

The Sunday School Lesson

SUNDAY, APRIL 15th

FULFILLING GOD'S PURPOSE
Golden Text - No man who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God. Luke 9: 62

Lesson Text - Ezra 1: 1-4; 4: 23-24; Hagai 1: 3-8, 13-14.
Exposition. I. That the Word of Jehovah might be fulfilled, Ez. 1: 1-4.

"The word of Jehovah" is sure. It will be fulfilled to the very letter. Seventy years before, the Holy Spirit had moved Jeremiah (2 Pet. 1: 20) to say that in seventy years Jehovah would visit His people in Babylon and cause them to return to Jerusalem (Jer. 29: 10; 25: 12-14; 33: 7-13). Now that word is about to be fulfilled literally and exactly. Sure prophecy of the Bible is sure of literal fulfillment.

What a remarkable way God took to fulfill His own word. He first brings to the front a man not yet born when the prophecy was made, and then puts it into his heart to fulfill His word. "The Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus." God has a strange but mighty way of moving upon the hearts of men. He can prompt a king to help his people (Prov. 21: 1; Ex. 7: 27; 6: 22). He can put it into the heart of a rich man to send help to a poor man just at the hour of his need. It was the word of the Lord that was fulfilled at this time. It had been spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah, but it was not Jeremiah's word. What Jeremiah says is not his own word but God's. This is a very different theory of inspiration from that which is popular with "advanced thinkers" today but it is the true theory as history abundantly demonstrates.

"The Lord God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth"; Cyrus was a wise man to recognize the source of his power. Whether or not Daniel had called his attention to the prophecies that so long before had mentioned him by name (Isa. 44: 26-28; 45: 1-6) we cannot tell with certainty. But somehow Cyrus had been brought to a recognition of the great truth that all power emanates from God (cf. Jer. 27: 6; 7: Dan. 2: 37, 38; 1: 4, 25, 32).

Many there are who, theoretically at least, acknowledge God as the giver of all they have, but they do not recognize their obligation to obey Him in practical life. Jehovah's charge to Cyrus is found in the prophecy of Isaiah (Isa. 44: 26-28; 45: 12, 13). We read "His God be with him." Cyrus could wish for nothing better for those who were to go up. That wish included everything. If God was with them, no one could be against them (Rom. 8: 31). And they could be sure that God would be with them; for He has promised to be with those who obey and serve Him (Josh. 1: 9; 1 Chron. 28: 20; Matt. 28: 20; Heb. 13: 5).

II. Failure to Rebuild Temple, 4: 23, 24; Hag. 1: 3-8, 13, 14.

The adversaries of the returned remnant of Israel succeeded in getting a decree from Artaxerxes to stop rebuilding the temple and the city of Jerusalem (See ch. 4). Instead of going forward and trusting God, they accepted defeat and settled down amid the ruin of their labours and hopes. Hagai comes as a prophet to encourage the people.

Very little is known of the personal life of Hagai. He comes upon the scene quite suddenly in 520 B.C. and disappears just as abruptly. It has been thought that he was born in Judah prior to the great overthrow of more than sixty years earlier (cf. 2: 3), and saw the Temple in its former glory. His prophecy has almost entirely to do with the rebuilding of the Temple. He calls upon the people to consider their ways to think on the material benefits they have received and enjoyed.

It is important to note how necessary it is that we fulfill the will of God. The remnant which Zerubbabel had led back to Jerusalem from captivity in Babylon (Ezra 1. The Shebazzar of v. 11 is the same person as Zerubbabel) were not providentially restored by God to their homeland for their own sinful and selfish enrichment. They were to build the house of God in Jerusalem (2 Chron. 36: 22, 23). When instead of doing this they mingled with the godless inhabitants and turned their attention to everything else but their obedience to God they ceased any danger to be in the will of God. Frustration became their lot and it is also ours when we disregard the will of God for our lives (Matt. 7: 21).

The Lord cannot allow the wicked to be at ease in their selfishness. The severities of God (Rom. 11: 22) are part of His means to bring willful sinners to repentance (Heb. 12: 6-11). It is our duty to be faithful witnesses to the redeeming work of our Savior (Act. 1: 8; Matt. 28: 18-20). The Church progresses and develops as long as it is true to the Great Commission. But when it turns to the enrichment of itself and disobeys the

purpose of God for it, there is certain to be a time of judgment in the house of God (Rev. 3: 17: 19)

To clean a dirty comb, soap it well and brush it thoroughly with a discarded tooth brush; then wash it in clean water.

