 1498.

"And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not by the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near." If the Israelites had come from Egypt straight up into Palestine all through Gaza, they could have been in the center of the Promised Land within a week. This is the way almost all of the great military campaigns for the invasion of Palestine from the south have advanced. The march is difficult, at certain seasons of the year it is blistering hot, and many miles would be through an arid desert, but, nevertheless, such a march is possible. Napoleon himself led his troops up this way in his futile attempt to reach Constantinople. "For God said, lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt." "But God led the people about, by the way of the wilderness by the Red Sea." The Red Sea is about 1350 miles long, with an extreme breadth of 205 miles, the deepest portion measuring 1200 fathoms. It is located between Egypt and Arabia, stretching from Suez to the Strait of Bab-el-Mandeb. Why this body of water has been called the Red Sea for the last two thousand years, no one seems to konw. The name has been explained by the corals within its waters, by the color of the Edomite and Arabian mountains bordering its coast, or by the glow of the sky reflected in it.

God's ways are so often not our ways: ours seem to be capable of the quicker results and less suffering. But God's ways often appear so much longer than necessary, and involve so much hardship and disappointment, yet God always knows best. We see two evident reasons why in the good providence of God the near way was not chosen. First, the escaped slaves could not bear the sudden danger and fierce struggle in the near way (because of the powerful Philistine people against whom they would immediately have to fight and for which they certainly were not prepared).

"And the children of Israel went up armed out of the land of Egypt." Literally they went up equipped (see Joshua 1:14; 4:12).

"And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him; for he had straitly sworn the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you; and ye shall carry up my bones away hence with you." This was according to the explicit order of Joseph just before his death (Gen. 50:25, 26; see Acts 7:16). Faith in the Promised Land must also have kept burning in the hearts of some Israelites from one generation to another, or the bones of Joseph would have been forgotten. Would that all of us, in dying, could leave such legacies of one kind or another that those who follow us, especially our own children, might therefrom derive strength for continually walking in the favour of the Lord, living the faith-life!

"And they took their journey from Succoth, and encamped in Etham, in the edge of the wilderness." The exact position of Succoth is not known, but scholars are coming to believe that it was very near to or actually identical with the city of Pithom in lower Egypt, on the banks of the canal connecting the Nile River with the Red Sea.

Etham was on the east of the Isthmus of Suez, although its exact location has not been determined.

"And Jehovah went before them by day in a pillar of cloud, to lead them the way, and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; that they also might go by day and night. "The pillar of cloud by day, and the pillar of fire by night, departed not from the people." We are not to regard this miraculous phenomenon as consisting of two different pillars that appeared alternately, one of cloud, and the other of fire. There was but one pillar of both cloud and fire (14:24); for even when burning in the dark, it is still called the pillar of cloud (14:19) or the cloud (Num. 9:21), so that it was a cloud with a dark side and a bright one, causing darkness and also lighting the night. Consequently, we have to imagine the cloud as the covering of the fire, so that by day it appeared as a dark cloud in contrast to the light of the sun, but by night as a fiery splendour. When this cloud had gone before the army of Israel, it assumed the form of a column; but when it stood still above the tabernacle, or came down upon it, it most probably took the form of a round globe of cloud, and, when it separated the Israelites from the Egyptians at the Red Sea, we have to imagine it spread out like a bank of cloud, forming, as it were, a dividing wall. In this cloud, Jehovah, or the angel of God, was really present with the people of Israel, so that he spoke to Moses and gave him his commandments out of the cloud." — C. F. Keil. (See, for further references to this remarkable phenomenon, 16:10; 19:9; 24:16; 34:5; 40:34-38; Lev. 16:2, 13; Num. 9: 15, 22; 1 Kings 8:19; Neh. 9:19; and Psalm 78:14).

