Sunday School Lesson

LESSON XIII.
GOD IN THE MAKING OF A NATION
(Deuteronomy 8: 11—20.)

GOLDEN TEXT:—Beware lest thou forget the Lord thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his ordinances, and his statutes, which I command thee this day.—Deuteronomy 8: 11.

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.)

Time:—B.C. 1459.

The word "Deuteronomy" means the "second law," and, in this book, as the title would indicate, there is a summing up of all the laws and regulations which God had given to Moses in the forty years of Israel's wandering in the wilderness.

For a proper understanding of this lesson, one should read the first ten verses of the chapter, which are not assigned in the lesson itself. Four great benefits are, in these opening verses, said to have come to Israel from the hands of their gracious God; by him they were guided for forty years in the wilderness; in all of their suffering and hardships, God had a gracious purpose toward them —that they might come to know him better; the Lord had preserved them during all their forty years of wandering; and Jehovah their God was now to bring them into "a good land" where water abounded, where cereals and fruit could be grown in abundance, and in whose hills valuable metals would be found. This beautiful description of God's graciousness to Israel concludes with this admonition: "And thou shalt eat and be full, and thou shalt bless Jehovah thy God, for the good land which he hath given thee."

Needed a Warning

"Beware lest thou forget Jehovah thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his ordinances, and his statutes, which I command thee this day." (See also Deut. 4: 9, 23, 31; 6: 12.) —That Israel greatly needed such warning as this, her later history sadly proved. In the early days of the judges, we read that "the children of Israel did that which was evil in the sight of Jehovah and forgot Jehovah their God." (Judges 3: 7). Notice carefully how Moses particularizes this sin of Israel. She revealed she was forgetting God by not keeping God's commandments. One cannot forget what one does not know. To be ignorant of God is a tragedy, but to forget God is a double sin. Forgetting God., i.e., leaving God out of our life, not reckoning with him, or considering his will in our plans and purposes, and pleasures, is expressed in the New Testament by the significant word "ungodly."

"Lest, when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses and dwelt therein; and when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; then thy heart be lifted up, and thou forget Jehovah thy God, who brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage." —Moses exposes, in these three years, the deepest, most frequent cause for men's forgetting God who, themselves, have been the recipients of his gifts of love. That condition which is most conducive to making the thought of God vague in the mind, and obedience to God something almost never considered, in other words, living day by day without God, is what we might sum up in one phrase as a gratification of all one's fundamental material desires, i.e., abundance of food, delightful homes, comparative security from disaster, sufficient wealth to relieve one of worry, a good standing in the community, a lovely family, a large library, leisure and means for sport, an automobile, two or three club memberships, the opportunity for travel, the ability to perform whatever task one earnestly undertakes, etc. When a man has these things, he seems to possess all that he needs. That which would drive a man to God is, most of all, need, and the most powerful needs, though a sad commentary on human nature, are those that have to do with our material well-being. By nature a man will hasten to God if he is in the midst of great trouble, or fears a tragedy, or a loved one is desperately ill. What Moses wants the Israelites to know is that, in a time when they do not have much to ask for, they should, nevertheless, seek fellowship with God, if not in their petition, then in their thanksgiving and love for him.

Why Israel Should Remember

"Who led thee through the great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents and scorpions, and thirsty ground where was no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint; Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not."—The warning against forgetting God is both preceded and followed by a setting forth of powerful reasons why the Israelites should forever remember God, proving clearly that they had no excuse whatever for forgetting him. In these two verses, God is once again set forth as the one who had graciously brought them forth out of Egypt.

