SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON 29
CAIN AND ABEL: A CONTRAST
Genesis 4
PRINTED TEXT
Genesis 4:1-15

GOLDEN TEXT. — By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he had witness borne to him that he was righteous. Hebrews 11:4.

THE LESSON IN ITS SETTING

Time.—We do not know when these events took place, but at least it would be 125 years after the creation of man (see Gen. 5:3).

Place.—We do not know where these events took place, though, of course, it was somewhere in the Mesopotamian valley, where civiliation began.

Cain and Abel

1. "And the man knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man with the help of Jehovah. 2(a). And again she bare his brother Abel. 2(b). And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground." The one brother chooses the more peaceful and emotional, the other the more active, occupation. The pastoral life seems always to have been held in higher esteem than the agricultural among the Hebrews. But the agricultural succeeds the pastoral in the order of civilization.

Two Offerings

3. "And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto Jehovah. 4. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And Jehovah had respect unto Abel and to his offering: 5. but unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect." The key for unlocking the meaning of this entire passage is found in Hebrews 11:4, where we are told that, 'Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he had witness borne to him that he was righteous, God bearing witness in respect of his gifts; and through it he being dead yet speaketh.' What seems to be implied is that Cain's offering was an act of mere homage; Abel's embodied a sense of sin, an act of contrition, a plea for pardon.

Cain's Anger

5(b). "And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell." We have here no spirit of enquiry, no self-examination, no prayer to God for light or pardon, clearly showing that Cain was far from a right state of mind.

6. "And Jehovah said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? 7. If thou doest well, shall it not be lifted up? and if thou doest not well, sin coucheth at the door; and unto thee shall be its desire; but do thou rule over it." This dread warning to Cain, expressed in the mildest and plainest terms, is a standing lesson written for the learning of all mankind. Let him who is in the wrong retract at once, and return to God with humble acknowledgment of his own guilt, and unreserved submission to the mercy of his Maker; for to him who perseveres in sin there can be no hope or help.

The First Murder

8. "And Cain told Abel. And it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him." One of the striking features of this incident is the rapidity with which small sins generate great ones. When Cain went in the joy of harvest and offered his first fruits no thought could be further from his mind than murder. It may have come as suddenly on himself as on the unsuspecting Abel, but the germ was in him. Familiarity with evil thought ripens us for evil action; and a moment of passion, an hour's loss of self-control, a tempting occasion may hurry us into irremediable evil.

The Divine Interrogation

9(a). "And Jehovah said unto Cain, where is Abel thy brother?" Here is a question fitted to go straight to the murderer's conscience. Some of us go so far as to have silenced the voice within; but, for the most part, it speaks immediately after we have gratified our inclinations wrongly.

9(b). "And he said, I know not: am I my brother's keeper? And he said, what hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground." The cry was a demand for the punishment of the murderer.

The Divine Condemnation

11. "And now cursed art thou from the ground which hath opened its mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand; 12. When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee its strength; a fugitive and a wanderer shalt thou be in the earth." Cain had polluted man's habitation, and now, when he tilled the soil, it would resist him as an enemy, by refusing 'to yield unto him her strength;' for the future his struggle with the conditions of life will be still harder.

The Merciful Protection

13. "And Cain said unto Jehovah, My punishment is greater than I can bear. 14. Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the ground; and from Thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer in the earth; and it will come to pass, that whosoever findeth me will slay me. 15. And Jehovah said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And Jehovah appointed a sign for Cain, lest any finding him should smite him." Anyone who killed Cain would be visited more severely than Cain as being guilty not alone of homicide, but of transgressing the divine commandment which said that Cain was to live.

ACTION ALOFT

Hurtling high above sand dune, U. S. Coast Guardsman, bayonet bared, stages bit of realistic action against imaginary foe. (Official U. S. Coast Guard photo.)

Junior's Hobby Pays Dividends

That litter of balsa shavings and tissue paper with which Junior has cluttered his bedroom over the years, those gashes he has put in the top of his work table with discarded razor blades have turned out to be highly praiseworthy manifestations. American youth's pre-occupation with model aircraft now permits it to make a teen-age contribution to the training of our armed forces. Here in Detroit—and the program is being conducted on a nationwide scale—youngsters have contributed to the Navy 1,000 precisely sealed model planes highly valuable in training men to identify ships in flight and to estimate ranges.

