SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON XII

CHOICES AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES IN A NATION'S LIFE

Deuteronomy 11: 8-12, 26-32

GOLDEN TEXT—Choose you this day who ye will serve. Joshua 24: 15.

The Lesson In Its Setting

Place:—All the early chapters of Deuteronomy record discourses given by Moses on the east side of the Jordan River where the Israelites were encamped in what are known as the plains of Moab (see Deut. 1: 1).

"Therefore shall ye keep all the commandment which I command thee this day."

Happy is the man who has discovered that he is not meant to be a moral inventor, a maker of morals—that he has to accept a revealed morality and an offered righteousness; that God has been so kind to him as to arrange the whole way of life, so that the wayfaring man need not lose the path. This down-letting of a moral revelation is an aspect of the grace of God. "That ye may be strong, and go in and possess the land, whither ye go over to possess it." Strength here probably has a double significance—obedience to the laws of God will make for both physical strength and spiritual strength. The apostle John, speaking particularly to young men, expresses the same truth when he says: "Ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the evil one" (I John 2: 14). Living selfish, indulgent lives inevitably results in physical, mental, moral and spiritual weakness. Israel would need strength for possession of the land which God had given her, and God graciously revealed to them how they should live day by day that such strength might be their abiding possession.

"And that ye may prolong your days in the land, which Jehovah sware unto your fathers to give unto them and to their seed, a land flowing with milk and money." (See Josh. 1: 6, 7.) It is quite remarkable to notice here, as in verse 21, that the fathers of Israel, who were now dead, are mentioned as those whom God promised would some day possess the land of Canaan, and, as an ancient Jewish commentator says: "Hence we find the resurrection of the dead taught in the Law."

Rain From Heaven

"For the land, whither thou goest in to possess it, is not as the land of Egypt, from whence ye came out, where thou sowedst thy seed, and wateredst it with thy foot, as a garden of herbs." "But the land, whither ye go over to possess it, is a land of hills and valleys, and drinketh water of the rain of heaven." Egypt was famous throughout the ancient world for its fertility, and we are told that when Lot lifted up his eyes and saw the plain of the Jordan, he saw a land so rich and fertile that the narrator could only speak of it as "a land like the garden of Jehovah, like the land of Egypt" (Gen. 13: 10). Moreover, the land of Goshen, in which Israel lived throughout the centuries of her sojourn in Egypt, is called "the best of the land" (Gen. 47: 6). Yet Israel was to have a more wonderfully fertile land than even Egypt, for, whereas the fertility of Egypt depended upon the annual overflow of the Nile River, the fertility of Palestine was dependent upon rain from heaven.

"A land which Jehovah thy God careth for: the eyes of Jehovah thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year." It is difficult not to think of the better land in this description, and of our Saviour's promise, "I go to prepare a place for you." There "the poor and needy" shall not "seek water," for "he shall lead them to living fountains of water." "They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more."

"Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse." "The blessing, if ye shall hearken unto the commandments of Jehovah your God, which I command you this day." We cannot but think of two other occasions in Israel's history when similar opportunities for choosing right from wrong were presented to her. In this very same year, at the end of his life, his voice vibrating with love, and longing for their welfare, Moses said to the children of Israel: "See, I have set before thee this day, life and good, and death and evil; in that I command thee this day to love Jehovah thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his ordinances that thou mayest live and multiply, and that Jehovah thy God may bless thee in the land whither thou goest in to possess it . . . I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day that I have set before thee life and death, the blessing and the curse: therefore choose life, that thou mayest live, thou and thy seed" (Deut. 30: 15, 16, 19). Less than a quarter of a century later, as Israel had come into the Land of Promise, Joshua, in his farewell address, once more pleaded with the people to make a definite, deliberate choice of God and of good.

"And the curse, if ye shall not hearken unto the commandments of Jehovah your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known." To choose to obey the commandments of God does not have negative results, but positive results.

