Sunday School Lesson

LESSON IV.

GIDEON: FOLLOWING GOD'S PLAN—Judges 6: 1—8: 35

Printed Text: Judg. 7: 4-7, 15-23

Golden Text

"Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of good courage. Josh. 1: 9.

THE LESSON IN ITS SETTING

Time—The principal events of this lesson occurred about 1250-1249 B.C.

Place—The town of Ophrah was located in Manasseh, west of the Jordan River, south of the Plain of Jezreel; the valley of Jezreel is identical with the Plain of Megiddo, that large fertile area in the centre of Palestine running from the foot of Mount Carmel to the foot of Mount Tabor; Succoth, in the territory of Gad, was located a little north of the brook Jabbok.

One would have thought that, with the glorious deliverance of the Israelites from the bondage of Jabin and the defeat of the host under Sisera, the Israelites would have whole-heartedly and zealously turned to Jehovah in thanksgiving and in obedience to his laws, forsaking the sins which had brought about the oppression, from which they were so wonderfully delivered. But no; it is the story of the human heart over and over again; man is so prone to forget God, and to go his own stubborn way, to be allured by the customs of the nations round about. Retribution was not far away. The Midianites came down upon Israel, and wrought a greater havoc and enforced a sterner bondage than that generation had experienced.

Nothing else brings men to God so quickly as trouble; and, when the oppression of the Midianites became unbearable, the guilty children of Israel turned to Jehovah, beseeching him to deliver them.

Just at this time the angel of Jehovah came to the village of Ophrah, in Manasseh, west of the Jordan, for the express purpose of announcing to a young man by the name of Gideon that God had called him to deliver his people. Two things the angel told him. First, that Jehovah was with him; and, secondly, that Jehovah had commissioned him to save Israel from the hands of Midian.

The Midianites, and the Amelekites, and the children of the east were gathered together in the valley of Jezreel. At the same time the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon, who sent mesesngers throughout Manasseh to Asher and Zebulun and Nephtali, calling them together for the great battle which he knew was inevitable at this hour of crisis.

4. And Jehovah said unto Gideon, The people are yet too many; bring them down unto the water, and I will try them for thee there; and it shall be, that of whom I say unto thee, This shall go with thee, the same shall go with thee; and of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go. 5. So he brought down the people unto the water; and Jehovah said unto Gideon, Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon is knees to drink. 6. And the number of them that lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, was three hundred men: but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water. 7. And Jehovah said unto Gideon, By the three hundred that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thy hand; and let all the people go every man unto his place. The ten thousand men who were left after the elimination of the cowards were still too many to defeat 135,000 Midianites. Accordingly the very singular and memorable device which is here recorded was adopted. The men were led down to the water, and all those who lay down to drink, putting their mouths to the water, were rejected, while all those who merely stopped and scooped up water in their hands were selected. These latter were the true soldiers, men who could not make a leisurely business of drinking while the enemy was in sight, but who cold, at the most, snatch a mouthful of water as they passed the stream. The simple device showed a real difference of temperament in the men, and set them off into two well-defined classes.

Tremendous Victory

15. And it was so, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream, and the interpretation thereof, that he worshipped; and he returned into the camp of Israel, and said, Arise; for Jehovah hath delivered into your hand the host of Midian. 16. And he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put into the hands of all of them trumpets, and empty pitchers, with torches within the pitchers. 17. And he said unto them, Look on me, and do likewise; and behold, when I come to the outermost part of the camp, it shall be that, as I do, so shall ye do. 18. When I blow the trumpet, I and all that are with me, then blow ye the trumpets also on every side of all the camp, and say, For Jehovah and for Gideon. 19. So Gideon, and the hundred men that were with him, came unto the outermost part of the camp in the beginning of the middle watch, when they had but newly set the watch: and they blew the trumpets, and brake in pieces the pitchers that were in their hands. 20. And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the torches in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands wherewith to blow; and they cried, The sword of Jehovah and of Gideon. 21. And they stood every man in his place round about the camp; and all the host ran; and they shouted, and put them to flight. 22. And they blew the three hundred trumpets, and Jehovah set every man's sword against his fellow, and against all the host; and all the host fled as far as Beth-shittah toward Zererah, as far as the border of Abelmeholah, by Tabbath. 23. And the men of Israel were gathered together out of Naphtali, and out of Asher, and out of all Manasseh, and pursued after Midian. Gideon is now well persuaded that the fear of disaster is not for Israel. He returns to the camp, and forthwith prepares to strike. One bold device, he believes, rapidly executed, will set in operation the suspicions and fears of the different desert tribes, and they will melt away in defeat.