"And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes and, behold, the Egyptians were marching after them; and they were sore afraid; and the children of Israel cried out unto Jehovah." From every human standpoint it was inevitable that Israel should be afraid. The Egyptian army, whatever its number, was composed of trained soldiers, well armed and used to war; the 600,000 Israelite men above twenty years of age, were, in the main, unarmed, ignorant of warfare, and trained very imperfectly. Surrounded on three sides by water, and desert, and ground too rough for foot marches, with the Egyptian army completing this circle of obstacles utterly incapable of being overcome, Israel forgetting that God himself was omnipotent, and that they were in this very place by the command of God, turned against their leader in bitterest complaint. The leader of any expedition is the one that always receives the brunt of criticism. If there is failure, he is severely blamed for it. If there is hardship, he is held responsible for it.

"And they said unto Moses, because they were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thous dealt thus with us, to bring us forth out of Egypt? Is not this the word that we spake unto thee in Egypt, saying, let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it were better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness." Here is an utter lack of faith. There is no turning to God, but a shameful expression of helplessness, and that so soon after God had powerfully manifested his own ability to deliver from every power that was now threatening them.

We, too, have our Pi-hahiroths, when we seem absolutely shut in, and helpless against the circumstances which are surrounding us. Yet, it is when the people of God are brought into the greatest straits and difficulties that they are favoured with the finest displays of God's character and acting, and, for this reason, he oftimes leads them into a trying position, in order that he may the more markedly show himself. He could have conducted Israel through the Red Sea and far beyond the reach of Pharaoh's hosts before ever the latter had started from Egypt; but that would not have so fully glorified his own name, or so entirely confounded the enemy, upon whom he designed to get him honour. If we could only look upon a difficult crisis as an occasion of bringing out, on our behalf, the sufficiency of divine grace, it would enable us to preserve the balance of our souls, and to glorify God, even in the deepest waters.

"And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of Jehovah, which he will work for you to-day; for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to-day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. Jehovah will fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace." Nothing can be conceived nobler and finer than a servant of God, standing out in absolute faith and confidence as against the unbelief and fear of a vast multitude of people, here over two million of them, his own brethren. One thing the children of Israel were not to do — to fear. Two things they were commanded to do—to stand still, and to see what the Lord would do for them. What else could they do but stand still? There was no power in Israel that could have ever overcome the circumstances arrayed as against the Israelites that day. If they were to be saved God must do it. The Lord not only places himself between us and our sins, but also between us and our circumstances. By doing the former, he gives peace of conscience; by doing the latter he gives peace of heart.

"And Jehovah said unto Moses, wherefore criest thous unto me? but speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward." What a command—to go forward, when immediately in front of them was a great body of water! When the circumstances seem the most difficult and the time most unripe, then it is that God often commands his people to advance. May it not be in these very days, when the church of Christ seems to be growing weaker and weaker, and its influence more and more circumscribed and its leadership less and less able, when there seem to be no great prophets in the land, when the people of God are indifferent — that this is the time for a real advance led by the Spirit of God?

Announcement

A column "Health Topics of Vital Interest" will appear on this page starting with next week's issue. Dr. J. W. S. McCullough, former Chief Officer of Health for the Province of Ontario and Secretary of the Ontario Cancer Commission will give you timely advice on various health problems.

Crane Treasures Reward For Her Efforts

Mrs. Stanley Crane keeps a careful eye on her youngster, the first to be hatched in the London Zoo, to make sure that nobody robs her of the reward of her careful efforts.

50,000 Deaf in U.S.

In United States there are 50,000 persons who are actually deaf, but tests made of school children the country over show that 11 per cent. of them are hard of hearing.

About twice as many cases of hereditary and progressive deafness occur in females as in males.

Two hundred moving picture houses in England have installed apparatus which enables those who are hard of hearing to follow the talkies. Special seats are provided for them.

The Food You Eat

One has often heard people speculating as to the amount of food consumed by the average man in an average lifetime.

According to Nathaniel C. Fowler's "Book of 1,000 Things Worth Knowing," a French statistician has figured out that a man 50 years of age has spent 6,000 days in sleep; has worked 6,500 days; walked 800 days, enjoyed some amusement 4,000 days; and was sick 500 days.

And now we come to the food supply. The French authority estimates that the average man mentioned above has eaten 17,000 pounds of bread; 16,000 pounds of meat; 4,000 pounds of vegetables, eggs and fish; and has drunk 7,000 gallons of liquid.

