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### SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

by Rev. E. C. Todd

#### JUDAH'S UNSTEADY COURSE

LESSON: 2 Kings 19: 5-7, 32-37; 20: 12-17

During the course of these lessons we have dealt with the revolution which split the original Hebrew Kingdom into two nations, Israel in the north, and Judah in the south. Last week we dealt with the annihilation of Israel by Assyria. Now we are to consider affairs in the sister nation, Judah.

When, as we mentioned last week, Israel took the leadership in forming a coalition against Assyria, Judah refused to participate. The coalition immediately made war on Judah. Isaiah the prophet, advised King Ahaz of Judah not to be afraid and to trust in God and not in alliances. Ahaz, however, appealed to Assyria to help him. It was hardly necessary to do this for Assyria had no intention of allowing the coalition to prosper. The result was that Judah, in return for protection which she did not need, voluntarily became a tributary state of Assyria. So long as the annual tribute was paid, Judah was left in peace; war did not touch her borders, and she had no occupation force to contend with. But there was in Judah, as there had been in Israel, a party which favoured a declaration of independence, and turning to Egypt for help. Isaiah consistently opposed any alliance with Egypt, which he saw to be the same weak sister she had been with Israel in her hour of need. Isaiah declared that Judah could rely on God alone.

In 706 B.C. when Sennacherib came to the throne of Assyria, a series of rebellions took place. Judah was involved, and was eventually attacked. Hezekiah, King of Judah offered to submit and pay tribute, but this voluntary act did not stop the war. Jerusalem was besieged. Isaiah again comes into prominence with his consistent advice to trust in God alone and not to be afraid, and he prophesied the destruction of the Assyrian army and the eventual assassination of Sennacherib. Jerusalem, he said, would be saved. (2 Kings 19: 5-7; 32-37) Verses 35, 37 describe the fulfillment of his prediction. Isaiah had confidence in God's purposes and consistently urged the nation to fear God and scorn foreign alliances.

The second part of the lesson text again underlines this consistent policy of the prophet. Here Babylon is introduced into the story of events, and during the next few lessons we are to see her supplanting Assyria as the dominant power; we are to see Judah overthrown and exiled as Israel had been by Assyria. Berodach-bala-

dan, mentioned in the text, had seized the throne of Babylon, another tributary of Assyria, and was engaging in conspiracies against Assyria. Here we read of his attempt to involve Judah in an anti-Assyrian league. Hezekiah was evidently pleased by his diplomatic overtures, and showed all his treasures and arms to the ambassadors, probably putting on a show of army manoeuvres for the sake of the military attaches. Isaiah, always opposed to such alliances, predicts a tragic outcome for Judah if she allies herself with Babylon.

As we look back on the scene from this distance, what strikes us is that Isaiah stood for something steadfast and unshakable in a time of crisis and instability. The one steady element in an unsteady nation, was the faith in God held by Isaiah. The nation had to be steered through a channel filled with dangerous shoals.

The political leaders did not know which way to steer and not knowing, they swung first in one direction, and then in another. Isaiah, however, introduced a note of certitude into a time of distraction. He kept before the minds of rulers and people the sure promises of God, and he bore public witness to the power which is above human power and from which alone effectual help can be secured. The substance of this message is best expressed in Isaiah 30:15 "For thus saith the Lord, God, the Holy One of Israel: In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength." Ahaz did not follow Isaiah's advice; he would have been wiser if he had. He would have made an "alliance with the devil" to achieve the freedom of Judah, not considering that the result would be his enslavement by the devil. (Remember here, Jesus' temptations in the wilderness, following His baptism.)

Rulers and peoples easily lose their heads in times of crisis. At the present time, we are living in a distracted era, which seems to be full of perils. No one knows what the future is going to bring, and no one knows what to do about the present. In the midst of perplexity such as we are now suffering, we must keep alive the sense of things eternal, the everlasting laws of righteousness. We must hold fast in an unseen God who rules history and belief in redemption of mankind through Jesus Christ.

The very emptiness of our times calls out for a faith to fill it. The despair of rulers and people demands reassurance. There is therefore, a call for more steadfast believing on the part of believers, and a louder, more vocal witness on their part to the God of all Truth and Peace. Such believing and such witness can bring sanity and courage and confidence to men who are faced with trouble and uncertainty, knowing hardly which way to turn. They can offer a sense of proportion, steadiness, and patience. One does not mean that we take an optimistic view of the present situation, or conceal alarm about the way men are taking. But with the eye of faith we can look beyond the immediate scene to the eternal purposes of God; and from that vision comes inward peace, and from inward peace come wisdom and confidence which are certainly what we need today.

