

Sunday School Lesson

November 6. Lesson VI.—Amos Pleads for Justice.—Amos 5: 1, 2, 10-15, 24-24. Golden Text—Let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a might stream.—Amos 5: 24.

ANALYSIS

I. A DIRGE AND AN EXHORTATION, 5: 1-17.

II. A SOLEMN WARNING, 5: 18-27.

III. VISIONS OF INTERCESSIONS AND A PRIEST'S OPPOSITION, chap. 7.

INTRODUCTION—Like the true prophets of Israel in every age, Amos held that the mere formalities of religion were not in themselves pleasing to God. He saw in Israel, at the sanctuary of Bethel, multitudes who paid their tithes, and who were careful to observe the ancient forms, but transgressed against God. He knew the lives which these people lived, their many acts of injustice, their cruel conduct toward the poor, their greed, their self-indulgence, their sins of violence, and their disloyalty to Jehovah, his recognition and worship of other gods. He saw a doom coming upon a wicked nation and declared that Jehovah would not turn it away. He reminds the people of the warnings which they have had, drought and famine, blight and locust swarm, plague and pestilence, earthquake, yet they have not repented. In the great calamity that is coming upon them they will meet an offended God whose laws of justice and human kindness they have not obeyed.

Amos yet Amos, true prophet of a merciful God, hoping against hope that a way of deliverance may yet be found, exhorts this sinful people to repentance, and intercedes for them with God that they may be forgiven.

I. A DIRGE AND AN EXHORTATION, 5: 1-17.

The lamentation, or dirge (v. 1) is cast in the form of a verse of poetry (v. 2) with a peculiarly mournful rhythm, which may be imitated in English as follows:

"Fallen, no more to rise, the virgin of Israel upon her land, none to lift her up."

Here Amos is anticipating the calamity which he expects to fall upon Israel as a punishment for its sins, and in his prophetic vision he sees it as already present, and the land fallen in ruin and desolation. The prophet's messages of warning and of exhortation were spoken as early as B.C. 750, and in 722, after a long period of civil strife, and a long siege of the capital city of Samaria by Assyrian armies, the kingdom of Israel came to an end and many of her people were carried away into captivity; see 2 Kings 17: 8-31 and 17: 1-23. The prediction of Amos was fulfilled.

In v. 3 the prophet describes the condition to which the country will be reduced as the result of internal strife and invasion by foreign enemies. Only one-tenth of the men able to bear arms will be left in the cities of Israel.

Nevertheless he believes in the mercy of God and urges repentance and the seeking of his favor, if by any means he will turn against them and may be appeased and they may yet deliver them. Jehovah is to be sought, he declares, not in the gorgeous and current ritual of the great sanctuaries at Bethel, Gilgal and Beer-sheba, but in just and upright dealing, by putting away their manifold transgressions and their weighty sins (v. 12), by loving and doing good and not evil. For Jehovah is not only the great God, the Lord, maker of the starry heavens and ruler of light and darkness, of sea and land, but he is able to read the inmost thoughts of men's hearts, and he is the defender of the spoiled against the strong (vs. 8-9, compare 4: 13).

The Gate was both the entrance to a walled city and the broad square within. The latter was the market place and the place of public concourse, where the citizens gathered for their daily session. An upright judge who rebuked evil-doers was hated. The prophet indignantly denounces the rich who oppress the poor, who posed as feudal lords over their poorer neighbors, exacting from them gifts of the produce of their labor in return for their patronage who took bribes and perverted justice, a particularly despicable kind of sinners (vs. 11-12). The day of calamity, and so of weeping, for such is surely coming, when the cry of distress and of mourning will be heard in street and highway, in farm and vineyard (vs. 16, 17).

