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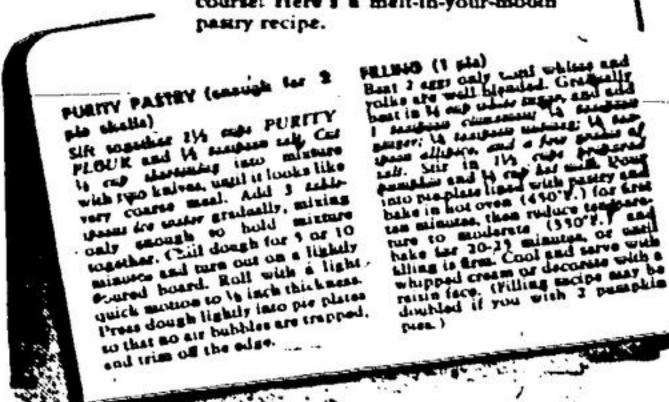
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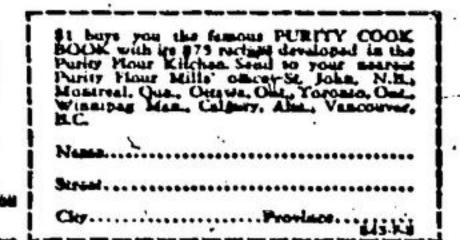
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#### The Sunday School Lesson

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24th

HISTORY IN THE OLD

TESTAMENT Golden Text-Blessed is the nat fon whose God is the Lord. Ps.-33:

Lesson Text-1 Kl. 4: 21-29: 11: 6, 9-11.

Exposition - '1. History of Solamon, 1 Kl. 4: 21-29.

These verses lose signifigance apart from the full facts of Solomon's life. He had these great possessions, of which we read, because he had the favor of the Lord. The importance of Solomon is that he succeeded to the throne of Davld and was commissioned to build the temple. In his youth he prayed to God for wisdom and became divinely endowed (vs. 29, 30; Jas. 1 :12). During his reign the temple was built and the kingdom of Isrnel reached the zenith of its glory. But in his latter years Solomon departed from the faith, as we shall see. To get the full view of Solomon, let us review some facts and

lessons from his life. Twice in his life was it granted to Solomon to meet God (9: 2: 11: 9). Too many of us it is granted to meet God far more frequently than that. The appearance was in a dream, but it was a real appearance (Gen. 28: 12, 13; Num. 12: 6; Job 33: 14; Matt. 1: 20; 2: 13, 19; Ac. 18: 9, 10). It was a wonderful thing that God said to Solomon. "Ask what I shall give thee"; that is God setting the infinite resources of His power at the disposal of man. But God says the same thing to each humblest child of His today (Jno. 14: 13, 14: 15: 7; Matt. 7: 7, 8; Mk. 11: 24; Jno. 15: 16; 16: 23, 24; 1 Jno. 3: 22; 5: 14, 15). God's great "kindness unto David" his father in the past encouraged Solomon to ask great things for himself in the present. God's dealing in kindness with David was according to David's sincere, righteous and upright walk (1-Kl. 3: 6; 1 Kl. 9: 4; 15: 5: 2 Ki. 20: 3, 4; Ps. 15: 1, 2; 18: 20-24; 1 Jno. 3: 22).

Solomon recognized that he owed his present exalted position entirely to God (v. 8; Dan. 2:21; 4: 25, 32; 5: 18, 21). He also recognized his own utter insufficiency for the position; though he was at this time perhaps twenty-one years of age, in his own eyes he was "but a litt'e child" (1 Ki 3: 7). To him office was a sacred trust. The people was a great people in number and they were God's own people whom He had chosen (1-Kl. 3: 8). He felt that what he wanted was a fitness for his position. He asked therefore, for wisdom and knowledge, and he wished them not for display but to fit him for service, "that I may go out and come in before the people." He also asked for a "hearing heart" (1 Ki. 3: 9), i.e. a heart that should hear the voice of God. What he asked is of more value than all honors and riches (Prov. 3: 13-18:

His father's words to him and prayer for him had suggested to Solomon this request of Chron. 22: Solomon asked we may all have (Jas. 4: 2, 3). The disconcernment that he sought was the highest form of discernment, moral discernment. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to impart this (Isa 11: 2-4; Jno. 16: 12, 13). He was u'terly overwhelmed at the thought of undertaking in his own strength the task for which no man was sufficient.