#### ASHGROVE

The Ashgrove friends extend heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Mrs. S. K. Ruddell of Georgetown who celebrated her 90th birthday on Sunday, May 26th. This well-loved lady is very active and enjoys life to the full. Her sons and daughters and grandchildren spent the day with her.

Mr. and Mrs. Hartley Anderson of Toronto were home for the week-end. Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Horne of Port Credit and family and Mrs. Horne of Streetville spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Dick. Mrs. Horne Sr. remained for the week.

The Young People held their Citizenship meeting in the basement Sunday evening with Clayton Dick Jr. in charge.

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the Estate of Kate Isam, late of the Village of Terra Cotta, in the County of Peel, Widow, deceased.

The Creditors of Kate Isam, late of the Village of Terra Cotta, in the County of Peel, Widow, deceased who died on or about the 28th day of December, 1946, and all others having claims against her estate are hereby notified to send by post, prepaid or otherwise to deliver to Messrs. Langdon and Aylsworth, Georgetown, Solicitors for the undersigned administrators of the estate of the said Kate Isam, Widow, deceased, on or before the 20th day of June, 1947, their names, addresses, descriptions and full particulars of their claims and the nature of the securities, if any, held by them and that immediately after the 20th day of June, 1947, the administrators will proceed to distribute the estate of the said deceased amongst the parties entitled thereto having regard only to the claims of which the administrators shall then have notice.

DATED this 13th day of May, 1947.  
Norman Isam and Leslie Isam  
Administrators  
by Langdon & Aylsworth, their  
Solicitors, Georgetown, Ontario.

#### PROVINCIAL

PAPER'S  
MAN  
OF THE  
MONTH

## R. B. FOULIS

The High Road Led to  
Georgetown

(Reprinted from Provincial's Paper, June, 1947)

It's a long way from Rutherglen, Scotland, to Georgetown, Ontario, but with the help of a steamship, R. B. Foulis took it in his stride.

Luckily for the future of the paper-making industry, the Scottish Educational Department approved a four-year course in practical paper making just after Bob finished his general education. The first of its kind in Scotland, it embraced chemistry, botany, mathematics and machine construction.

Bob decided that such a course was made to order for him and the next few years saw him hard at work at Heriot-Watt College, where he studied under the direction of Alfred A. Boon, Professor of Chemistry there. Emerging with his diploma, the Inveresk Paper Company claimed him and "R. B." was on his way.

After a few years at Inveresk, the Clyde Paper Company at Rutherglen put in a bid for his services. Clyde's choice was a wise one for Pulp and Paper News recorded that the young executive succeeded in increasing that plant from six single machines to ten single and two double machines.

"Clyde Coated" secured a world-wide reputation during his stay there, but Bob, with characteristic Scottish modesty, refuses to admit his share in this remarkable development.

After his outstanding performance at Clyde, Provincial Paper decided that Bob was definitely a man with a future and that this future should be spent in Canada. He arrived in Georgetown in 1915 to fill the position as Superintendent, and later became Mill Manager.

Besides contributing his wide "know-how" to the business of paper making, Bob has given his time and talents to a host of worthy causes. During all the Victory Loan Campaigns he was chairman of the payroll deduction plan for local industries. For twenty years he served on Public and High School Boards. It is his hope that technical training will be adopted in Georgetown in the not too far distant future.

Fishing and golfing are his spare time passions. He does both, with the same skill and enthusiasm that has made him a man of accomplishment in the world of paper making.

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Early plows were hewn from  
tree trunks. About 1800, cast-  
iron moldboards began to be  
used.



## 100 YEARS OF PROGRESS in making Farm Implements

AS LATE AS 1794, wooden moldboards were hewn from tree trunks, and when the first cast-iron plows were made, farmers believed that the cast iron "poisoned the land." Then came lighter weight steel plows. Soon plows were being made in factories at much lower cost than they could be made by the local blacksmith.

Since 1847 when the first Massey plant started producing plows and other farm implements, machine methods have almost completely replaced hand labor on the farm.

Plowing requires more power than any other farm operation. Today on thousands of farms in Canada and throughout the world, Massey-Harris plows drawn by powerful Massey-Harris tractors speed across the fields, enabling the farmer to plow twice the acreage he formerly plowed with a four horse outfit.

Today Massey-Harris makes a type of  
plow for every purpose—moldboard  
plow, tractor plow, disc plow.

And Massey-Harris mowers, binders, combines and other machines handle crops more speedily than would have been thought possible a hundred years ago.

The past century has been one of steady expansion for the Massey-Harris industry. To the farmer it has brought happy release from much of the back-breaking labor connected with farm work.

