

Sunday School Lesson

September 1. Lesson IX—Ezra's Return to Jerusalem—Ezra 7: 6-10; 8: 21-23, 31, 32. Golden Text—The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him—Ezra 8: 22.

ANALYSIS.
I. THE PREPARATION, ch. 7: 1-28.
II. THE JOURNEY, ch. 8: 1-36.

INTRODUCTION.—The first six chapters of the book of Ezra tell the story of the return from Babylonian exile, permitted by the decree of Cyrus after his conquest of Babylon in the year B.C. 539 (see ch. 1). The second part of the book (chs. 7-10) tells of Ezra's coming to Jerusalem from Babylon eight years later (B.C. 458), or, as some think, one hundred and forty years later (B.C. 398). There were three Persian kings of the name of Artaxerxes, and it is regarded as doubtful whether Ezra came in the reign of the first (465-425), or of the second (405-359) of these kings (see Ezra 7: 1, 8). The earlier date is the one generally accepted, and that case Ezra's mission as priest and scribe preceded that of Nehemiah as governor, by fourteen years (see Neh. 2: 1).

It is quite evident from the prophecy of Malachi, from the story of Nehemiah, and from certain chapters of the book of Isaiah, all of which belong to this century, that conditions in Jerusalem and Judah had become very bad. The rulers were corrupt or incompetent, the priests were ignorant, the mixed population and the neighboring provinces was hostile to every attempt to establish the Jewish community in its former strength and purity, and was at the same time, through trade and intermarriage, very influential in Jewish social and religious affairs. The Jewish schools in Babylon had preserved the ancient tradition, studied and prepared new copies of the ancient law and ritual, and through frequent communications by travel and by letter were informed of all that was going on in Jerusalem.

Ezra came on a mission of teaching and of reform, zealous for the laws and customs of his fathers, and armed with magnificent powers conferred upon him by the Persian court.

I. THE PREPARATION, ch. 7: 1-28.
In vs. 5-6 Ezra's genealogical tree is presented, showing him to have been a descendant of Aaron through the family of Zadok, who was a chief priest in the days of David and Solomon. According to the Levitical law only the descendants of Aaron were true priests (Exodus 28: 1). Ezekiel, in the early years of the exile, declared that in the restored temple only the sons of Zadok should minister in the priest's office, because of their fidelity to duty in the temple service "when the children of Israel went astray" (Ezek. 44: 15, 16).

Artaxerxes, the first of Persia was, probably, the first that named the same who commissioned Nehemiah as governor fourteen years later. Ezra was a ready scribe (v. 6), well versed in the art of writing and learned in the ancient law. The author of this book regards the inauguration of his mission, the king's favor, and the success which attended him, as due to the hand of the Lord his God upon him. So it must be always with work done for the kingdom of God.

First of all, Ezra had prepared his heart, that he might know, and observe, and teach the law. Apparently years of study and of preparation of mind and heart preceded the great adventure.

Under the strict rule of the Persian kings permission had to be obtained for such a journey with so large a company. The copy of the king's letter is given (vs. 11-26) in the Aramaic language, a language akin to the Hebrew, which was used throughout the whole region from Mesopotamia to Palestine.

The last words of verse 12 should be rendered as in the Revised Version "and so forth." Instead of the usual long list of complimentary titles given to the Persian king at the beginning of official documents this abbreviation is used (see 4: 10, 11). The seven counselors (v. 14) formed the king's cabinet (see Esther 1: 14). The gifts of the king and princes are represented as very large. The hundred talents of silver alone would equal about two hundred thousand dollars of our money, with a much greater purchasing power. A measure of wheat was equal to about ten bushels, a bath was about eight gallons. The powers given Ezra also were great, but it must be remembered that he had no military or police to enforce them. They were largely, if not entirely, in the way of authority to teach, and disobedience could have been punished only by the instructed community.

The chapter ends with a thanksgiving drawn, apparently, from Ezra's own memoirs, which are continued in chs. 8 and 9.