NEWS and VIEWS

Of Halton Farm Interest

Halton Winter Wheat Spotty

Halton's winter wheat acreage this year is much above normal. In the main this is due to the very backward spring a year ago which resulted in a greatly reduced acreage of spring grain being sown and consequently a large acreage produced no crop in 1947. The condition of the fall wheat in Halton, states Agricultural Representative J. F. Whittaker, varies considerably from farm and from field to field on the same farm. The bulk of the crop appears to have come through the winter in excellent condition but there are many late-sown fields, which appear rather thin and weak. In the main this is due to late preparation and sowing without adequate moisture. Such fields could be pepped up considerably by top-dressing with ammonium nitrate or nitrapills, a 33% nitrogen fertilizer. Such action is recommended by Prof. N. J. Thomas of the Salla Dept. at the Ontario Agricultural College. This granular fertilizer can be applied with a cyclone seeder and should go on at once. The rate of application is 50 to 100 lbs. per acre with the heavier application going on the weaker stands. Such applications should be made just as growth is commencing which means it should go on at once or at least during the next week.

Feed Grain Situation Critical

Ontario Live Stock men face a situation which necessitates the production of increased quantities of home grown grains in 1948. If present live stock holdings are to be maintained, according to our agricultural authorities, 200 million bushels of feed grain is the minimum required in 1948 to maintain present live stock holdings and fulfill our contracts. This means an increase of one-third or 50 million bushels over our average production in Ontario, in the past ten years. While price ceilings on feed grain were in effect the livestock feeder was in a very fortunate position. The day of cheap grain from western Canada appears to be over for the immediate future. The world shortage of food would appear to ensure high grain prices for some little time. Furthermore as pointed out on numerous occasions by W. E. Brecken of Freeman, when ceiling prices on feed grains were established, oats were 53c a bushel; barley 61c; and wheat 78c. This past few months with wheat selling at around the \$1.50 mark or practically twice what it was when price ceilings on feed grain were imposed it should have been a surprise that the price of oats and barley moved up when ceilings were removed to a point where they bear something near their proper price relationship to the present price of wheat. Inasmuch as wheat is expected to move up to the \$2.00 mark in mid-summer, it does not seem logical to expect lower price for feed grain in 1948 at least.

This is another very good reason why Ontario livestock feeders would be well advised to produce on their own farms as large a percentage of their requirements as possible. In addition to utilizing all approved methods of securing increased yields per acre, it would seem that more Halton farmers might well give immediate consideration to a limited acreage of husking corn. This is one crop that does reasonably well on spring plowed land although admittedly we prefer a field which has been fall plowed. Corn contains approximately 10% more total digestible nutrients than oats.

Furthermore if we compare corn with oats from a pound per acre standpoint a 50 bushel crop of corn is equal to an 82 bushel crop of oats. However, there are a few points to be kept in mind if a satisfactory crop of husking corn is to be secured. First, our experience to date favors a loamy field in good state of fertility. The yields secured on the heavy clays in Halton have not been comparable to those on the loamier soils. Second, be prepared to sacrifice a little on yield in order to get maturity. This means nothing later than a 95 day corn which will include such varieties as Canada 275, Canada 279, Canada 355, Funks G 35, DeKalb 56, etc. Such varieties should enable the grower to secure a fair crop of mature corn which will not mold and also permit him to get the crop picked in good time and the stalks plowed down the same year. Thirdly, a good uniform stand with stalks 12 inches apart in the row often means the difference between success and failure. Ten to twelve pounds of seed to the acre is sufficient. Furthermore, if soil and weather conditions are favourable, plant between May 17 and May 24. If your corn is following a legume crop or if barnyard manure has been applied supplement with O-11-7 on the heavier loams or 2-12-10 on sandy loams. Where the crop is not following a clover sod or where manure is not available use

2-12-6 on the heavier loams and 2-12-10 on sandy loams.

A new bulletin entitled "Harvesting & Storing of Ear Corn" is now available at the Agricultural Office in Milton and will be of great and value to all planning to grow some of this crop. Tests conducted at the Ontario Agricultural College over the past eight years reveal that on the average, corn has yielded approximately twice as many pounds of grain per acre as has been secured from leading varieties of barley. The feeding value of corn as part of the ration for poultry, hogs, and both dairy and beef cattle, is too well known to Halton livestock men to require any comment.

Guernsey Breeders in Stage Show
The newly organized Halton and Peel Guernsey Club is already making plans to stage a County Show next fall. This will be held in conjunction with the County of Halton Agricultural Society Fair, at Milton, on September 25th, states Lloyd Chisholm, President of the local club. That the Guernsey is rapidly increasing in popularity is evident by the fact that already this new breed club has a paid-up membership in Halton alone of 35.



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