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Sunday School.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON NO. XIII.
DECEMBER 27, 1903.

Review.—Read Psalm 103: 1, 2.

Introduction.—The lessons this quarter mark the time between the bringing in of the ark to Jerusalem under David, and the dedication of the temple. In the history of David and his sons we see the great truth emphasized that whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. During the quarter God's love and mercy have been extolled and we have seen the joy that comes through forgiveness.

Summary.—Lesson I. Topic: Bringing in of the ark. The ark was a small chest; the lid was called the mercy seat. It was a sign of the divine presence; for seventy years it lay in neglect. David now decides to bring it into Jerusalem; proper reverence is shown; Uzzah dies for touching it; David is displeased; the ark is left at the house of Obad-edom; three months later David takes the ark and brings it into Jerusalem; the priests and Levites and chief men are called together; a great procession is formed; sacrifices are frequently offered; there is music and singing. It was the greatest day of David's life.

II. Topic: God's promises to David. David desires to build a house for the Lord. He was living comfortably in his own house of cedar; David spoke to Nathan the prophet about his desire, and Nathan at once encouraged him to proceed with the building. But God spoke to Nathan, informing him that David's desire could not be granted; he had been a man of war, and there was still much to do in establishing the kingdom. He could prepare the material, but his son should build the house. The Lord said that He would establish David's throne forever.

III. Topic: David praying for forgiveness. When David was about fifty years of age he committed two great sins. About a year afterwards the Lord sent Nathan, the prophet, to him to show him his great wickedness; the king's heart was tender; he saw his sin and mourned exceedingly. This psalm shows the depth of his repentance, his prayer for forgiveness, and that his transgressions may be blotted out, and that he may be washed and cleansed. David has great confidence in God, and prays earnestly that the Lord would still uphold him with His free Spirit. He resolves to employ his life from this time fully in God's service.

IV. Topic: God's mercy and love. This is one of the seven so-called penitential psalms; it has reference to the forgiveness which was granted David. After he had committed his great sin, in Psalm fifty-one we see him repenting and pleading for mercy; with the opening sentence of this psalm we hear him say, "Grieved is my conscience; transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered;" he speaks here also of his deep repentance and of his confidence in God. God was to be his mighty deliverer.

V. Topic: Absalom's rebellion. The bitter fruits of David's own unholiness are now being seen; David's sons were wicked; Absalom was a wicked, proud young man; he was renowned for his beauty; he laid a plot to overthrow his government and seize the kingdom; he stole the hearts of the people by his subtlety; he then led his father and went to Hebron and set up a government of his own; he soon started with an army towards Jerusalem. David fled from the city and crossed over Jordan and established headquarters at Mahanaim.

VI. Topic: Putting down the rebellion. When David fled from Jerusalem he refused to take the ark with him; Absalom and his army marching from Hebron entered Jerusalem the same day; Absalom at first intended to follow David immediately and overtake him, but he finally decided to take more time and raise a large army. Absalom was king in Jerusalem about three months; he then went out to battle with David's warriors; Absalom's army was defeated and he was slain. David mourned over the death of his son.

VII. Topic: Praise and thanksgiving for God's goodness. This is one of the psalms supposed to have been written by David during the latter part of his life. It contains two figures: 1. The Shepherd and his sheep. 2. The Host and his guest. Christ is the good Shepherd; His people are the sheep; the divine Shepherd gives soul rest, soul satisfaction and soul liberty. David is abundantly supplied so that his cup runneth over.

VIII. Topic: The woes of intemperance. The wise man writes of the curse of strong drink. This lesson refers to the personal experiences of "the drunkard as well as to the influence of strong drink in general. It sows people; destroys happiness; brings sorrow, contention, wounds, sadness of eyes; by it many are deceived; it ruins character and destroys the prospect of eternal life. We should separate ourselves from "vinebibbers"; should not be found among rioters or gluttons; the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty; the man who is "drowsy" comes to rage.

