SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON VI
HABAKKUK FIGHTS THROUGH DOUBT TO FAITH
Habakkuk

Printed Text, Hab. 1:12—2:4

Golden Text: "The righteous shall live by his faith." Hab. 2:4.

THE LESSON IN ITS SETTING

Time — The date for the writing of this book cannot be determined with finality; some place it is as early as 630 B.C., and some as late as 500 B.C. The exact year of its composition does not in any vital way determine the interpretation of the book.

Place — Jerusalem.

In this lesson we find rich material to illuminate the great truth of the ultimate victories of God's eternal purposes, and from the lesson we should see in a new and clearer way how it is not each day's occurences, nor each year's events that are final in God's plan, but that all the events of life, the whole history of a nation, the entire course of the ages, are finally made to fulfill the eternal purposes of God.

The name Habakkuk comes from a Hebrew root meaning "to embrace". Practically nothing is known of this prophet and his life. At the time Habakkuk was writing this book, Jehoiakim was probably on the throne of Judah. This king's selfish luxury and oppressive exactions are sharply contrasted by Jeremiah with his father's upright conduct and just administration. The Chaldeans during this period were in their full career of conquest.

COMING TRIBULATION

The book opens with a dialogue between the prophet and God. Habakkuk contemplates with dismay the reign of lawlessness around him in Judah. Long and earnestly has he pled with God to interpose, but no answer has come. Then at last Jehovah appears to answer. The Lord announces his purpose to raise up the Chaldeans to chastise Israel for her disobience and her iniquities, and he here calls on the prophet, and through him, his people, to understand the deeper meaning of the tribulation which is immediately before them. The Chaldeans were "to be the instrument in the hands of God to mete out judgments to the Jews and humble them, as well as other nations.

HABAKKUK'S GREAT PROBLEM

Hab. 1:12. Art not thou from everlasting, O Jehovah my God, my Holy One? we shall not die, O Jehovah, thou hast ordained him for judgment; and thou, O Rock, hast established him for correction. 13. Thou that art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and that canst not look on perverseness, wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy own peace when the wicked swalloweth up the man that is more righteous than he; 14. and makest men as the fishes of the sea, as the creeping things, that have no ruler over them? 15. He taketh up all of them with the angle, he catcheth them in his net, and gathereth them in his drag; therefore he rejoiceth and is glad. 16. Therefore he sacrificeth unto his net, and burneth incense unto his drag; because by them his portion is fat, and his food plenteous. 17. Shall he therefore empty his net, and spare not to slay the nations continually? The prophet's dilemma: allowing that the Chaldeans were an agent in the hands of God for the punishment of unbelieving and sinful Israel, the prophet asks how God can allow them victories that result in their rejoicing over sorrow and suffering of God's own people, and in the confirmation of the Chaldeans in their idolatrous practices. Why does not God interfere?

JEHOVAH'S ANSWER

1. I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will look forth to see what he will speak with me, and what I shall answer concerning my complaint. 2. And Jehovah answered me, and said, write the vision, and make it plain upon tablets, that he may run that readeth it. 3. For the vision is yet for the appointed time, and it hasteth toward the end, and shall not live; though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not delay. Much that Habakkuk here sees in vision will not take place until the end of this age. 4. Behold, his soul is puffed up, it is not upright in him; but the righteous shall live by his own faith. This verse gives briefly the ultimate answer to the problems which Habakkuk brought before the Lord. The Chaldean is here described as one whose soul is puffed up — self-centred, and therefore doomed; the true believer continues to live by faith, is God-centred, and therefore permanent. "Faith" to the prophet meant more than a simple trust; it conveyed the idea of a temper which trust produces, namely faithfulness, steadfastness, firmness, persistency, endurance, patience, even loyalty. And "life" to Habakkuk meant not mere national prosperity, but moral security, even in the midst of calamity. A living faith determines destiny: abiding in life and surviving in judgment.

Tommy's Happy—A Bath's At Hand

To be sure that Tommy gets a regular bath while on duty on the western front, a number of bath units tour the area occupied by the British expeditionary forces. The units are on schedule. They accommodate sixty men per hour. Their tents are pitched near streams and ponds and the water therefrom is filtered and heated. These happy soldiers are shown passing from the undressing tent to the bath tent but pause to show the photographer their joy.

RADIO REPORTER

By DAVE ROBBINS

ANY BRIGHT IDEAS?

To everyone who ever listens to a radio there sometimes comes a thought, why don't they do this — or do things that way? Well, those are exactly the thoughts that any radio station likes to hear about. When you get an idea or a bright thought about a radio program — don't just dismiss it—sit down and write to the manager of your favourite radio station — or to the program you are listening to at the moment.

Listener reaction is important in radio — it is the only gauge by which radio stations and continuity writers can judge the public's dislikes, and dislikes. So, you can help yourself get the kind of programs you like by giving your views!

* * *

AROUND THE DIAL

Dagwood and Blondie, the famous comic strip couple are always good for a laugh or two, and you can hear them on the air from the Columbia chain any Monday night at 7.30.

