

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

REVIEW: THE SPREAD OF CHRISTIANITY IN SOUTHERN EUROPE

Hebrews 2:1-4; 11:32-12:2.
PRINTED TEXT—Hebrews 2:1-4; 11:32-12:2.
GOLDEN TEXT—The kingdom of the world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.—Revelation 11:15.

THE LESSON IN ITS SETTING

TIME: The Epistle to the Hebrews, as far as we can judge, was written about 66 or 67 A.D., before the destruction of Jerusalem.

PLACE: We do not know from what place the Epistle to the Hebrews was written. Hebrews 13:24 may be interpreted either as indicating the place from which the letter was written, or the place to which it was written, namely, Italy.

"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things that were heard." The "therefore" refers back to all that has been said in the preceding chapter concerning the Lord Jesus Christ because of all his infinite glories and his marvelous personages of the universe, the very Son of God, whom the angels worshipped, men ought therefore to give to every utterance concerning him their most careful attention. "Least happy we drift away from them." The verb here presents a most significant figure. It warns the Hebrews against being carried past the landing-place by the strong current of life. It is a warning suitable for all times; for there are currents of thought, feeling, and action, which, if not resisted, carry down to the sea of spiritual death.

"For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward. The Scriptures frequently speak of the law as being given by God to men through angels" (Gal. 3:19; Acts 7:53; Deut. 33:2; Psalm 68:17).

"How shall we escape, if we neglect so great a salvation?" Our salvation is great because its author is God; it originates in God's love; it is made possible only by the sacrifice of the eternal Lamb of God; it does what nothing else in the world can do—it absolutely and permanently changes men, it emancipates men from the enslavement of sin; it bestows peace, and joy, and power; it is eternal; it perfectly, constantly satisfies; it is unique; it has no true rival in the world.

"Which having at the first been spoken through the Lord, was confirmed unto us by them that heard." That great preacher, Dr. T. DeWitt Talmage, concludes his sermon on this text with a powerful paragraph, from which we can give only the following: "Now are you ready for the apostle's question? How shall we escape? No escape at all! Everything will plead against the man who makes it. The tree of Calvary will say—escape, he must not! The throne of judgment will say—escape, he must not! Jesus will say—'I called to him for many years, but he turned his back on these wounds; and by all those despised tears and that rejected blood escape, he must not!'"

"God also bearing witness with them." The pronoun here refers to those who accompanied with the Lord Jesus when he was on earth, and who bore witness to his life and death and resurrection to the following generation. "Both by signs and wonders, and by manifold powers, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to his own will." God bore witness to the truth which they proclaimed by miracles, and by the gifts he bestowed through the Holy Spirit.

"And what shall I more say?" The writer's mind is crowded with other heroes of the faith, of whom he would like to speak, but he has already written more extensively than he had intended, and now he must simply pile up names and incidents without going into details. "For the time will fail me if I tell of Gideon" (Judges 6-8) "Barak" (Judges 4, 5), "Samson" (Judges 13-16), "Jephthah" (Judges 11, 12); "of David and Samuel and the prophets." "Who through faith subdued kingdoms." The allusion is specially to the conquest of Canaan by Joshua and to the victories of David (2 Sam. 5:17-25; 21:15, etc.) "Wrought righteousness." These men served a righteous God, and their lives and their legislation were in the righteousness, a glaring contrast with the iniquitous conduct of the Canaanites whom they subdued. "Obtained promises. This refers to all those precious promises God made to the patriarchs, to Moses and Joshua, to the judges, and to the faithful kings of Israel and Judah. "Stopped the mouths of lions." As Samson (Judges 14:6); David (1 Sam. 17:34); and Daniel (Dan. 6:16).

"Quenched the power of fire." As the three Hebrews who were thrown into the fiery furnace (Daniel 3).

The fires which we should quench are those which Satan would kindle by his fiery darts (Eph. 6:16): "As escaped the edge of the sword." As David (1 Sam. 18:11; 19:12-13); Elijah (1 Kings 19); Elisha (2 Kings 6:14), and many others. "From weaknesses were made strong." The reference here may be to Samson (Judges 15:19; 16:28-30), or to David (1 Sam. 17:42), or to Hezekiah (2 Kings 2:5). "Waxed mighty in war, turned to flight armies of aliens." These classes may refer specifically to the Maccabees, though they also suit Joshua, the judges, David, etc.

"Women received their dead by a resurrection." As the widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17:17), and the Shunammite woman (2 Kings 4:17). "And others were tortured, not accepting their deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection." The word here translated "tortured" means "were broken on the wheel," and the particular events in the mind of the writer may have been the tortures of Eleazar, the scribe, and of the seven brothers, narrated in the Second Book of Maccabees (6:18-30, 7).