IX. Topic: Solomon's duties outlined. After David's victory over Absalom he returned to Jerusalem; he was now growing old, and David's choice was his son Solomon; the princes of Israel were assembled and David commissioned his son to perform the great work of building a house for the Lord. David and many sons, but among them all Solomon was chosen for the throne; David charges Solomon to know God and serve Him perfectly.

X. Topic: Solomon's request and God's reply. Soon after Solomon became king he assembled the people at Gibeon; the Lord appeared to Solomon and asked him what he desired most; Solomon replied that because he was young and inexperienced and the kingdom was great, he most of all desired wisdom and understanding in order that he might guide the affairs of the nation aright. The Lord was pleased with this request, and not only gave him wisdom, but also gave him riches and honor in abundance.

XI. The various services at the

dedication of the temple. As soon as Solomon was made king he began to prepare for the building of the temple; the material was nearly all ready; the temple was to be a large building, surrounded with several courts, and was to contain many articles of furniture. When it was finally built the ark was brought in and the house was dedicated; Solomon offered the dedicatory prayer; the ark of God was set in the temple with a cloud.

XII. Topic: Wise men seeking Jesus. When Christ was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of Herod, wise men came from the east seeking him; they knew of the coming Messiah, and were directed to Bethlehem by a star; they went to Herod and asked him about Christ; Herod secretly decided to kill Jesus; he asked the wise men to inform him concerning Christ in order that he 'oo might go and worship Him, but the Lord warned these men and they returned another way, thus defeating Herod.

The key word in the lessons this quarter is the word "mercy," which is also the leading word in the text for to-day. David needed the mercy of God during his entire life. In our first lesson we see how he rashly undertook to bring up the ark into Jerusalem without showing proper reverence for the law. God spoke in judgment, and yet in the midst of the severe affliction which came upon him by the death of Uzzah, we see the mercy of God in checking David and the people before they further transgressed the law. Beyond the greatness of God's mercy is seen when in the midst of his terrible sins David was told by Nathan, the prophet, that there was a chance for forgiveness. The fifty-first psalm shows how deeply he repented, while the thirty-second is equally clear with regard to his forgiveness. We should be encouraged with the thought that all who come to Christ in deep humility and with faith may receive the same forgiveness as David.

In the history of Absalom's rebellion and death we are also obliged to note the mercy of God to his people Israel. Suppose Absalom had succeeded in his plot to overthrow the government, and suppose he had been permitted to kill his father David and reign in his stead, what would have been the result? Instead of God's people being established, and instead of the temple being built, Israel would have led into gross idolatry and into sins of the deepest dye, and possibly the nation would have become extinct; but God kept His promises to Abraham, and there could be but one issue to this terrible war. The rebellion must be put down, and in order to accomplish this successfully it was necessary that Absalom be slain. God's hand was directing affairs, and His mercy to his people is clearly seen.

Then again how wonderful it was that Solomon, the son of Bath Sheba, should be exalted to the kingship as David's successor. David's other sons were all passed by, and Solomon in his youth was placed on the throne by King Hiram's method, as described in "A Judge's Book of Cookery"; Chop two pounds of suet very fine; stone carefully two pounds of raisins, pick over the same quantity of currants, wash and carefully dry two pounds of currants. Prepare two pounds of bread crumbs, and weigh out two pounds of sugar. Cut up one pound of candied peel, clean it from its rind, and cut it into small pieces. Weigh two pounds of almonds, beat well five eggs and sift one-half pound of flour, weigh two ounces of mixed spice; peel, core and cut small one pound of apples. Mix all these ingredients, weigh one ounce of butter, mix the slices of ham and lemon taken away and the bird placed on a dish and garnished with parsley.