It was not long after midnight when the three companies reached their stations. The orders were carried out precisely as given, and the consequence was that the host ran, and cried, and fled. To and fro among the tents, seeing, now on this side, now on that, the menacing flames, turning from the battle-cry here to be met in an opposite quarter by the wild dissonance of the horns the surprised army was thrown into utter confusion. Escape was the common impulse, and the flight of the disorganized host took a southeasterly direction by the road that led to the Jordan valley, and across it to the Hauran and the desert. It was a complete rout.

Charged In Farm Killing

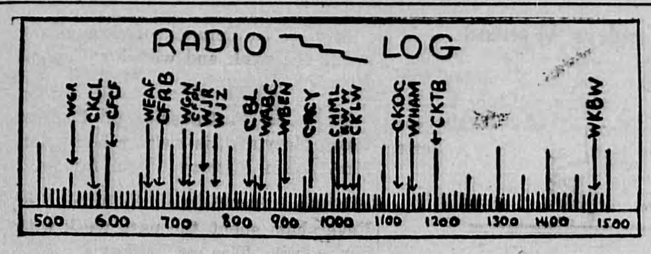
Charged with killing his employer's daughter and with a brutal attack upon her mother, William Gunning, 21-year-old farmhand is shown in custody at Brockville, Ont., after his arrest. The victims were Mrs. F. Mott, who remains dangerously injured with a fractured skull, and Miss Irene Mott, who succumbed to a similar injury. They were allegedly attacked in their respective bedrooms in the Mott farm home in Kitley township near Brockville. Gunning vanished following the attack and was taken into custody only after an extensive manhunt. No motive for the attack has been found.

This Little Country Now Lies In the Nazi Shadow

Here is a view of Vaduz, capital of the tiny principality of Liechtenstein, where Austria's western frontier touches the Alps of Switzerland. It is rumored in the chancelleries of Europe that Liechtenstein may be the object of Germany's next annexation move. Last March the 85-year-old Prince Franz abdicated in favor of his nephew, largely because of Nazi tendencies in his land, and because his wife is part Jewish.

Are You Listening?

By FREDDIE TEE



In inaugurating this column of "Air Wave News" the editorial department ask the co-operation of its readers to write and tell us what interests you the most in radio comments and news. Just address "Radio Column," Room 424, 73 Adelaide West, Toronto.

AIRLANES GOSSIP

Leo Smith, cellist in the Toronto Conservatory String Quartet, frequently heard in broadcasts over the national network of CBC, is of English birth and training. He came to Canada in 1910 and now holds the position of professor of music, University of Toronto. He is the author of two books on music and his compositions include works and arrangements for string quarets, cello solos, piano solos, part songs and songs. . . . Corey Ford and Alistair McGain, the famous American writers, may find it necessary to travel the length and breadth of Canada to catch "the biggest fish of the year," but Peter O'Day, who does magazine and radio work and who also is a disciple of the late Issac Walton, apparently doesn't believe in the adage that far-away fields really are green. O'Day recently landed a six and a half pound bass from one of the lakes in the Rideau district. The unhappy thing about it was that the fish was caught three days before the season opened. He carefully wet his hands, removed the prize and put it back in. Says he is going back to get it.