The Sacred Mountains

"And it shall come to pass, when Jehovah thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, that thou shalt set the blessing upon Mount Gerizim, and the curse upon Mount Ebal." Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal stand on the southern and northern sides, respectively, of the narrow pass which cuts through the mountain range, opening a way from the sea to the Jordan, about 35 miles north of Jerusalem, at the city of Cychar, and near the city of Samaria. At the foot of Mount Gerizim lies the town of Nablus, the ancient city of Shechem. Here Abraham camped at the oak of Moreh (Gen. 12: 6). The Samaritans believe that it was on this mountain that Abraham prepared to offer his son Isaac in sacrifice. These are the two sacred mountains of the Samaritans.

While these mountains are never mentioned again after the book of Judges, it is certainly to Mount Gerizim that the Samaritan woman in John 4: 20 points when she says: "Our fathers worshipped in this mountain."

"Are they not beyond the Jordan, behind the way of the going down of the sun, in the land of the Canaanites that dwell in the Arabah, over against Gilgal, beside the oaks of Moreh?

The word Arabah refers to that portion of the land on the west side of the Jordan River stretching out before the eyes of the Israelites who were encamped on the hills of Moab, or, in other words, southwestern Palestine.

"For ye are to pass over the Jordan to go in to possess the land which Jehovah your God giveth you, and ye shall possess it, and dwell therein." "In the place of Shechem by the oak of Moreh, the Lord had appeared to Abraham and promised him this very land of Palestine. It is the first recorded promise given to the patriarch that his seed should inherit that particular country."—(Cf. Deut. 4: 5, 6.)

A remarkable fight between modern medical science and aboriginal "black magic" is being waged in West Australia. British doctors are trying to save the life of a native who is under a witch-doctor's curse.

Boy Is Iron Lung Hero

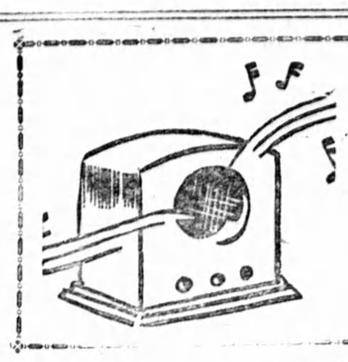
Another case in which the "Iron Lung" figures prominently, is that of 14-year-old Billy Epperson of Tulsa, Okla., (above in 'Lung") who has been recommended for hero medal for sharing it with other paralysis victims.

American Swim Star Defeated

Shozo Makino, of Waseda University, Tokyo, smilingly acknowledges congratulations of Jack Medica, American swim star, whom he defeated in Tokyo meet.

A New Workout

Summer's end can't be far off when pig-skin paraders don their grid garb and commence grueling task of limbering up for forthcoming football season. Above Temple University Gridiron candidates go through their paces near Philadelphia under watchful eyes of grid mentor.



Around The Dial

RADIO HEADLINERS OF THE WEEK

G. C. MURRAY

Barbara Luddy, leading woman of the "First Nighter," wears a bracelet with a bell on it. Consequently it has to be removed before she can go on the air. Attached to it is a "Bachelor Girl's Club" pin, a Phi Beta Kappa key, a "bag of gold" given her by a women's club, a question mark from a quizzical friend, a tiny thimble given by her mother because she likes to sew, a little piece of wood so she can "knock on wood," a microscopic postcard from friends "back home" and a microphone donated by her production director.

On advice of numerologists, Donna Creade, NBC dramatic artist will henceforth be tagged Donna Reade . . . . Gale Page, contralto comdienne, is sure it's a case of "like coats. Such sartorial splendor, incidentally, is topped off with a collection of hundreds of neckties from all over the world, plus 155 shirts and four or five dozen pairs of spats. The singer has clothes for every occasion —a morning suit, full dress and tuxedo, several yachting and riding outfits, and, no doubt, a bathing suit or two. . . .

To Swing Or Not To Swing

By way of Indian runner and pony express: word has reached us from Huntington, Calif., that a band of hardy pioneers actually have organized a society for the suppression of swing music. And the name of this outfit very appropriately, is The Society for the Suppression of Swing . . . This Huntington group has distributed circulars and has embarked upon an intensive mail campaign summoning all true music lovers to enlist under their banner. "Swing," say the members of this hardy group of pioneers, "is a scurrilous craze completely misrepresenting present-day civilization and distorting the musical tastes of the younger generation." Maybe there's something in what our friend says. At any rate, down in Newport, R.I., the town fathers haven't any use for swing music. They have ruled that the taverns must not allow swing music to be played. The classics, however, are O.K.