Christmas Puddings. For a good recipe for the Christmas pudding, we can hardly do better than refer to Mrs. Hinchley's method, as described in "A Judge's Book of Cookery"; Chop two pounds of suet very fine; stone carefully two pounds of raisins, pick over the same quantity of currants, wash and carefully dry two pounds of currants. Prepare two pounds of bread crumbs, and weigh out two pounds of sugar. Cut up one pound of candied peel, clean it from its rind, and cut it into small pieces. Weigh two pounds of almonds, beat well five eggs and sift one-half pound of flour, weigh two ounces of mixed spice; peel, core and cut small one pound of apples. Mix all these ingredients, weigh one ounce of butter, mix the slices of ham and lemon taken away and the bird placed on a dish and garnished with parsley.

Another Recipe. One pound of suet, one pound of currants, one pound of raisins, one pound of sultanas, half a pound of peel, one pound of breadcrumbs, half a pound of flour, three ounces of almonds (sweet), one ounce of almonds (bitter), one ounce of walnuts, one ounce of nutmegs, one ounce of cloves, one pint of milk, quarter of a pint of brandy or homemade wine. Chop suet very finely, mixing it with the flour as you chop it. Mix together the currants and sultanas, stone and chop raisins, chop peel and almonds after the latter are shelled. Put all these ingredients into a basin with the sugar, then stir in the boiling water and suet, nutmeg, a pinch of salt, and mix well. Well beat the eggs then add to the milk and brandy; now pour them into the mixture and stir well. Melt the butter, then add it. When the mixture is really mixed thoroughly it can be put into well-greased basins or molds, or into pudding cloths which have been first scalded and then floured. Do not forget to make a piece in the cloth across the top of your basin, so as to allow the pudding room to swell. Place in fast-boiling water, and boil them for eight hours or more—the longer the better. They can then be hung up until wanted when they will only require to be boiled about two hours.

Croquant of Oranges. Take the rind and white pith from four large sweet oranges, then remove the pith without breaking the skins. Divide into sections and put them in a syrup made by boiling half a pint of rum sugar and half a pint of water together until reduced to half the quantity. Drain the fruit, have a shallow mold ready oiled, and arrange the pieces round it, then fill up with half a pint of cream. Viciously whipped and mixed with one-half an ounce of dissolved gelatin. If half the cream is colored the dish is prettier.

Tipsy Cake. Take one molded sponge cake, a few days old if possible, a sufficiency of sherry or raisin wine, four tablespoons of brandy, two ounces of sweet almond blanched, one packet of custard powder, two ounces of white sugar, a quarter of a pint of cream and three-quarters of a pint with rose; another of chocolate, and so on, each being different in color and flavor, such a dish will meet with the entire approbation of the

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CHRISTMAS DINNER DISHES.

There is always a demand about this time for hints and recipes by which the housewives may endeavor to make the Christmas dinner or supper table attractive in appearance and enticing in its seasonable dishes, both substantial and dainty. Here are a few:

Roast Turkey. Stuff a turkey with sausage meat in which you have mixed the liver of the bird, which has been cooked and chopped. Cover the breast with buttered paper or a piece of bacon; either should be taken off half an hour before it is finished. It will probably take from one and a half to two hours to roast. Baste it well with good brown gravy and bread sauce. Garnish round the dish with small rolls of bacon and fried sausages cut into neat rounds about a quarter of an inch thick.

Boiled Turkey. Basted turkey should be fixed exactly like roast turkey, except that after being dressed it is bound in a white cloth and boiled continuously for from one hour and a quarter to one and one-half hours. Put a head of celery, a bunch of parsley, a little flour and enough milk to make the amount of sauce required. Put on the fire and let it boil a few moments, stirring constantly. Serve at once, with a little squeeze of lemon is an improvement.

Turkey a La Milan. The bird must be trussed as for boiling. Wrapped round with four slices of ham and bacon, sufficing to cover the breast and back, four slices of ham and bacon. It is then lightly buttered all over and sewn tightly in a white cloth. It is afterwards put in a stewpan sufficiently deep to hold it in, with one onion, one bay leaf, and one celery (white pieces will do), the rind of a lemon, and salt to taste, with one tumbler of any white wine. The stewpan is then filled with sufficient warm water to cover the turkey, and brought to a very slow boil, allowing twenty minutes to each pound. When it is done it is taken out and left in the cloth until quite cold, when the latter is carefully removed, the slices of ham and lemon taken away and the bird placed on a dish and garnished with parsley.