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A charming voice that is new on the air lanes comes over CBL each morning at 11.30, when Monica Mugan tells the women's Side of Things. This new personality should go far in radio.

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A new feature on the Canadian chain is the weekly band concerts to be presented on Monday nights at 8.30. The best Symphonic band in Canada will be heard on this program — with L. F. Addison conducting the Toronto Symphony Band.

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One of the better air shows is heard over the NBC-Red Network on Wednesday night at Eight, when Hollywood Playhouse is presented. With Charles Boyer, the popular French actor playing the leads, this program is always top notch entertainment.

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RADIO HIGHLIGHTS—Monday — Voice of Firestone on WEAF-Red at 8.30 . . . Orrin Tucker's Band from WOR-Mutual at 11.30 . . . Tuesday — Dick, The Amateur Gardener, from CKOC at 12.30 . . . Moments of Melody from CBC at 7 . . Big Town on Columbia network at 8 . . . Wednesday — Orpheus Choir on CBC at 7 . . . Roy Shields Revue at 9.30 over WJZ-Blue . . . Serenade For Strings on CBC . . . Thursday — Light Up and Listen via CBL at 6.45 — "Town Crier" from CKOC at 8.15 . . . I Love A Mystery, NBC-Red at 8:30 . . . Stag Party on CBC at 11.30 . . . Saturday — Wayne King via CBS at 8.30 . . . Music Hall at CBL, 9.30. . .

Farm Notes . . .

Cropping Old Sod Late In Springtime

To extend the area in grain production, many acres of old sod, notably in the Maritime Provinces, were broken up last fall. For success, and especially with barley, says B. Leslie Emslie, a fine seed bed is necessary. This means free use of the harrows. Tough sod may not lie very compactly, leaving a hollow under the furrow which tends to dry out the soil in early summer. Rolling will help to make a firm seed bed.

Need Fine Seed Bed

The growing of barley should be limited usually to land cultivated in the rotation, where a fine seed bed for this shallow-rooted, quick growing cereal can be more easily procured. Oats or spring wheat are more likely to thrive well on the newly broken sod, and these are sown earlier than barley.

Spring is late; but this handicap may be largely overcome by a fairly liberal use of the right fertilizer which will promote rapid, vigorous growth of the crop. The choice of the fertilizer will depend on conditions, but it should contain ample phosphate and potash and an amount of readily available nitrogen sufficient to give the crop a smart kick-off.

Armor Urged For Soldiers

Would Save Many Lives, Insists Noted Surgeon — Plating on Chest

Kenneth Walker, Harley Street (London, England) surgeon, and a captain in the R.A.M.C., in the first Great War, wants to see troops in the trenches provided with armor plating on the chest, which would "save the lives of many."

Large numbers of men died during 1914-1918 as the result of being hit in the chest by tiny fragments of grenades or shells, he said in the "British Medical Journal."

The Germans were reported to be using duralumin suits at the beginning of this war. British military circles then said that the suggestion that troops should be armor-plated had been considered, but it was not considered feasible because of the weight and penetrating power of modern weapons.

Arguing that it took two years to induce the authorities to accept the steel helmet, Walker said: "Having accepted the principle that it is worth while protecting the head from projectiles of comparatively low penetrating power, is it not advisable to extend this principle to other and even more vulnerable areas of the body?"

Sixty per cent. of the wounded during the last war were put out of action by projectiles other than bullets, he said. Light armor would not necessarily protect a man from bomb splinters, but "many would be saved from dying as the result of a splinter of low penetrating power entering a vital area."

Work Resumes On Trans-Canada Road

Work on the $262,000, 40-mile stretch of Trans-Canada Highway east of Sudbury is being resumed, C. F. Szammers, divisional engineer of the Sudbury branch, announced.

With the anticipated completion this summer of an overhead bridge at Markstay the 40-mile section will be completed.

THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson

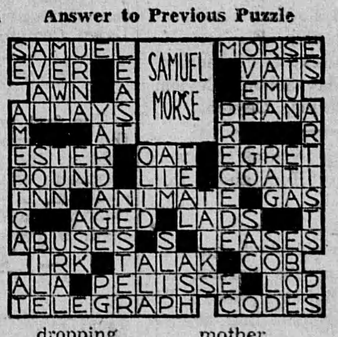
IF you can see the small companion star near the middle star in the handle of the dipper, your eyesight is supposed to be normal. The small star was named "Alcor" by the ancients, a word meaning "the test." The light that we see coming from them actually started on its way 75 years ago.

NEXT: What species of frog is used chiefly for dissection?