God was well pleased with Solomon's prayer. (Prov. 15: 8). Solomon got what he asked, but he got it in a more abundant measure than he had asked, his wisdom became noted throughout the earth and throughout all ages 1 Ki, 21 28; 4: 29-34; 5: 12; 10; 3-8; 23; 24). God also gave him exceedingly ab- undant'y above all he asked (Eph 3: 20) If we seek the best thing, God will give us with it the miner things (Matt 6: 333; Ps 84: 11, 12; Rom S: 32). His riches were enormous (1 Ki 10: 23-29) II Solomon's Apostasy 11: 6, 9-

-Although-it is stated that God. . gave "wisdom" to Solomon we find that he ended his life with a heart "turned from the Lord God of Israel" (v. 9) He was endowed with great administrative gifts, by means of which his international neighbours were constrained to be .

at peace with him (5: 10) In the building of the temple clod gave him plans and means. But he undoubtedly went beyond God's

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purpose in levying so heavily upon BRITAIN'S EXPORTS the people and building up so large n'ruling c'ass (vs. 13-16). Such h use of arbitrary power as is im-

plied in this customary, levy must have raised great discontent among the people. This was tempered by Solomon 'not overworking his lished August 24 show that in July people and in assigning the most the volume of Britain's exports Inborious task to remaining Can- was about 49% above the 1939 annites. He did, however, build level-only 1% below the target more than the Temple and enhan- set for next December. . This is ced his glory by forced labor (1 Ki. reckoned to be the largest quan-

fect with-the Lord his God . . . " by \$32,800,000 the previous best God threatened him (v. 9).

#### NEAR END-YEAR TARGET

Five months ahead of schedule Britain is near to achieving her export target for the end of 1948. Oversens trade returns pubtity of goods sent abroad in any Taking pride in this misuse of one month for nearly twenty the enduement of God's wisdom years. In terms of value last led him to his moral breakdown month Britain exported goods to-(11: 1, 4). "His heart was not per- talling \$582,400,000. They topped

figure established July 1920.

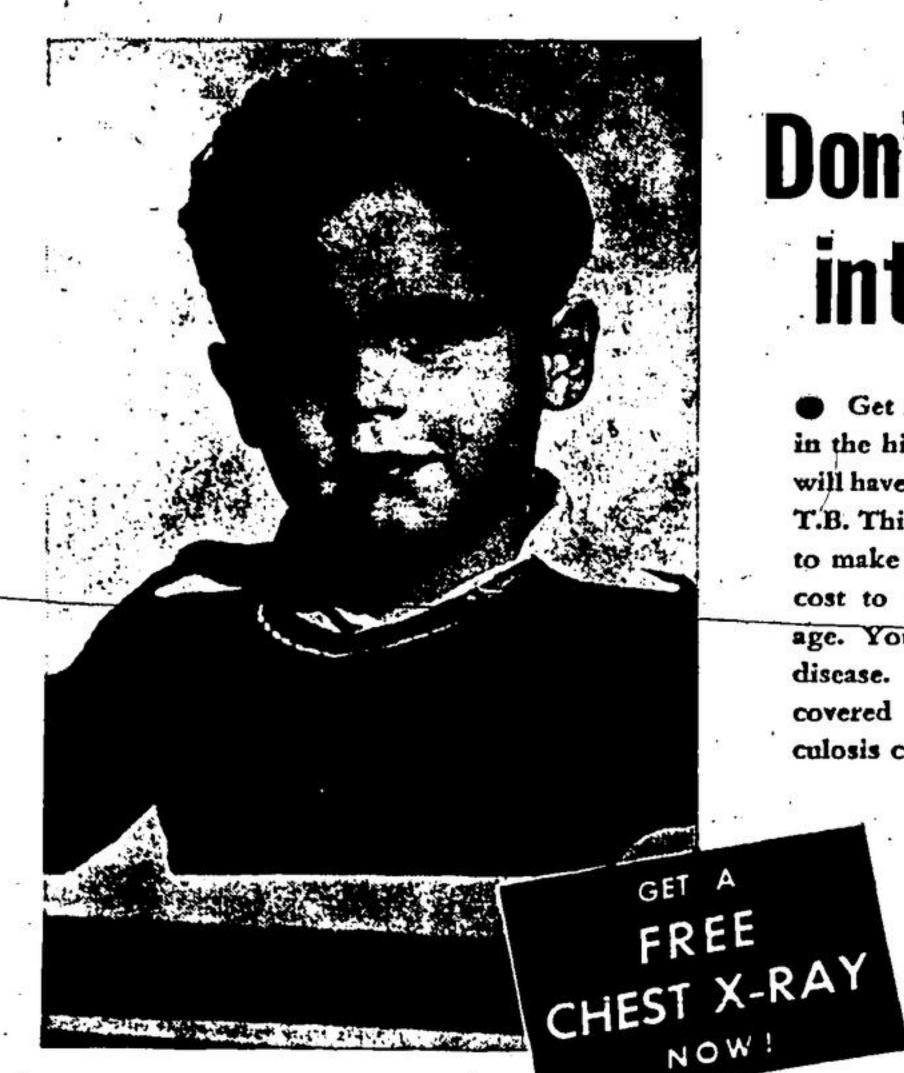
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