Canada Makes the Best. A Britisher's Tribute. Sir Thomas Brassey, M. P., and his eldest son, the Hon. T. A. Brassey, are well known throughout the British Empire. The former owns a large estate in England, was Governor of Victoria, Australia, from 1895 to 1900, and was President of the British Boards of Trade Congress, which met last summer in Montreal. He also owns large tracts of farm lands in our own Northwest. Both father and son are enthusiastic admirers of Canada, and are well able to speak authoritatively and intelligently as to Canadian products.

The Hon. T. A. Brassey, who lately spent some months in Canada, has just written to the Hon. T. A. Brassey, M. P., in London, Nov. 28.—Hon. T. A. Brassey, speaking at Rye yesterday, said that he was not anxious that Mr. Chamberlain's policy would raise the cost of machinery. The best agricultural machinery in the world is made by the Massey-Harris Co., of Toronto, and by other companies in Ontario, and there would be no duty upon it.

A La Carte. N. Y. Sun. The prodigal son had just returned. "Hooray!" cried the father, "we will kill the fattest calf." "Not much!" replied the wanderer, "if I can't have the turkey I'll go back."

Mainly Strength and Womanly Beauty depend on purity of the blood, and much of that purity depends on perfect kidney action. If these organs are diseased and will not perform their functions, man will seek in vain for strength and woman for beauty. South American Kidney Cure drives out all impurities through the body's "sweaters"—repairs weak spots.—46.

The Picture Card Craze. Dr. Hembo, a German "cartophile," has been getting up statistics concerning illustrated postal cards. He asserts that not less than 900,000,000 were exchanged last year, of which 400,000,000 were used in Germany. With postage this means that Germany spends about \$50,000,000 a day for this luxury. France comes second in the list, but very far behind, being credited with only 88,000,000.

You CANNOT CURE A COLD with opium-laden medicines. Allen's Lung Balm, in which there is no opium, cures sore throats and lungs by allaying the inflammation, and aids you of the mucus that stops up the air passages.

Song of the Shepherds. By Edwin Markham. Haste, O people, all are hidden—Haste from places high or hidden—In Mary's child the kingdom comes, the heaven in beauty bends; He has made all life completer; He has made the Plain Way sweeter, For the stall is his first shelter, and the cattle his first friends.

Black and White. Maggie combinations are good. Black Chantilly over white is lovely. Striped velvet makes smart piping. Black cutache on white cloth is effective.

Broad black tabs on a black and white stripe trim green or brown well. Heavy white stitchings are always smart on black. A touch of white in black embroidery is good. Chenille in black over white may look or horeshair will be rich.

Black lace insets are still a rich feature in black crepe de chine robes which are worn over white or other tint. Here are some "don'ts" for girls: Don't be snappy to other girls while you are affable to young men; don't start talking to a young man while he lolls about sitting; don't accompany him any part of the way, however short, when he leaves; don't let a young man with whom you are only slightly acquainted incur much out of pocket expense for you.

The Markets.

Leading Wheat Markets. Following are the closing quotations at important wheat centers to-day:

	Cash	May
New York	85	85
Chicago	81-1/2	81-1/2
Toledo	88-1/4	88-3/8
Duluth, No. 1 Nor.	80-7/8	80-7/8

Toronto Farmers' Markets. Offerings of grain were light to-day. There was no white or red winter, while a load of spring sold at 77c, and 300 bushels of goose at 72 to 73c. Barley is unchanged, with sales of 400 bushels at 43 to 47c. Oats are firmer, with sales of 500 bushels at 31 1/2 to 32c.

Hay is firmer, with sales of 25 loads at \$9.25; eggs, new for Timothy, and at \$8 to \$8 for mixed. Straw is easier, two loads selling at \$9.75 to \$10.50 a ton. Dressed hogs are again higher, with sales of heavy at \$6.75, and of light at \$7.25.