"That he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end: And lest thou say in thy heart, My power and the might of my hand hath gotten me this wealth. But thou shalt remember Jehovah thy God, for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth; that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as at this day"—A deep conviction of this fact would turn human history into a sacrament. Receive into the mind the full impression of this doctrine, and you will find yourself working side by side with God, in the field, the warehouse, the bank, the shop, the office, the pulpit. When a young man receives the first payment of his industry, he is to remember that the Lord his God gave him power to get wealth. Thus the getting of money becomes a sacred act. Money is a mighty power; wealth occupies a proud position in all the parliament of civilization. Trade thus becomes a means of grace and commerce an ally of religion. In one word, the true appreciation of this doctrine would restore every act of life to its direct and vital relation to the living God.

Our Dependent Strength

"And it shall be, if thou shalt forget Jehovah thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish." —Men must have a god or gods to worship. If they do not have the true God, they will have false gods. If men allow themselves to forget what the true God has done for them, they will soon come to the place where they will begin to doubt if this God whom they have never seen can do anything for them, and they will turn to visible, but dead deities, made of wood, stone, gold, and silver.

"As the nations that Jehovah maketh to perish before you, so shall ye perish; because ye would not hearken unto the voice of Jehovah, your God."— For God's gracious promise to Israel if she would obey him, see Deut. 7: 12—16. Israel's security demanded upon her relationship to God. We may not believe it, but the security, welfare, and the strength of our nation are equally dependent upon our obedience to the commandments of the Lord. God's laws are reasonable, always for the welfare of men, and in obedience to them, men keep their strength and prolong their life.

Forgetting God, who is our strength, is synonymous with worshipping the idols of man's creation, which always have and always will weaken men morally, mentally, and physically. To forget God is to curse one's self. If Canada is determined to continue more and more to forget God, and give herself to the things of this world, it would be a real blessing to our nation, if we should be brought, by the hand of God, into times of great suffering and distress, as well as great danger, if it only made us realize our utter impotency, the absolute insufficiency of man, as man, to live without God, and bring us, as a nation, on our knees, to the throne of grace, confessing our sins, imploring the forgiveness of God, and acknowledging that we are, at least, willing to live righteously and soberly in this present life, walking worthy of his name, in the light of his countenance.

Ted Broadribb (left) is shown signing away his contract rights to Tommy Farr, the British fighter; Michael Breitkopf, Newark attorney who drew up the new contract, and Thomas "Babe" Culnan, Newark promoter and Farr's new manager, unless Farr objects too strenuously.

How United Kingdom Could Be Fed In War

Scientists meeting at the British Association for the Advancement of Science, in Nottingham, Eng., discussed the problem of how to feed Great Britain's population in event of a perfect blockade in time of war.

Dr. Dudley Stamp, Professor of Economics at London University, said: "Britain produces less than 40 per cent of her essential food requirements."

Suggestions on how to increase the food output included a mention of synthetic products.

Professor J. H. Jones of Leeds University urged consideration of the nation's defense in allocating industries. He said control of the land should rest in the hands of the Government and key industries should be moved from points vulnerable to the enemy offensives.

Professor Jones discussed a plan under which the Government would dictate what crops should be grown and appoint scientists to plan production of supplementary supplies.

Reporting on available land, Sir Daniel Hall asserted "it is easy to envisage planning land in Great Britain if it could be managed by a business corporation with capital ample to take a long view about developments."

Ask More of Better Quality

Under the Canada United-States Trade Agreement, which came into effect on January 1, 1936, Canada with Mexico was granted a quota of 155,799 head of cattle of 700 lb. weight or more each in any one year at 2 cents per pound duty instead of the usual three cents per pound. As a result of the quota now being filled the three cents rate becomes effective on all cattle exported from Canada to United States weighing 700 lb. or more each during the remainder of this year under an order issued by the United States Commissioner of Customs dated August 12, 1937. As at August 19, Canada had exported 139,690 head of cattle out of the 155,799 allowed, Mexico having presumably sent the remainder. Refund of the extra one cent duty imposed will be made to shippers whose cattle entered the United States prior to the filing of the al-

A Spill In Battle

Bitsy Grant being picked up from the ground after a bad spill during his game, but losing battle with Baron von Cramm in the quarter final round of the men's tennis singles at Forest Hills, Long Island.