Peace is a matter of people and how they live rather than of pacts and how they are written.

THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson

ANSWER: With modern refrigeration, oysters are edible every month of the year, but they are not at their best in quality and flavor during the spawning season, which comes in the months spelled without the letter "r."

NEXT: Snakes that still show signs of legs.

Germans Plan To Exterminate Jews

The Germans have massacred at least 1,000,000 Jews in Europe since the war began, spokesmen for the World Jewish Congress said recently.

The persecution has been particularly severe in the conquered countries of East Europe, the spokesmen added. Poland, Latvia, Lithuania and Rumania have suffered greatly.

They said that probably 700,000 Jews had been killed in Lithuania and Poland, 125,000 in Rumania, 200,000 in Russia and 100,000 in the rest of Europe. These victims were selected from Europe's pre-war Jewish population of 6,000,000 to 7,000,000.

The slaughter is part of the Nazis' proclaimed policy that "physical extermination of the Jew must from now on be the aim of Germany and her allies", the spokesmen said.

Norse In Red Army

Nearly 500 Norwegian volunteers, who escaped through Finland and over the sea to Russia, are fighting with Soviet army on the Arctic front, the BBC quoted the Norwegian Telegraph Agency as saying recently.

Scouting

Wolf Cubs of the 1st Harlington (Middlesex) Wolf Cub pack gathered in nearly $250 for the local Warship Week by showing in the foyer of a movie theatre a miniature model representation of a Nazi attack on a convoy. The scene included a submarine half submerged, a destroyer in the act of dropping a depth charge and a German plane crashing into the sea. Every detail was complete, to rung ladders for the ship bridges and the lifeboat equipment.

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A tribute to the practical value of Boy Scout training paid by Col. R. G. Whitelaw, Director of Military Training, included the statement that among boys coming up for military training, those who have been Boy Scouts stand out. Wrote Col. Whitelaw in a recent letter to Mr. John A. Stiles, Executive Chief Commissioner of the Boy Scouts Association, "The development of character, courage and sense of responsibility produced through your lectures and practical application of woodcraft, camping, swimming, navigation and handicrafts of various sorts, all add up to a total which makes the Boy Scout stand out far ahead of the average boy who has not had the advantage of this training."

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Splendid service was given by the Boy Scouts of Norwich, England, during and following the ferocious raids of the Nazis on that ancient city. The boys' fearless carrying-on in spite of dive bombing and fires won unstinted admiration. They ran messages, fought incendiary bombs, rendered first aid, and assisted in countless other ways. After the blitz, they distributed special notices to the population, guided people to rest centres, reunited families, and for inquiring soldiers and sailors secured information of families in wrecked areas.

They salvaged and removed the furniture by vans and Scout trek-carts, helped at emergency food centres, and prepared meals over fires in open spaces. They assisted with feeding arrangements for police, firemen and rescue workers from outside places, and guided the helpers to desired points. In addition, they looked after hundreds of injured dogs and cats. Incidentally several of the Scout troops lost their own meeting places and all their scouting equipment. One troop lost out-of-town headquarters, a building of concrete and wood built entirely by the boys over a period of several years. Facing the heap of rubble, one of the Scouts inquired of his district commissioner, "When do we start rebuilding, Skipper?"

The Archbishop of Canterbury ranks immediately after the Royal peers as the first peer of the realm.

RADIO REPORTER

DIALING WITH DAVE:

Mary Shipp, tall, willowy blonde who plays the role of philandering Henry's most constant sweetheart on "The Aldrich Family" did a switch on the old story of a girl seeking a career in Hollywood. She is a native of the cinema city, but recently deserted her home for New York, and is now one of the busiest actresses along radio row. Mary was graduated from Los Angeles City College where she majored in dramatics and stepped from the classroom to the network broadcasting studios. During the last year she played leads opposite such exacting stars as Orson Welles, Charles Boyer, Robert Young and others. In New York, Miss Shipp won over stiff competition for the role of Kathleen Anderson on "The Aldrich Family" and performed so well that author Clifford Goldsmith decided to make Kathleen a more frequent visitor in the cast.