Wheat, white, bushel, 78 1/2-2c; goose, 72 to 73c; red, 78 1/2-2c; spring, 77c; peas, 65c; cats, 21 1/2-2c; barley, 43 to 47c; hay, Timothy, ton, \$9 to \$11; do, clover, \$8 to \$8; straw, ton, \$9.75 to \$10.50; seeds—Alsike, bushel, \$4.50 to \$5.75; red clover, \$5.25 to \$6; timothy, 100 lbs., \$2.25 to \$3; apples, bushel, \$1 to \$2; dressed hogs, \$6.75 to \$7.25; eggs, new for Timothy, 40 to 45c; butter, dairy, 20 to 22c; creamery, 22 to 25c; chickens, lb., 9 to 11c; ducks, lb., 10 to 12c; geese, lb., 10c; turkeys, lb., 14 to 17c; potatoes, \$3 to \$4; caulflower, dozen, \$1 to \$1.50; cauliflower, dozen, \$1; celery, dozen, 35 to 45c; beef, hind-quarters, \$6 to \$8; fore-quarters, \$4 to \$6; medium, carcass, \$5.50 to \$6; choice, carcass, \$6.50 to \$7; lamb, yearling, \$8.50 to \$7; mutton, cwt., \$5.50 to \$6.50; veal, cwt., \$7 to \$9.

The Cheese Markets. Woodstock, Dec. 19.—At the regular weekly meeting of the Cheese Board here to-day, there were offered 2,200 lbs. white and 4,200 lbs. colored cheese; 5-1-1 to 5-1-2 b. d, but no sales.

THE FINISHING TOUCHES. Do you present your Christmas presents just as you get them from the shops, or do you make them doubly attractive by doing them up in seasonably festive fashion? The latter way is much to be preferred, and the expense is trifling. Satin beige ribbon can be bought as low as ten cents a piece, and a piece is ample for the average gift. Plain white paper is pretty, but costs a cent a sheet, so a much more effective and cheaper substitute will be found in ordinary, everyday wall paper. Choose a delicate tint, with a small floral design, and get your ribbon to harmonize with or match its background. When your packages are neatly done up and fastened around with the ribbon finished with a bow the result will be exceedingly gratifying. Try it! Very pretty wall paper can be bought for from five to fifteen cents a piece—enough for a wagonload almost. A tiny sprig of holly tucked under the ribbon bow of each parcel further enhances its effect.

Papering a Room With Leaves. "Papering" a room with autumn leaves is a great deal easier than it seems. You begin at the top of the room and paper down, always tacking the little leaves at the top with "pin" tacks, and letting the branches spread out in graceful fashion, with the stems low down. It takes a day and a half to paper a room with autumn leaves, but when you are finished you find yourself living in a bower. The leaves which just touch the ceiling are spread out upon the walls, suggesting a creeper plant, and the room is transformed into a very cozy and inviting little "den" of lovely hue.

THE BLIND GIRL'S CHRISTMAS DAY. By Margaret Vandegrift. It was the day whereon a Virgin Mother mild In Bethlehem bore Unto this sinful world a little helpless child. He shivered sore, For only on some straw spread upon the cold earth.

The Blind One lay, While as the angels who had hailed His Holy birth Sped swift away. To tell the joyful news to shepherds, who thereon Came to the place— Women and men—in eager haste to gaze upon That wondrous face. But one of them, the mother of a poor blind child, Was last to go, For that her little suffering daughter, weeping wild, Implored her so.

"Why wilt thou, mother dear, that I stay here alone Among the sheep? Whilst thou art cherishing that holy Little One Thy child will weep." "Soul of my soul," the mother said, "thy piteous tears Melt all my heart; But if thou wilt with patience Greeting thy fears, Let me depart. 'To-morrow, when the pleasant twilight cometh, we Shall meet again. And I will tell thee all that I shall hear and see." Glad thou'lt be then! Willingly would I take thee, dearest, if but so Thou'ldst see His face. Although the way is long and cold and hard to go To that best place."