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II. THE JOURNEY, ch. 8: 1-36.
The names of the heads of families, or family groups, who accompanied Ezra are given in vs. 1-14. Where Ahava, or the river that runneth to Ahava, was is not known. The same is true of Casiphia. The mission was constituted by prayer and fasting "before our God," Ezra says, "to seek him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance." Ezra frankly admits that he would have liked to have had a band of soldiers and horsemen to help him to guard the company against enemies on the way, but was ashamed to ask, because he had declared to the king that their God would take care of them (vs. 21, 22). The enormous value of the treasure which they carried is told in vs. 24-30, and may be reckoned at about five millions of dollars. So the journey was made in safety, and delivered at the temple, and the king's letter was shown to his lieutenants and governors on the way.



DEFINITELY SMART

It's definitely new and smart, and immediately gives impression of chic individuality. It's the fashionable tunic silhouette all Paris is talking about. It is a slender type with graceful flare that doesn't interfere in the least with the slenderness of figure. The left side of tunic dips the hem just slightly, an interesting means of adding length. The surplus closing detracts from width of bodice. Style No. 593 is designed in sizes 16, 18, 20 years, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46 and 48 inches bust. It is lovely and cool and so entirely smart in pin dot and cotton voile in green and white, sheer linen in orchid shade, printed tub silk, sun-tan beige georgette crepe, flowered chiffon and navy blue georgette crepe are ideal selections. Pattern price 20c in stamps or coin (coin is preferred). Wrap coin carefully.

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS.
Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such patterns as you want. Enclose 20c in stamps or coin (coin preferred); wrap it carefully for each number, and address your order to Wilson Pattern Service, 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto. Patterns sent by an early mail.

Pat was up in an airplane for the first time. The pilot took a nose dive and laughed. Turning to his passenger, he said, "Fifty per cent. of the people down there thought we were coming down." Pat replied, "Fifty per cent. of the people up here did, too."

From the bedroom of the twin boys came the mingled sounds of loud weeping and hearty laughter, so father went up to investigate. "What's the matter up here?" The joyous twin indicated his weeping brother. "Nothing," he chuckled, "only nurse has given him two baths and hasn't given me any."

Style Notes Of Paris Salons

A Few Models From the Various Leading Dressmakers Are Described

SKIRTS LONGER

A brief description of the latest styles from the centre of dress-making activities, Paris, France, is given in part as it appeared in the Montreal Star and should be of interest to our readers.

Joyous in Color
Chanel's sports group is joyous in color and includes among other interesting bouffant buttoned in front. A definite rejection of anything but arresting color contrast is noted in this group made up largely of tricot in novel patterns and jersey. Some of Chanel's color schemes are brown with blue, orange with black, mustard and brown, grey with red and much black and white.

In her more formal ensembles she makes use of much fur, especially on princess coats with cape collars. These coats are of cloth and worn with flat crepe dresses. Some coats have fur capes and deep fur cuffs. Fur trimmed evening dresses are another innovation, one at least of these being completed by fur bordered velvet knickers, this particular model being in tulle blue velvet with mink. Net is also prominent with this contrastive. The evening silhouette is ankle length, molded to the figure well below the hips and flaring at that point. Many lace dresses are made with three graduated flounces, the first placed below the hips, the bodice being molded.

A series of black woolen dresses featuring pique is also shown. Among the novelties is a crinkled velvet.

The Worth Collection

The Worth collection numbered over 300 models and exploits fur trimmings, lingerie details, beads for evening, matching hats and several other interests, including "peasop" shades. Fur bordered skirts for afternoon gowns with tuck-in blouses are sometimes topped by fur hats.

One of the startling accessories peculiar to this premiere is the use of red suede or kid elbow length gloves worn with evening dresses, red shoes also being worn. Bright red is advocated for evening, also several shades of black, white and grape with multi-colored effects in patterned fabrics, such as brocades. Beading is played up on nets, sequins also being used. A feature of the evening group is the transparent hem from knee to ankle, while long flying panels are also used. For day wear Worth favors a slightly irregular hemline, the general effect being of neat lines.