Now we know what tney mean when they speak of the consuming public.—Windsor Star.

Hitler's Name Is Worth $5,637

VIENNA.—The half-effaced signature of Adolf Hitler on a sketch of the church in his native Austrian village which turned up here raised the value of the drawing to 30,000 Austrian shillings (about $5,637). The sketch, which dates from the German Chancellor's house-painting days when he turned out such pictures to augment his meagre income, was discovered by a young Viennese while searching through family papers.

Peace Song For Pan - Pacific

Words Written to Fourth Movement of Beethoven Ninth Symphony

VANCOUVER.—John Murray Gibbon, Montreal, Canadian author and poet, has, on request, written an "Ode to the Pacific" for the Pan-Pacific Women's Association, which is holding its fourth triennial conference in Vancouver.

The song, written to the melody from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, Fouth Movement, is featured throughout the conference.

The words are:

ODE TO THE PACIFIC
(By John Murray Gibbon)

Lord of Love in quiet reigning,
Humbly now we bring our prayer—
May the years to us remaining
With the Golden Age compare!
May the world in war contending
Banded be in nobler fight,
Hate fore-going, carnage ending,
Firm in ranks of peace unite.

Curb the storm of human passion,
Calm on anger'd foe invoke,
Nurturing in tranquil fashion
Kindly thought of fellow folk,
Making every realm a neighbor
Friendly, as if kin by birth,
One and all in common labor
Working for a better earth.

So around this mighty ocean
Every heart shall beat as one,
Ever warm in true devotion
Till the cause of peace is won.
Then a Pan-Pacific Union
May in turn the world enfold,
And in one supreme communion
Bring to earth the heav'n foretold.

Farm Queries

Conducted by PROFESSOR HENRY G. BELL

With the Co-Operation of the Various Departments of the

Q — "Talking with an Englishman who has farmed in Devon, England, I found that over there they broadcast lime and fertilizers by means of an instrument drawn behind their wagons. The machine is built on lines similar to the outfits they use to sand the highways in winter. I would appreciate your opinion as to whether that is a sound way to do it, or if I should get a drill that would handle fertilizer." — R.A.S. — Simcoe Co.

A — The implement to which you refer is known as an end gate seeder and is operated from the back of a wagon by a connection with the wheel and axle of the wagon. It gives a very fair distribution of lime and a fairly good broadcast sowing of oats, but I would not advise it for fertilizers other than for top dressing meadows or pastures. Fertilizer in order to give best results on cultivated crops should be worked into the soil fairly near the seed, but not in touch with it.

I believe you would get your best results from a combined grain and fertilizer drill which is constructed to give continuous and even distribution. I would call your attention to an apparatus which is being put out now to attach to an ordinary grain drill. (Prof. H. G. Bell, Dept. of Chemistry, O.A.C.

Q — As an amateur gardener living in the city I am writing to you hoping that you will advise me regarding the comparative values of different forms of fertilizer which are at my disposal

First I have a quantity of wood ashes which I sift. There is much ashes from paper and some from burnt bones, but most of the wood was the soft wood and twigs and branches and also shingles in it. Can you tell me if the potash is quickly available? Would it be good for celery? Is it valuable for tomatoes?

Second, please advise me the value of fresh pig's blood mixed with water as I believe it is rich in nitrogen. I have used it mixed with water, 1 to 24 on tomatoes and one five pound honey pail of the mixture to each plant once a week. Can you give me an analysis of it in nitrogen, phosphate, and potash contents?

Third, in my celery last year, I applied a cup full of water to each plant every ten days with Nitrate of Soda dissolved in it (2 tablespoons to each gallon of water) with wonderful success. This year I am planting over 400 plants, and, can I substitute the above with liquid obtained by soaking one pail of dried hen manure in a large barrel of water and allowed to stand a week? How would the blood mixed with water compare with the Nitrate of Soda dissolved in the water as above? How would it compare with the liquid hen manure that is soaked in water?