George A. Taggart

Programme executive of the CBC, returned to Canada last week after six months in England where, as guest of BBC, he studied broadcasting methods in the British Isles and in several countries on the continent. Thinks television is as yet a long way off and that when it does come it will not seriously affect straight broadcasting . . . . H. Rooney Pelletier, of the Corporation's Montreal program department, is now in England on a similar exchange basis. It is not announced yet who the BBC will send to Canada . . . . Prizes up to $300 soon are to be offered Canadian writers for radio scripts. Idea is to encourage literary talent of which there is an abundance.

MOST POPULAR CLASSICS

We have all heard of the contests for choosing the most popular dance orchestras and jazz composers—but here is something different—a contest for choosing the most popular of the classic composers. This unique contest was run by station WQXR, New York City, and met with great approval. A total of 3,286 votes were sent in and the results were: Beethoven, Tschaikowsky and Wagner, as the three favorite composers, in the order named. The most requested selection was the beautiful Fifth Symphony by Beethoven which received 23.9 per cent. of the votes. This selection with others will be played over WQXR in the all-request programs during July.

FAMOUS PLAYS DRAMATIZED

Plays by Rudyard Kipling and O. Henry, two of the greatest story tellers in the world of English literature, are to be presented over the national network of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation this summer. Peter Aylen, manager of CBL, Toronto, has announced that permission has been granted by the estate of Rudyard Kipling, through the English agents, and by Doubleday, Doran and Company, O. Henry's publishers, to adapt a number of Kipling's and O. Henry's best known stories for radio presentation. John Macdonald and James Harvey, dramatic producers of the CBC, have been assigned to these famous plays. First of the Kipling stories ever to be presented on the air will be heard July 28, when James Harvey produces "Gloriana". The adaptation from the famous story of England's great Queen Bess has been done by R. E. Sneyd.

Two Tendencies In Observation

Men Are Divided Into Two Classes—Those Who Notice Similarities, Those Who See Differences

There are two classes of men, one with a tendency to notice similarities and the other with a preference for detecting dissimilarities when they observe two related objects, according to Dr. William H. George, of University College, Southampton, England. He tested forty persons making a study of the scientific method, a highly specialized group suitable for such an experiment.

In Dealing With Fellowmen

He made twelve tests in each of which parts of objects were shown and "statements of camparison" were asked. These statements included 107 similarities and 366 dissimilarities. Some gave similarities only and some gave dissimilarities only. Dr. George, in reporting his experiment in the current issue of "Nature" said: "Not only do some individuals show great talent for selecting differences in dealings with their fellow men, but also, in international affairs, nations at the present time are pressing a few points of difference instead of their many points of similarity."

Argentina Fly Fights Hoppers

Experiments Made In Belleville Laboratory May Aid Western Farmers to Combat Pests.

Western Canada's war on the grasshopper may be aided some day by a little bee-fly from the Argentine, now being experimented with in the Dominion Entomological Department's laboratory at Belleville.

Against the grasshopper problem have been pitted many of the resources of a department whose personnel has jumped from two employees 23 years ago to 350 today. Tons and tons of poison were shipped to the West last year to combat the grasshoppers; but something more effective is needed and the little hopper-hater from South America may provide the right means of fighting the pest.

Poison Sometimes Works

Estimates have placed this year's infestation of hoppers in the West at 62,000,000 acres, slightly less than last year's, but a surer prophecy can be made next week when the plague begins to lay barren whole fields of grain. As many as 30,000 eggs have been found in a square foot and they have been known to go as high as 98 per cent.

The bee-fly experiment is still somewhat uncertain for no one knows yet to what extent the fly may be acclimatized, and years must pass before the number produced could be effective.

Grasshopper poison is believed to have saved $80,000,000 in crops in the West last year. The work is difficult to carry on, though, for the areas where the tiny eggs lie must be found and the poison must be laid at just the right time to catch the larvae emerging from the eggs.

When lack of financing practically stopped the sale of new automobiles in Mexico, dealers started selling used cars equipped with new tires.