Just about the best judges of swing music, one would think, are the dance orchestra leaders themselves. Hal Kemp says: "There are still lots of swing addicts who never tire of this type of syncopation. It looks as though they never will, either." Then, there's Don Bestor: "According to my observations," says Don, "swing definitely is on the skids. Most people prefer sweet music." And then there is the No. 1 orchestra leader who played at our Exhibition, Guy Lombardo, and his say is short but straight to the point: "Sorry but we can't see swing at all." And that is that. But Mark Warnow says: "It will never die out completely; its popularity will come in cycles." So that is that, again; so we will let you readers be the judge; some like it; others don't, but at the present its having its "swing" and, like all other forms, we think will soon be discarded for some other brand which will be made popular when a new form of dance comes into vogue. . . .

And About Hockey

Just how the radio stations could get interested in hockey in this weather is one of those things. The fact remains, however, that practically all arrangements have been completed between Maple Leaf Gardens and broadcasting officials for the airing of descriptions of all sports activities for this coming winter . . . It's on the books that Foster Hewitt, assisted by commentators as yet to be named, will handle all the home games of the Maple Leafs, as well as senior and mother like son," now that her five-year-old Fritz has appeared as an angel in his kindergarten version of "Hansel and Gretel" . . .

Radio's Dapper Dan

Down in li'l ol' New York it's being bruited about that radio's best dressed man with nary a doubt, is handsome James Melton, the tenor. The Melton wardrobe, we have it on reliable authority, contains no less than 48 suits, 39 pairs of shoes, 32 hats, eight overcoats and six top-junior O.H.A. fixtures, as well as the wrestling bouts, boxing bouts, etc...

I wonder how many of you readers have listened to the conversations carried on between the ground and the air at the Exhibition, and in hearing have just passed it up as another publicity stunt; but it is not so—this daily broadcast was put on to show the public just how much the radio industry has advanced in the past few years. There is a great deal of equipment required for these broadcasts and their value runs up into the thousands of dollars. For example, in the plane there is a special generator to run the radio transmitter which is a specially built job for planes, a special microphone which does not pick up the tremendous noise in the ship itself, and a regular broadcast receiver to pick up the ground station; then on ground there is the short wave receiver to pick up the transmission from the plane and the regular broadcast transmitter. This does not include, however, the instruments required at the Press building where the broadcast originates. It may be just another of those things to most people —but to engineers who put their plans and brains to work, it is another step towards the goal of universal radio and we think they are doing an excellent job, don't you?

Ford Sunday Hour Returns

Commencing Sunday, September 12th, from 9.00 to 10.00 p.m., daylight saving time, the Ford Sunday Hour is being heard over 97 Columbia stations from coast to coast. A brilliant array of world-famous musical talent will be the highlight of the 1937-38 season. Jose Iturbi, noted pianist-conductor, will direct the 75-piece Ford Symphony Orchestra. He will conduct for the first eight weeks, the next eight weeks by Eugene Ormandy, conductor of the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra, and Alexander Smallens will then take the baton, to be followed by Fritz Reiner. The guest stars will appear in the following order:— John Charles Thomas, Amparo Iturbi, Richard Crooks, Kirsten Flagsted, Lucrezia Bori, Lauritz Melchoir, Lottie Lehman, Bidu Sayao and Jascha Heifetz. This will be the fourth season for the Ford Sunday Evening Hour.

Football Review Series

Eddie Dooley, widely known sports writer, commentator and former all-American quarterback, from Dartmouth, will broadcast a semi-weekly series of football forecasts for Chesterfield Cigarettes each Thursday and Saturday for 15 minutes: 6.30 to 6.45 p.m., starting September 16th. The program will feature as guests many of the major football coaches.