A. — Wood ashes as a rule should contain about six per cent if they have not been bleached.

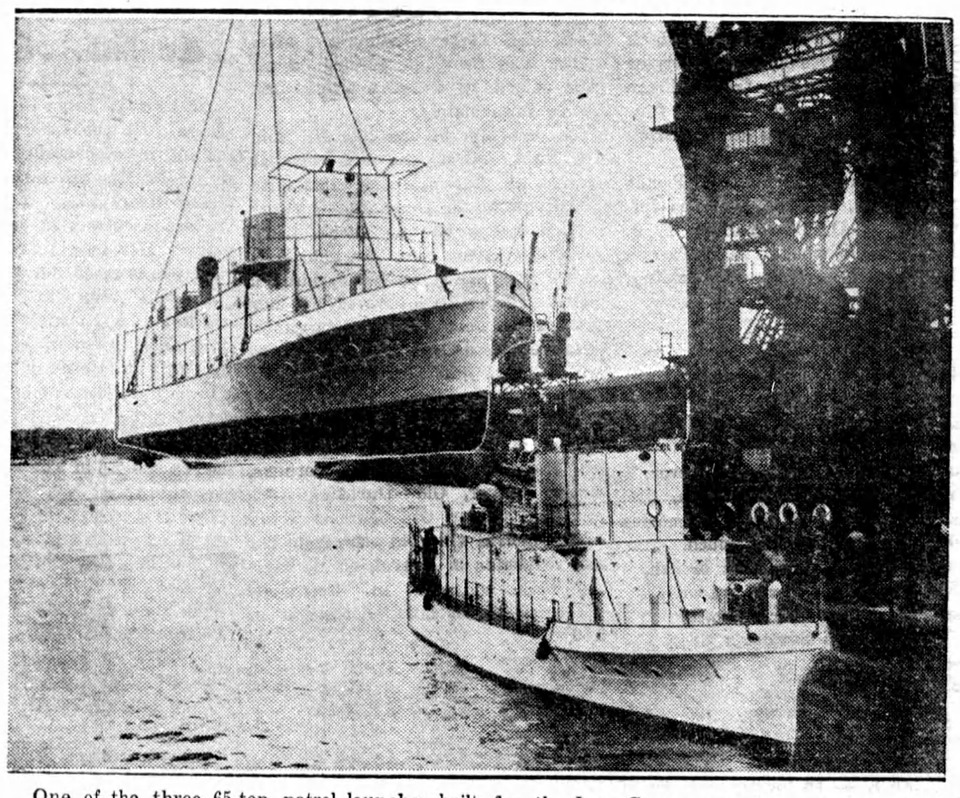
This would be good for celery and fairly good for tomatoes. The wood ashes contain about 30 per cent lime as well as six per cent potash, and celery thrives where there is an alkaline reaction. Tomatoes do well on a neutral to slightly acid condition, but they use a considerable amount of Potash, hence they would benefit a lot from wood ashes.

Regarding the analysis of pig's blood, I wish to say that dried blood carries ten to fourteen per cent nitrogen and about one to five per cent phosphoric acid. A mixture such as you suggest, of fresh blood with the water, would not be too strong to apply to tomatoes. There is no potash in blood.

The dissolved Nitrate of Soda application that you made to your celery is good. Be careful not to get it too strong. Tobacco men use no more than two pounds of Nitrate of Soda to forty gallons of water when they are mixing for application by spraying.

Re your suggestion to dissolve the poultry manure in water I would say that this should give you fairly good results. Poultry manure should run about 20 to 22 percent available nitrogen, whereas Nitrate of Soda is about fifteen per cent. (Prof. H. G. Bell, Dept. of Chemistry, O.A.C.

Patrol Launch Loaded For IRAQ



One of the three 65-ton patrol launches built for the Iraq Government, being loaded aboard a freighter at Southampton, Eng. The boats will be used for patrol duty by the Iraq Government.

Montrealers At Canada House

The High Commissioner for Canada, Hon. Vincent Massey, and his wife, received members of the Dominion's Coronation delegations and visitors at Canada House. Our picture shows, left, Sarah Fisher and Vera Guilaroff, outstanding Montreal musical artists with one of the guests.