The Molyneux collection occasioned great surprise by its disregard for the new silhouette advocated at other houses. Molyneux retains the low waist line often using a double girdle, and adheres to straight lines, preferring box and other pleats to circular skirts.

Printed velvets and interesting woolens are salient features of this conservative showing. Coats are also straight of line, there being a partiality for black trimmed with broadtail. Some capelets are shown and fur collars are upstanding.

Pajama Costumes

Callot as usual is among the last to show and included in this large collection are interesting lounging pajamas and several collette costumes. In a rather large group of sport wear a leather costume stands out, this having a flaring skirt, jacket and hat all of leather. Raincoats are also included in this group.

Callot has not added many inches to her silhouette of last season. Princess lines rank high for evening and there are several models distinguished by drapery at the hipline. The characteristically Callot bouffant tulle frock is repeated with variations while other frocks follow slim lines, the draperies being tight to the body.

Greens, notably myrtle, cedar and bottle are endorsed, while dahlia and cyclamen are favorites for evening. Evening coats are sumptuous chez Callot. They are developed in exquisite lame fabrics heavily bordered with fur, but otherwise untrimmed. The three quarter coat is approved.

Let us plant and rear all tender thought, knowing surely that those who sow in tears shall reap in joy.

A Strange Water Dweller



Mlle. Sein, Paris, feeding her telescopic fish and acclimatizing them to any known climate. Inset—A "Pterophilum" of Brazilian waters.

Even For Dinner
Mary Nowitsky's showing was made up largely of pajamas for all occasions, including dinner.

One of these dinner pajamas is developed in pink georgette, the trousers and jacket on bolero lines. A point is made on having the trousers contrast with the jacket in most of the models shown, and there is of course a great variety of fabric and most fascinating array of bright colors. The trousers, wide in themselves, are exaggerated greatly by the godelts which are placed at a low line. Moire and velvet is one distinguished fabric combination, other models are of bordered crepe and still others of fagone and printed velvet.

The daytime sports costumes at this establishment are inclined to light colored tweeds and diagonals. The tuck-in blouse is repeatedly used. Sports dresses are in small all over patterned jersey. A series of beach costumes concluded this collection.

Paul Poiret

Paul Poiret stresses medieval types in his presentation modifying this note for day wear, although the princess line is used throughout. For the evening ensembles it is noted that coats follow the identical line of the dress, and a great deal of lame in large individual designs is employed. Poiret has always shown a preference for long skirts, and takes advantage of this opportunity to exploit them, some of the formal afternoon dresses being below the calf.

O'rossen follows the general trend by dropping his skirts to about 15 inches from the floor. The waistline is definitely placed at normal. Tweeds in chevron effect for morning suits and velvet velours for formal ones give an indication of the trend in fabrics, manish worsteds being well to the fore. The tuck-in blouse is worn slightly bloused over the skirt band at this house. Paonne crepe cassins as well as gilets in woolen lace are incidental.

Trousers For Tennis

The Schiaparelli opening was held in enlarged quarters and consisted of some fifty sport models, the straight skirt being emphasized. An innovation was a tennis costume without a jersey top with straight hanging trousers. The sleeves were elbow length.

Suede accessories such as belt, bags and gloves were shown with some sports costumes and the trousers idea was carried into this group. An effective union of tweed with a matching knitted top was applauded. Tuck-in blouses with contrasting fabric nearly always matched the tweed skirt with which they were shown.

The consensus of opinion of buyers who have carefully studied and compared the many collections is that a new style era is upon us. That it will take two seasons at least to revolutionize present standards is admitted but in the intermediary period in which we are, changes are brought about with considerable discretion. The fragility of some of the modes is not compatible with present conditions in spite of the opinion of some but taken on the whole the collections presented wearable and exceedingly attractive costumes.