Henry "Hot Lips" Busse, ace trumpetter, and his music will be heard each Sunday at 11.45 a.m., over the NBC-Red Network, beginning September 26th. The reason Busse is able to bring forth unusually rich and melodious tones from his trumpet is that he had the instrument made according to his own specifications. The changed tubing and his ingenious manipulation of the mutes gives his trumpet the personality for which it is famous.

What a Beautiful Bible! "How Can You Sell It For only $1.98"

Add 15c Postage

THAT is what everyone says when they see this new OXFORD BASKET WEAVE BIBLE. No illustration could adequately picture the beauty of its warm-toned DARK BROWN cover with the unusually attractive basket-weave grain. You, too, will be surprised that so beautiful a Bible can be sold for such a low price.

The Basket Weave Cover

The cover is a triumph of the book binders' art. Unique in appearance, it offers a volume which it is a delight to own no matter how many Bibles you may have. Not only is the binding beautiful, but it is durable as well. It is made of the finest quality DuPont Fabrikoid. The cover is overlapping protecting the rounded brown edges.

Interesting Helps

Contains interesting and invaluable "Aids to Bible Study," and 4000 questions and answers relating to the entire Bible.

Colored Pictures and Presentation Page

Has eight full-page beautifully colored pictures by the famous illustrator Arthur Twidle and the new Historical Presentation Page printed in two colors. Also contains six colored maps of Bible lands.

Bold Type

The bold, black-faced type makes this Bible a pleasure to read. Although printed with such easily read type, the volume measures only 6⅞ x 4⅝ x 1 inch. Packed in an attractive brown gift box.

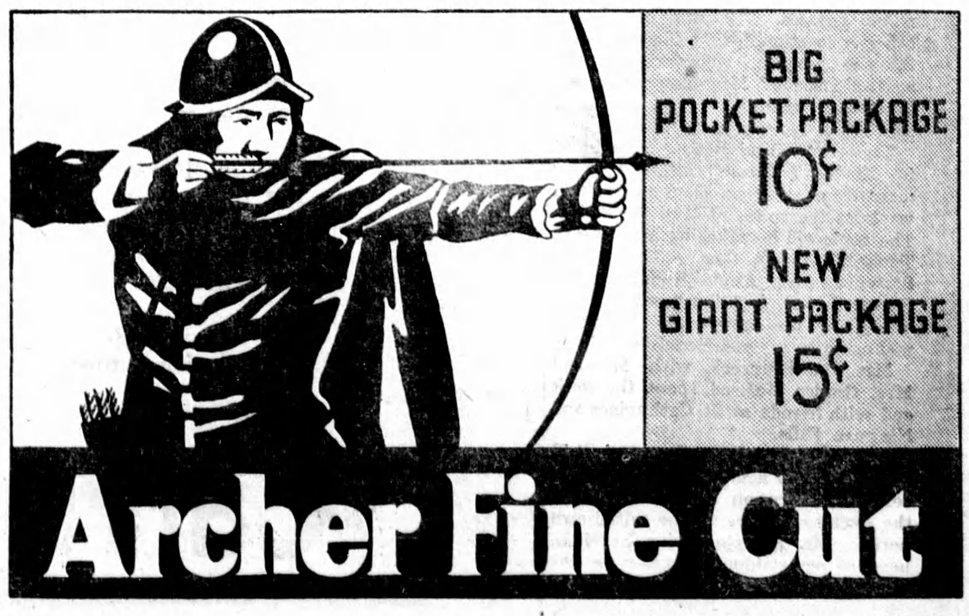
New Oxford Reference Bible

Printed in England in a new and beautiful clear face type specially cut for this edition. Printed on Oxford Bible paper. Size of page 7" x 4¾", thickness ¾". Cover is Morocco-ette, overlapping edges, round corners, gilt edges. Remarkable Value. $1.24

Add 9c Postage

A BIBLE FOR EVERY PERSON

Offer is for a limited time at these Special Prices and every Bible is sold with the absolute guarantee of satisfaction or money refunded. Remittance must be at par in Toronto. Be sure to include postage.

Publishers Agency of Toronto

73 ADELAIDE ST., W. — Suite 421 TORONTO, 2