"I know that to the grave alone through darkness drear My way must be, Oh, lovely golden face! Oh, Godlike Babe, most dear, I may not see!

Washington Star. "There is no doubt," said the estimable citizen, "that intoxication injures the system."

"My dear sir," answered Col. Stowell, of Kentucky, "just think of the water he don't pour into the system."

Down at the mother's knees she prayed and wept, until The mother's heart Was cloven, and she answered, "Have thou then thy will; My life thou art!" And when they to the manger came, and the child knelt, With love and awe, As on her thrilling heart his little hand she laid, Her Lord she saw!

'Cuz Christmas Time is Near. I'm goin' to be a better boy than I've been before, An' not cut up er say bad words to my ma any more; I'm going to run on errands like a handy little man, An' keep the woodbox all an' help in ev'ry way I can. I hain't been licked in skule, by jinks! fer purty long a week, 'Cuz now I stop an' pick my words an' think before I speak; Pa says I've been better boy this month than all the year, But then, you see, I'd order be, 'cuz Christmas time is near.

I wash my han's an' face, an' comb my hair an' now ev'ry day, An' brush my shoes off nice an' clean when I come in from play; An' when Pa asks the blessing at the table, now instead Of makin' up a face at us I jumble; I bow my head; I always say, "Toss, m'm'am," to ma, an' "Thank you," for you see, It pays to be polite an' nice—especially fer me; I guess ma' p'ciates it, fer she calls me "Tommy, dear," But Pa, he says I am so good 'cuz Christmas time is near.

When I go downtown to the stores an' see the stew's of toys That Santa Claus has sent ahead fer all the girls an' boys, An' when I wonder what nice things he's goin' to bring to me, I go away an' think how good an' thankful I should be. It's awful hard to keep real still while I am round the house, But gran'ma says I'm jist as good an' quiet as a mouse; An' then my pa he'll laugh an' say to her, "It's very clear To me, he says I am so good 'cuz Christmas time is near."

BRIGHT BERRIES OF THE HOLLY. There is no berry to which as many poems have been written as to the holly. Its berries bright and red have indicated a winter poet to carry forth his verse, and its prickly leaves, green on the upper side and grey underneath, have somehow brought the very rhyme out of the rhymesters. It is true that the holly cannot blossom all the year around. Or maybe it is better so, for now it comes when there are no bright berries to be had, and when only the pale little whitish mistletoe is here to do its rivalry. And there is a certain rivalry between the holly and the mistletoe. A rivalry in which both win out. The holly is the more common. It is the berry of the people, while the mistletoe is the berry of the few. There is something about holly that always suggests good health, and it certainly suggests good cheer. The colors of the plants are particularly in its favor, and if an artist had sought the shades which would go best together he could hardly have made a happier hit than with the holly plant. The coloring of the holly as the berry of Christmas was not wholly a sentimental one, for it blossoms of its own accord at Christmas rather than at other seasons. It does not have to be forced, like the Easter lily, in Sweden holly "ripens" only the very week before Christmas, and in the cold parts of Wales, where it grows in such luxury, it is hardly ready on Christmas day. Parties of holly seekers are sent out on Christmas afternoon to bring it in so that it may be clustered around the yule. Holly when cut and in the house will stand a great deal of heat. It merely dries up and breaks, but it does not discolor, as would many another berry, nor does it rot. The mistletoe is the berry of Christmas for quite another reason. There is a sentimental attachment to it. It is called the kissing berry, and legends surround it very pleasantly with this prettief of all civilized customs. Holly, on the other hand, rugged, prickly, bristly, and ever picturesque, is more as a decoration, a sign, a standard-bearer of Christmas. In church history holly is quite famous, and where the mistletoe is left out in the cold holly is brought in and wreathed around the sacred altars; you can use holly with propriety anywhere, and really it is seen in every possible position, from that of cake decoration to the trimming of the bowl in which the Christmas infant receives his drop of water in baptism.