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It may be vacation time for some folks, but it's just double duty time for Meredith Wilson. Not that he doesn't like it, for the tireless NBC West Coast conductor and composer has always had a busy schedule. Taking over, with his orchestra, the important "Fibber McGee and Molly" spot for 13 weeks with the "America Sings" show, is just one item on the Wilson agenda. He also continues as musical director of Fanny Brice — Frank Morgan show. And to add to all this, during his spare time, Meredith Wilson pens hit parade songs in the popular vein, and semi-classics in the militant war-time vein of today. His most recent success is "Song of Steel," a great and mighty melody dedicated to the men in the war factories the country over. Hear it sung by Thomas L. Thomas, famous Welsh baritone, from CKOC in Hamilton some afternoon during the 3.30 Concert Hall Show!

Notes from Here and There

In the cast of "Those We Love," summer replacement for Eddie Cantor, are Francis X. Bushman, matinee idol of silent film days, and Richard Cromwell, also of the cinema city!

Victor Borge, Danish comic, has a new contract on the Bing Crosby show!

Dinah Shore, the south's great song-bird, is sending free platters of her "I can't give you anything but love" to service camps around the globe.

When the Al Pearce show vacationed on July 2nd, Tommy Dorsey took over Gail Laughton, swing harpist on the show!

Lend an ear this Sunday to Academy Award — CKOC, 6.15 p.m.! Light, amusing — excellent summer dramatic fare!

The Moscow radio reported 250 illegal newspapers now are being published and circulated in Norway.

OUR RADIO LOG

TORONTO STATIONS			CKAC	Montreal	730k	SHORT WAVE		
CFRB 960k, CBL		740k	CJKL	Kirkland L.	560k	GSB	England	9.51m
CKCL 580k, CBY		1010k	CKOR	Waterloo	1490k	GSC	England	9.58m
U.S. NETWORKS			CKCO	Ottawa	1310k	GSD	England	11.75m
WEAF	N.B.C. Red	660k	CKGB	Timmins	1470k	GSE	England	11.86m
WJZ	N.B.C. Blue	770k	CKSO	Sudbury	700k	GSF	England	15.14m
WABC	(C.B.S.)	880k	CKPC	Brantford	1350k	GSG	England	17.79m
WOR	(M.B.S.)	710k	CKLW	Windsor	800k	GSP	England	15.31m
CANADIAN STATIONS			CKNX	Wingham	1230k	GSV	England	17.81m
CFCF	Owen Sd.	1400k	U.S. STATIONS			EAR	Spain	9.46m
CKOC	Hamilton	1150k	WEBR	Buffalo	1340k	EAQ	Spain	9.86m
CHML	Hamilton	900k	WHAM	Rochester	1180k	RAN	Russia	9.69m
CKTB	St. Cath.	1230k	WLW	Cincinnati	700k	RNE	Russia	12.09m
CFCF	Montreal	600k	WGY	Schenectady	810k	RV96	Russia	15.18m
CFCH	North Bay	1230k	KDKA	Pittsburgh	1020k	WGEA	Schenectady	15.33m
CFCO	Chatham	630k	WBBM	Chicago	780k			
CFPL	London	1570k	WBEN	Buffalo	930k			
CJCJ	Stratford	1240k	WGR	Buffalo	550k	WCAB	Phila.	15.27m
CFRB	Kingston	1490k	WBEW	Buffalo	1520k	WRUL	Boston	15.15m
CJIC	Sault Ste. M.	1490k	WJR	Detroit	760k	WOBX	N. York	11.83m