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Calls for Human Aid

C. E. Howard

A giant pelican of Santa Monica, Calif., recently appealed to a man to relieve him from a pain he could not cure himself. After hanging around in the air for some time he finally settled down upon the Municipal pier near Mr. Ed. Hendricks, who was fishing there near a group of other men. They all noticed that the bird was evidently in pain of some sort, and when Mr. Hendricks gently reached out his hand the pelican stood still and let him make an examination. A little exploring discovered a large fishhook embedded in its flesh and it was necessary in the ensuing surgical operation to use a pair of pliers, to which the bird submitted courageously. Several times it squeaked out in pain, but made no attempt to use its huge bill or wings in anger, and when it was over flew away as happy and relieved as a boy would feel after having had a bad splinter removed from his foot.—Dumb Animals.



"A miss in the motor can be satisfactorily adjusted with one hand on the wheel."

Industry

Industry is in itself, and when properly chosen, delightful and profitable to the worker; and when you toil has been a pleasure, you have not earned money merely, but money, health, delight, and moral profit, all is one.—R. L. Stevenson.

"Bertie's school report had just come in. 'I'm losing patience with you!' exclaimed his father. 'How is it young Jones is always at the top of the class, while you are at the bottom?' 'The boy looked at his father reproachfully. 'You forget, dad,' he said kindly, 'that Jones has awfully clever parents.'—Wichman-Examiner.

WINDOWS OF THE SOUL

Let there be many windows to your soul.
That all the glory of the universe May beautify it.
—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

Traffic Cop: "I'm sorry, Miss, but I've got to tag your car. You know what that means. Sweet Young Thing: Certainly. Now I have to chase somebody else and tag them and then they're it."

Unconscious Humor

A Few Extracts From An African Paper Covering a Variety of Things

In the Gold Coast Spectator, published in Accra, Gold Coast, we find the following items which appeared to be of interest to our Editor. We trust they will be of interest to our Ontario readers.

Saltpond. Girl Kidnapped to Togoland

Coming to town from the village of Crematine, where she had been on a visit to her family, sometime last year, a girl of about 10 years of age, belonging to the household of Chief Korah's, mysteriously disappeared and all search for her proved unsuccessful. News has just been received by the girl's family that she had been seen at Lome, Togoland, but her pliz had been slightly altered with Togoland tribal marks.

Work on the lagoon has been stopped, with the result that a little shower causes the small drain to overflow, causing damage to nearby houses.

Passengers Not Admitted

At Nsawam railway station one sees the entrance regularly closed lately before the scheduled time for the arrival of trains. This practice started a little over a month ago and coincided with the appointment of the illiterate superintendent-in-charge. Passengers are therefore prevented from catching a train for their respective destinations. Probably this is due to an excess of zeal on the part of the new-comer, who does not realize that he is disturbing the earning capacity of the railway by his stupidity, apart from causing grave inconvenience to business men and the travelling public who have to seek other means of transport. Is it necessary for one to be in the compound half-an-hour before a train arrives? Cannot the station master instruct and control him?

Nkronso (Akim)
The "Spectator" can be purchased from Mr. J. B. Koomson, Licensed Letter Writer.

Owing to the constant rainfalls, the Nkronso-Asofo road has fallen into ruin and has therefore been closed temporarily.

The town is infested with desperate robbers, and the police are asked, therefore, to be doubly vigilant. Sanitation is very bad. The Chief must look into this to improve the hygiene of the town.

"Onun," the native festival, will be celebrated shortly, and preparations are being made towards it.

Forest Insect Problems

Serious losses occur each year in the forest growths of Canada due to the work of insects. Great stretches of timber have been killed outright and become a total loss. Not only does the loss affect forest trees but shade trees and street wood products suffer serious losses from insect attacks. The problems of forest and shade tree protection are being dealt with by the Division of Forest Insects of the Dominion Entomological Branch, Department of Agriculture, and a force of trained men are constantly working in research, surveys and the discovery of remedies that may be applied with some hope of success.

Wide Range of Clays

As might be expected in a country as large as Canada, and in which so many geological formations are represented, a wide range of clays are found. Aside from the brick, tile, and sewer pipe clays there are deposits of freccay, stoneware clay, ball clay, and kaolin or china clay.