Local Customs Label the People

Two Boy Bull-Fighters Are all The Rage in Mexico

Bull-fighting, of course, is the supreme sport of the Spaniard, whether in Spain or Mexico. Considering the dangerous and sanguinary nature of the bull-fighting profession, one might innocently think that it was something to be exclusively practised by full-grown men. But, strange to say, the most popular bull-fighters in Mexico to-day are two little boys, Manuel Bienvenida, is thirteen and little brother Jose is eleven. On the days they fight, writes Clara Ousley in "The World Traveller," the huge Mexico City bullring is packed to its full capacity of thirty thousand—something it takes the greatest of toreros to do. As we are told: "When the boys, dressed in the conventional costumes of bright silk and heavy gold braid, come out at the head of their cuadrilla for the usual parade around the ring before the fight, a stupendous roar of enthusiasm greets them. And during the rest of the afternoon, while they are parrying the charges of the bulls, first with quick, graceful swirls of the carisse, which hides the steel sword, the roar of those thirty thousand aficionados can be heard all over that part of town."

The skill and audacity of the Bienvenida youngsters has captured the Mexicans, always receptive to the vicarious thrill which comes to the safely protected ringside spectator at a bull-fight. Manuel and Jose are quick and supple and often foohardy. They do tricks which no mature fighter would ever think of risking. They look, from the higher seats in the ring, like midgeets open to the charge of monstrous beasts, although the bulls they fight are smaller than the average, since obviously the boys are not tall enough or strong enough to tackle full-grown animals. They dart about with lightning speed under the very nose of the infuriated bull; the horns graze their gaudy gold braid; they stroll nonchalantly away, they pull the bull's tail; they grab the horns; they kneel, muleta in hand, before the charge of the bull, deflecting the angry beast with a slight motion of the cloth and an almost imperceptible change of the body to the side; they grimace and gesture to the spectators; their favorite trick is the "pass of death," a wickedly dangerous business which has caused the death of many an overly audacious matador. They play boldly and recklessly. They are born actors and they are born bull-fighters. And the crowds adore them.

These boys come by their art naturally enough, it seems. Papa Bienvenida was a great matador in Spain in his day, but a couple of wounds persuaded him to retire. He went into business, and he didn't do so well. One day the Mayor of Seville called and asked him whether his two sons would be allowed to fight at a coming charity fight, or corrida. The parents were astonished, but they learned that the boys had been playing at bull-fighting in the parks until they had won a city-wide reputation. And, anyway, the bulls would be small, and it would mean much money for the Bienvidas. So, after much discussion and the setting of a high price on the parents' permission, "Manuel and Jose fought the bulls in the charity corrida, and Seville went mad over them, and the fame and fortune of the family was assured."

Continues the writer in "The World Traveller," "The day that Manuel and Jose first fought publicly, Mama Bienvenida looked at their younger brother, still in pinafores, and made up her mind that he at least would never take up so dangerous a career. But as enthusiasm for the two boy fighters increased, and as the house was constantly full of aficionados who talked of nothing but bulls and bull-fighting, the smallest son of all naturally aspired to a similar future. One day she decided that his ambition must be squashed once and for all, so she told Papa Bienvenida to take the boy out and let him try to fight a yearling, feeling sure that after he was

Fashion Notes

Chickens With Feathers Get Them As Well As Those Without

Fall colds are quite common in poultry flocks at this period of the year. The inspectors reporting that approximately one-third of the flocks they are inspecting are infected to a greater or lesser degree with fall colds. Colds in poultry are somewhat similar to colds in higher animals and are not fully understood. It is commonly accepted that they are caused by a disease organism which as yet has not been isolated. They can be detected in the flock by the watery discharge from the nostrils of the affected birds, a rattling in the throat, and in severe cases, a swelling of the eye. The nasal discharge has a very disagreeable odor. The nasal passages often become covered with straw, dust, etc., making it impossible for the nasal discharges to escape, causing a backing up of the discharge through the tear duct, and the swelling up of this material in the duct, just underneath and at the front of the bird's eye, which sets up an irritation and the accumulation eventually develops into a mass of yellow, cheesy material, bringing about the condition which is commonly known as roup.