NOTED SINGER

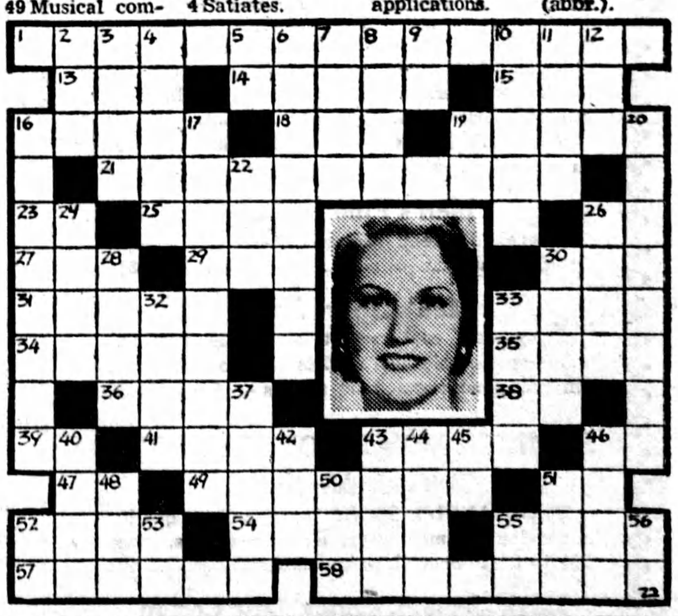
HORIZONTAL

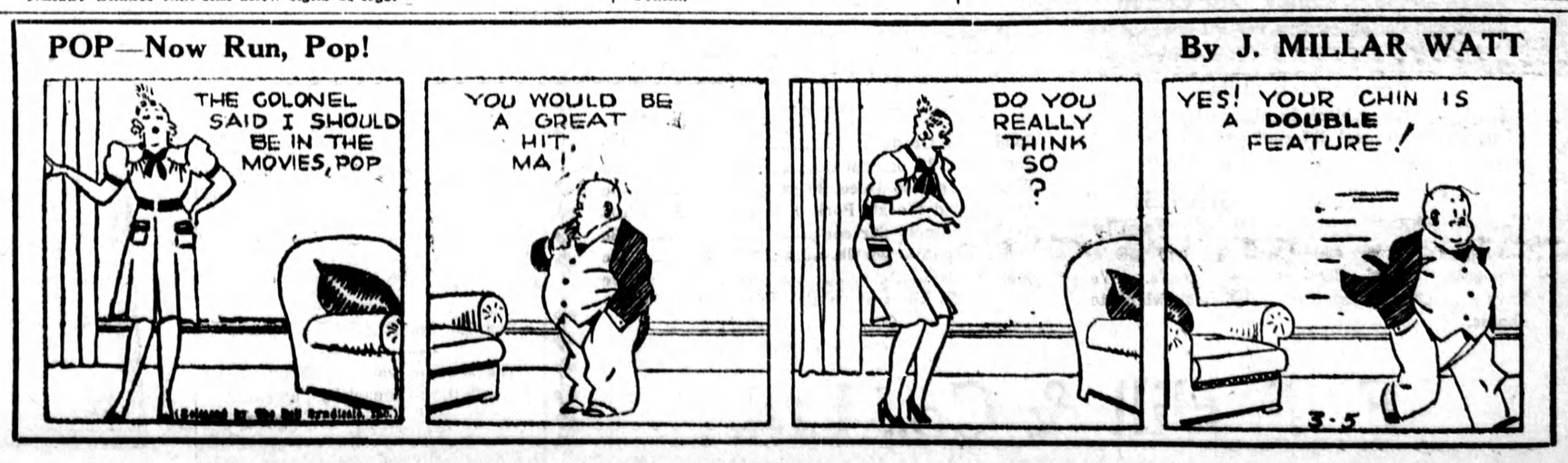
1 Pictured prima donna.
13 By way of.
14 Hauled.
15 Baking dish.
16 Imitation gem.
18 Five plus five.
19 Mohammedan ruler.
21 Inducements.
23 Grief.
25 Spore masses.
26 Average (abbr.).
27 Before.
29 Lixivium.
30 Since.
31 Semidiameters
33 Above.
34 Blaze of fire.
35 Fairy.
36 To darn.
38 Noun ending.
39 Pound (abbr.)
41 Portico.
43 Extent of reach.
46 Musical note.
47 Preposition.
49 Musical compositions.
51 Note in scale.
52 Cry of sorrow.
54 Burdened.
55 Young of sheep.
57 Her native land.
58 She is a noted Wagnerian —— star.

VERTICAL

2 Bugle plant.
3 To scratch.
4 Satiates.
5 Cry of inquiry
6 Most trimly neat.
7 Blood-sucking insect.
8 Spring fasting season.
9 Paid publicity.
10 To endure.
11 Plants.
12 Black bird.
16 She has a rich —— voice.
17 Soothing applications.
19 Company (abbr.).
20 She is a —— with American opera lovers.
22 Leverage.
24 Verbal.
26 Dyeing apparatus.
28 Kind of cheese
30 To affirm.
32 Rages.
33 Opposed to closed.
37 Palanquin.
40 Knife.
42 Data.
43 Stair.
44 Part of a window.
45 While.
46 Branches.
48 Distant.
50 Stir.
51 Obese.
52 Form of "a."
53 Southwest (abbr.).
55 Musical note.
56 Before Christ (abbr.).

Answer to Previous Puzzle



POP—Now Run, Pop!

By J. MILLAR WATT