Canada's Forest Area

The total forest area of Canada is estimated to be 1151,454 square miles. Of this area, 865,889 square miles are productive and accessible; a little over one-third of this area bears timber of merchantable size; the remainder carries young growth not yet fit for use.

POSSESSIONS

As it is the desire of a man to possess what he finds most beautiful, so it is the instinct of the poet, the painter, or the musician, to express and give again to the world—the captured ideal.—Agnes and Egerton Castle.

By BUD FISHER

Embarking at Alkmaar

Extremes are enticing. This fact explains polar expeditions. It also accounts for our desire to go to the Helidor, the most northern point in the province of North Holland, where the waters of the Zuider Zee clash twice a day with those of the North Sea. Here, we were told in Amsterdam, was a very tall lighthouse which twinkles to another on the island of Texel, and so on, by way of Friesland and Ter Schelling, to Denmark and Norway, thus binding in a fellowship of helpfulness the outer fringes of those lands into being and whence fish race roars into being and whence it drew its tenacity, its love of the hard-won soil, and its daring on the deep. We thought we would rather behold the flash of that light than the glare of all the cafes in Amsterdam and rather hear the rush of those waves than the blare of motor-horns.

We had spent many hours of thrilling joy in the picture galleries of Rotterdam, The Hague, Haarlem, and Amsterdam and then on stepping out into the streets and wandering through one or two villages had discovered that the models of the paintings we had so much admired were still living in their descendants. . . .

Thus it came to pass that on a sunny morning in early July we stepped aboard the Alkmaar packet, at her moorings in the harbor of Amsterdam, not much caring what her destination might be nor when she reached it, or even when she began long before her screw made its first revolution. It pleased us to remark that the pedestrians in the streets, being rational, practical, and without social people, were more strict in observing the law of the road than the less disciplined inhabitants of South European cities, where everybody bumps along as he pleases. The Dutch keep not only to the right side of the pavement, but to the right-hand pavement. We also noticed gratefully and put down as another little mark of high civilization, the fact that people did not stare at us, though no doubt there was something outlandish in our appearance. The Dutch have had a long and varied experience of the world; their empire is far-flung; they govern about seven times their own number of East and West Indians; their shipping and their geographical position make them neighbors to all the earth. Consequently they have a worldly-wise tolerance of what is foreign.—George Melican Harper, in "Spirit of De-light."

Columbia Ice-Field

The Columbia ice-field in the Canadian Rockies is one of the most remarkable alpine features of that great region. It is situated in Jasper National Park, Alberta, and covers an approximate area of 110 square miles. It lies upon the crest of the main Divide and represents the culmination of the immense snow and ice deposits which crown the crests of these ranges.

Poles Asunder

New York Evening Post: We note that Mrs. Sydney Webb refuses to accept the rank and name of Lady Passfield just because her husband has been created Lord Passfield, thus, we should say, establishing the record for extreme polar distance from the position assumed by Mrs. Edward Everett Gann.

Wait and See

Ohio State Journal: When Ramsay MacDonald comes over to confer with President Hoover on the great world issues it will be interesting to note whether he puts up at the British Embassy, which we suppose will be dry as a bone by that time, or at one of the leading Washington hotels, with a reliable bellboy within easy call.

ENDING FAME

Study the lives of our great men who have won enduring fame and whose memories are revered not only by our own countrymen but by the civilized world. Read and re-read the lives of Lincoln, and re-read the inspiration, Sturdy the careers of Edison, Carnegie, Bell, Yell and Schwab, and take courage those of you who are not born with golden spoons in your mouth.

John Hays Hammond.

Messages by Heliographs

Heliographs have been successfully used for the regular transmission of messages between Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, and a station in the Prince Albert national park over a distance of 30 miles.