Mary Makes A Suggestion

Mary Astor, film star, uses her knowledge and her wifely privilege to give her husband, Manuel Del Campo, some constructive criticism as they rehearse in Los Angeles for his debut in a series of short plays.

Movie Star Dust Radio

By VIRGINIA DALE

No one could blame Robert Taylor if he decided to avoid New York City on his return from Europe. The reception his fans gave him was so frenzied a demonstration that several stalwart policemen are still nursing their bruises.

It was bad enough at the railroad station, where screeching women broke through police lines and shoved each other around in an effort to try and shake his hand. But that was nothing to what occurred on the Berengaria just as the ship was about to sail with him on board. Girls in their teens simply swarmed all over the boat, climbing over railings, breaking through guard ropes, hiding themselves under life boats.

Sailing was delayed half an hour because a steward found two youngsters hiding under the bed in Taylor's stateroom, and it was thought wise to search the rest of the ship.

Taylor was wearing a three-year old battered brown felt hat, a brown sports coat, gray slacks and shirt, and sturdy brown sports shoes and looked as wholesome and modest as a powerful farm hand.

Before "Vogues of 1938" opened in New York, the professional dress models association gave a party for Joan Bennett, and gave her a plaque to commemorate the occasion. They say she has given new dignity to the modeling profession by appearing in this picture. Joan is the most modest and inconspicuous guest of honor you ever saw at a party. She drifted in so quietly that few even saw her. She has many very charming traits.

Joan Bennett

Columbia Pictures have entered the competition to see who can crowd the most radio, stage, and night club celebrities in one picture and at the moment it looks as if they are well in the lead. Their "Freshman Follies" will include Gertrude Neisen, Jimmy Durante, Hal Le Roy, the sensational tap dancer and Johnny Breen, who has grown so popular as bandmaster on that Tuesday night automobile hour.

Several of the radio stars around the N. B. C. headquarters are dashing through second-hand stores and Chinatown curio shops these days and studying books on Chinese ceramics at odd moments. It is all the fault of John Gambling, commentator on the Monday night "Melody Revue." He recently sold eight rare vases for five thousand dollars after buying them for eight hundred.

Ramon Novarro went to Reading and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, a few days ago to attend the first showings of his Republic picture, "The Sheik Steps Out," and came back quite dazed and deeply touched by the warmth of his receptions. Crowds came from far and near to meet him at the station, and escort him to his hotel and then on to the theatre. He appeared four times a day and sang encore after encore and still the audience shouted for more.

Stullin' Ed McConnell, radio's well loved sincere humorist and philosopher has returned to the air for his 6th consecutive year as director of good cheer on Sunday afternoons. With the new series comes a change of outlet to N.B.C.'s Blue Network, giving the Acme supers a coast to coast hookup. Genial and cordial as ever, and from "the little place in the North woods" after a summer of "ishin', swimmin' and "jes' loafin' off around". He is being supported on his half hour broadcast by a distinguished group of musicians.

Ed McConnell

ODDS AND ENDS — Ida Lupino is going to be pretty cautious after this when she invites guests to dinner. W. C. Fields liked the cooking so well that he persuaded the cook to come to work for him. — Hollace Shaw, the C. B. S. soprano, has been in New York for six months and has never been inside a night club. Says she likes symphony concerts better, but how does she know? — Marlene Dietrich is having a lot of peasant blouses made up in Budapest to bring home to her Hollywood friends — The most widely-quoted joke in motion-pictures concerns the wild leopard which is being tamed to act with Katherine Hepburn in "Bringing Up Baby." Everyone says, "But who is going to tame Katie so she won't frighten the leopard?" — Eddie Cantor wears a blonde wig and impersonates a harem dancer in a sequence of "Ali Baba Goes to Town" and his daughters are enjoying it immensely. They pursue him calling him "Mama."

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