Any condition which may pull down or reduce the vitality and disease resistance of the birds, makes it more susceptible to fall colds, as well as to other ailments. Improper or insufficient feeding, roosting in damp draughty hen houses, housing in unsanitary buildings, or any like condition, may reduce the bird's vitality to a point where it becomes readily susceptible to colds. Ordinarily, if proper feeding is continued and the housing conditions improved, the affected birds will recover without treatment; however, in very severe cases, the disease may cause the loss of a number of birds, and the loss of egg production over a considerable period of time.

The New Skirts.

The skirts worn with the smart sweaters are always related to them. Sometimes they, too, are knitted, and then they match exactly. When they are fabric they are tweed or a fine homespun, kasha, wool crepe or jersey. Or they may be heavy crepe de chine. In the latter case they will be finely pleated all the way round. In woollens the familiar wrap-around is still popular.

There are so many sorts of pleated skirts, from narrow box pleats an inch wide to box pleats five or six inches wide. There are accordion and knife pleated skirts or skirts with merely one or two inverted pleats in the front. A small number of very smart new skirts have circular fullness in front or just at one side.

Egg Eating Remedy

When you get a receipt from your tailor.

If chickens begin eating their eggs it is usually because they need starch. Purchase bulk laundry starch and put it in a dish in the coop when you mistreat you are losing eggs in this way, and you will be surprised at the amount they will eat, and their starch feed will end egg eating.

For holding gravel, oyster shells, starch, and charcoal, I use tube cake pans such as are sold at variety stores for baking angel food cakes. Drive a sharpened two foot stake through the centre of the pan and into the ground. Then fill the pan and the fowl can not tip it over and but little is wasted. The pan can be slipped off the stake for cleaning and refilling. If you are giving a tonic there is less waste if it is given in this way than by mixing with the whole feed of grain or mash.

Chickens are fond of uncooked potato skins and for a winter feed unless you have plenty of green oats, cabbage, etc., it is well to chop potato paring two or three times a week and feed them all they will eat.

Hens that moult late can never be coaxed to lay winter eggs and it is better to put them in separate coops and feed for vitality and future profit. Corn, buckwheat, and mash are all excellent. Keep the pullets and early moulters by themselves and give them the tonics, the green food and shells, starch, charcoal, etc., to stimulate egg production.

Refreshment Courage

Norwegian Sails Hero of Blast That Killed Three; Climbed Down Into Burning Wreckage With Horse

New York—A tall Norwegian sailor, who went to sea to "build a bank-roll," is hailed as the hero of an explosion which tore the bow off the tanker Beta three, killing three of her crew and severely burning a fourth.

He is Chief Mate G. A. Larsen, graduate of Georgetown University, who risked his life after the blast to climb down over the shattered bow, through the gaping hole and train a fire hose on the smouldering hold.

"Sure," he said, "we knew there might be another explosion. But somebody had to get down there and put out the fire before it spread to the fumes in the next compartment. That's all there was to it."

"We," he explained, included himself and Bos' James O'Keefe, who followed his down the Jacob's ladder to keep the hose clear of jagged pieces of steel projecting from deck to waterline of the Beta's bow.

Captain J. B. Kehoe, master of the tanker, said he could not tell what had caused the explosion.

"I think we struck a hidden war mine," he said. "Maybe it's stretching the imagination some, but I've seen practice mines exploded in wartime, and it was just like that."

Closing Out Days

Germany Ignores Armistice Silence

Berlin—There was no rejoicing in Germany in memory of Armistice Day; in fact, the anniversary as a fête day was left severely alone.

News of celebrations in other countries was published in fairly complete detail, but without comment by papers of either the Left or the Right.

Even the man in the street declined to take notice of the ninth anniversary of the war's ending, the general attitude being, as one individual replied to a query, "It is best to bury bygones. The future is serious enough for all concerned."

Julia—"Ané at the end of his letter he put a couple of X's. What does he mean?" Hilda—"Simple girl! It means he's doubt-le-croazing you."

"MUTT AND JEFF"—By Bud Fisher.