This story will raise a broad smile on the faces of all Scots who know anything about the old days of schisms and cleavages which rent the churches asunder all over the country. An old shepherd in the highlands was asked by a visitor from London how the church of which he was a pillar was faring. "Not so good, sir, I'm sorry to say," remarked the old man with a mournful shake of his head. "Ye see we had a split up last year on a sma' matter o'doctrine, and that left us with only 200 members. Then we had a disruption, and only ten o' us were left. Last month there was a heresy trial, and only ma brother Duncan and myself were left. And to tell ye the truth, sir, I've doots about Duncon's orthodoxy!"—Harry Lauder

MUTT AND JEFF

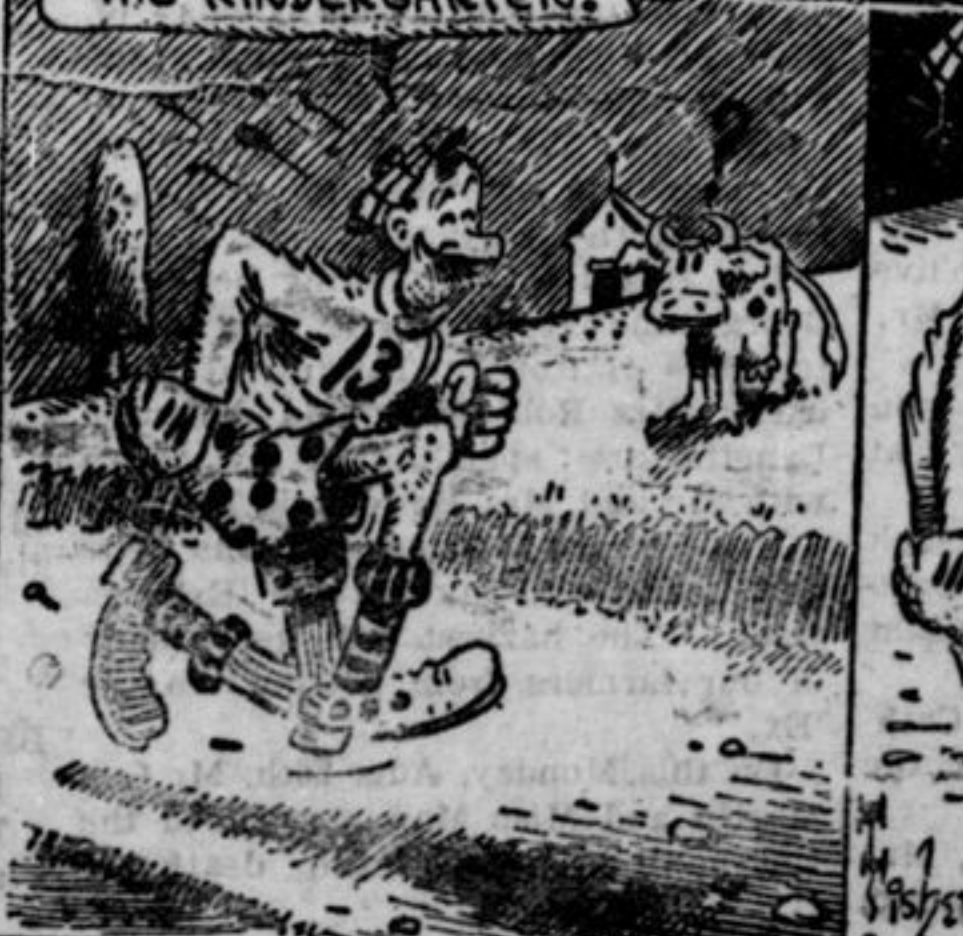
MUTT, I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE SMILING RIDES IN AUTOS UNLESS YOU GET THE CHANCE; THIS IS A COAST TO COAST BUNION DERBY AND RIDING AIN'T FAIR.



KID, THIS RACE IS GONNA BE WON WITH A NOODLE—NOT WITH A BUNION!



COLD-CASH PYLE IS SO BUSY DODGING SUBPARA SERVERS HE CAN'T KEEP AN EYE ON US RUNNERS, HENCE WHY SHOULDN'T I REST MY 'DOGS' IF A PASSING MOTORIST OFFERS ME A LIFT!



TA TA, MUTT; IF I DON'T HAVE A BLOW-OUT I'LL REACH THE PACIFIC COAST BY MONDAY; I WISH YOU WOULD NEED 'EM!