FAIRY TALE CHILD

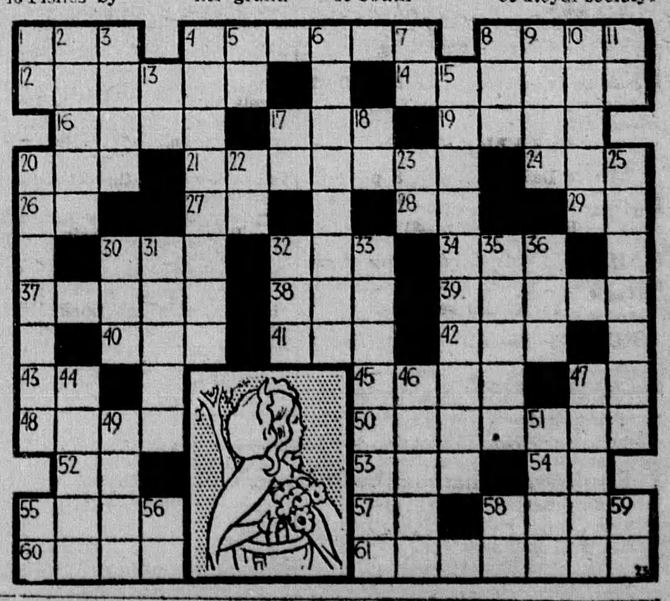
1, 4, 8 Little red cloaked child of fiction.
12 Degrades.
14 Visual.
16 Verbal.
17 To soak up.
19 To leave out.
20 To soak flax.
21 To beg.
24 Lair.
26 Electrical term.
27 Affirmative vote.
28 Ell.
29 Chaos.
30 Eagle.
32 Indian.
34 Epoch.
37 Funny.
38 Pitcher.
39 Jail compartments.
40 To employ.
41 Food grain.
42 To rap lightly.
43 And.
45 Fence bar.
47 Measure of area.
48 Fishes by dropping.
50 Irregularity.
52 To subsist.
53 Baking dish.
54 Point.
55 Particle.
57 Type measure.
58 Russian emperor.
60 She meets a wolf, as she carries —— to her grandmother.
61 The wolf —— her grandmother.

Answer to Previous Puzzle



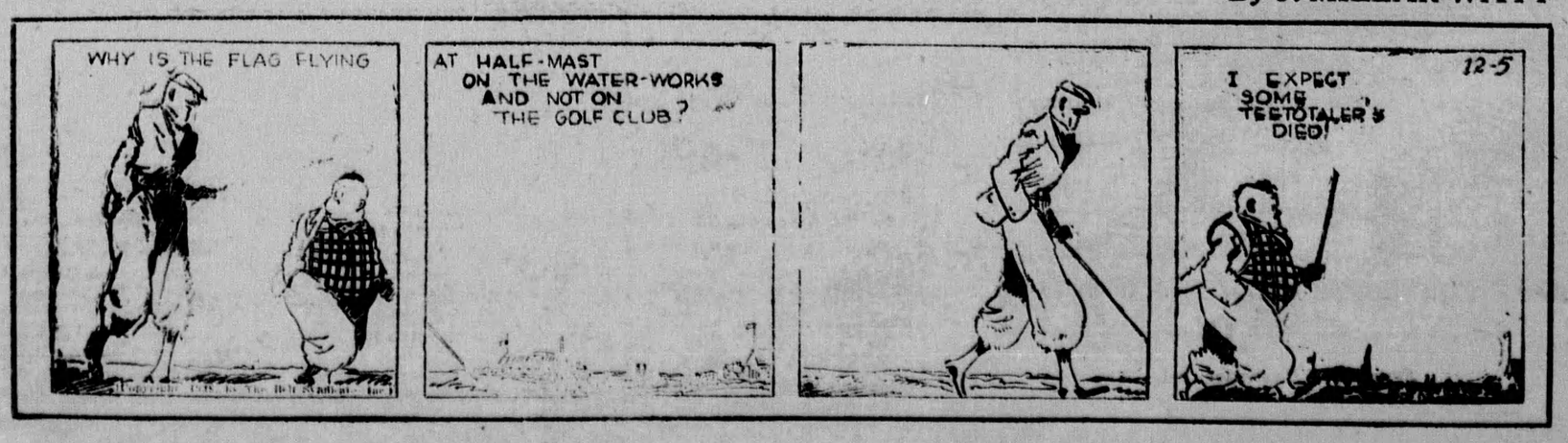
VERTICAL

1 Sun god.
2 Trees.
3 To hurl.
4 Trust.
5 Common verb
6 Worship of idols.
7 To depart.
8 To buzz.
9 Fetid.
10 Made of oatmeal.
11 Doctor.
13 South America.
15 Joint election.
17 Spain.
18 Italian river.
20 In some versions of her story, her grandmother is ——.
22 Form of "me."
23 Note in scale.
25 Hers is an old —— tale.
30 Sour plum.
31 Hazards.
32 Plural pronoun.
33 Burdened.
35 Kingdom.
36 High mountain.
44 Sacred interdiction.
46 Soft copal.
47 Pulpit block.
49 Wahoo.
51 The deep.
55 Provided.
56 Paid publicity
58 Toward.
59 Royal society.



Ontario-Quebec Newspaper People Were Out to See Things

One of the highlights of the annual convention program of the Ontario-Quebec Division of the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association at Windsor was a visit to the plant of the Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited. Here we see Mr. John Marsh of Amherstburg and Mrs. Ann Anderson Perry of Elora studying the workings of a "spotting" machine.

POP—A Safe Guess

By J. MILLAR WATT