Can Trace Zoos Back To Egypt

The Greeks Had A Name For Them Too—Kept Ferrets As Household Pets.

Old London's Zoo, Whipsnade, and Manchester's Belle Vue Zoological Gardens can trace their lineage back to Egypt of the Ptolemys, to the days of Roman grandeur, and the glorious era of Greece. In his book, "Animals for Show and Pleasure in Ancient Rome," just published, Mr. Geo. Jennings traces the zoo's history, and tells many interesting animal stories.

The Egyptians kept live animals on show from intelligent curiosity; the Romans too often for the additional pleasure of seeing them fight together, or against human beings in the arena.

Some Greeks kept ferrets or polecats as household pets, as we keep cats today; fish-ponds were to be found in every garden of the well-to-do.

Trained Elephants

Ant eating pangolins, burrowing for their natural food among the sands of Eastern Turkestan, were credited with the ability to find gold. In 46 B.C., the Roman Government possessed a herd of elephants trained to carry lighted torches in processions.

One noble Roman kept a pond full of savage murenas, into which he would throw slaves that had merited his displeasure. Like the bloodthirsty pirayas of the Amazon, these savage fish instantly attacked and devoured any hapless being struggling in their waters.

Geographer Will Study Eskimos

Frenchman To Visit Far North To Make Study of All Phases Of Their Life.

EDMONTON — Vicomte Gontran de Poncins of the National Geographical Society, is preparing for a trip into Canada's Far North for a six-months' study of all phases of Eskimo life.

The Vicomte, who has finished seven years of ethnological study in the tropics announced that he would fly north soon with Bishop Gabriel Breynat, Roman Catholic flying prelate, and establish headquarters at Coppermine, N.W.T., 1,100 miles northeast of Edmonton.

He said he did not expect to discover anything new about the Eskimo, but planned a more extensive study of the private Eskimo's social life than had been done before. He will take several thousand photographs.

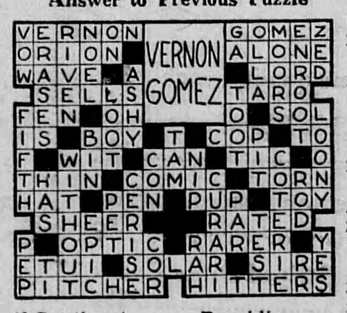
Figures just published indicate there will be no blind children in England in 10 years.

Communist Hero

HORIZONTAL

1 The first leader of the Communist state.
6 He was —— of Soviet Russia.
14 Banished persons.
16 To captivate
17 To relate.
18 Solitary.
21 Sinewy.
22 Musical note.
23 Flower parts.
25 Seventh note in scale.
26 Court.
27 Laughter sound.
28 You and me
30 Measure of area.
32 Neck scarf.
34 To lift up.
36 Blackbird.
37 Russian village.
38 To bury.
40 Silly.
42 Toward.
43 Southeast.
44 Street.
45 Either.
46 Social insect.
48 Act of storing.
54 Dined.
55 To ogle.
57 Angry.
58 Pleased.
59 Glow.
61 Poured accidentally
62 This —— helped establish the Russian Republic.
63 Requirement.

Answer to Previous Puzzle



VERTICAL

1 To permit.
2 Strives.
3 Egyptian river
4 Sick.
5 Northeast.
7 Chamber.
8 Observed.
9 Within.
10 Simpleton.
11 To eject.
12 Water wheels.
13 To attempt.
15 Perched.
19 Note in scale.
20 Compass point
23 Lampoons.
24 Suspicion.
26 The former Russian —— is named after him.
27 Sharpens as a razor.
29 Holy man.
31 His memory is —— by the Communists.
33 Pussy.
35 God of war.
39 Opposed to ego.
41 Marked with spots.
47 To relate.
49 Duration.
50 Either.
51 Branches.
52 Preposition.
53 Exploit.
54 Genus of auks
56 Thing.
58 Cotton machine.
60 Sound of surprise.