"And others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment." See, for examples of imprisonments, the instances of Joseph (Gen. 39:20); of Micajah (1 Kings 22:26, 27), of Jeremiah (Jer. 37:15); of Hanani (2 Chron. 16:10).

"They were stoned." As Zechariah (2 Chron. 24:20-22). (Cf. Matt. 23:35). For the stoning of the early apostles, see the cases of Stephen (Acts 7:58, 59) and Paul (Acts 14:5, 19; 2 Cor. 11:25). "They were sawn asunder." According to tradition, this was the awful manner of death suffered by Isaiah. (Cf. 2 Sam. 12:31; 1 Chron. 20:3). "They were tempted." The character of the temptation is not mentioned. Doubtless some inducement to escape suffering by giving up their faith is referred to. "They were slain with the sword." (See 1 Kings 19:10; Jer. 26:23.) Thus did James suffer martyrdom for his faith in the Lord Jesus (Acts 12:2). "They went about in sheepskins, in goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated." See the case of Elijah (1 Kings 19:13 and 2 Kings 1:8). Hair garments seemed subsequently to have been a common dress among prophets, and it was sometimes adopted for purposes of deception (Zec. 13:4).

"Oh whom the world was not worthy." The world drove them out thinking them unworthy to live in it, while in truth it was unworthy to have them living in it.—A. B. Davidson. "Wandering in deserts and mountains and caves, and the holes of the earth." Of Israelites in general (Judges 6:2); and of the prophets of the Lord (1 Kings 18:4, 13) and of Elijah (1 Kings 19:3).

"And these all, having had witness borne to them through their faith." This entire chapter is but a commentary on the power of faith in God in the lives of men and women. "Received not the promise. God having provided some better thing concerning us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect." These heroes of the faith had been given promises, but the promises had not been completely fulfilled, especially the greatest promise of all concerning that of a Messiah, God's anointed Priest and King. For all the men of old, prophets, and mighty Lord Jesus, there was only a symbolic sacrifice for sin, an incomplete access to God, a partial infilling, on occasion, of the Holy Spirit, an incomplete revelation of God. For us, we know God through Jesus Christ, whom to know is life eternal.

"Therefore let us also." We belong in this company because we are servants of the same God, because our faces are turned toward the same hope, because we are bound together in one great truth, centered in Jesus Christ. "Seeing we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses." We have been led through the corridors of the divine museum, and bidden to read the names and epitaphs of those of whom God was not ashamed. We have felt our faith grow stronger as we read and pondered the inspiring record, and, now, by a single touch, these saintly souls are depicted as having passed from the arena into the crowded tiers from which to observe the course which we are treading today. "Lay aside every weight." There are one thousand things that no man dare call wrong, for they show none of the characteristic of sin; on the contrary, they may be precious gifts which, in other circumstances, might be rich in blessing; but if they hinder you when you struggle for the best, and burden you so that you run unworthily, then they are weights and must be laid aside. "And the sin which doth so easily beset us." The six words, "which doth so easily beset us, are, in the Greek, one single word, and probably refers to cloth-

Believes Mothers Retard Service

Teacher Stresses Necessity Of Urging Girls To Go Domestic

MONTREAL—Just possibly, a woman's place is in the home, but says Miss C. I. Mackenzie, dotting mothers in nine cases out of 10 prevent such domesticity for the rising generation.

The principal of Montreal High School for Girls, speaking before the Big Sisters Association here, gave her opinion the modern girl could not be blamed for less interest in home-making than her efficient grandmother.

High school girls, she said, would be happy to turn their interest to vocational work, including house-keeping, but in many cases, mothers barred their way.

Miss Mackenzie believed the most practical method of learning home-making was through domestic service. But, she added, building a service is frowned upon either by parents or the girls themselves and is unpopular with girls from families of the poorer classes because they are not fit for such work.

To meet the situation, Miss Mackenzie favored establishment in each centre of a house where school-girls would be taught house-keeping which she said, requires "a high order of intelligence, neatness, conscientiousness and certain artistry."

In such a school, young girls could be "properly fitted for domestic duties" through practical application of theory as part of their school curriculum.

Queen Mary spends much of her time on needlework. She recently completed the petit point covers for a set of painted chairs. A dressing table stool which the Queen gave the Duchess of Gloucester for her own bedroom at the Royal Pavillon, Aldershot, was also her own work. It is an eighteenth century design, embroidered in warm beige tones.

The latest thing in British farming is the breeding of nutrias, little beaver-like animals that come from the continent of South America. Sussex has the only farm in Europe, and at the present moment houses 200 of the quaint little beasts, though hundreds more are being shipped over. Nutria farming has many advantages over other such ventures for nutrias are easy to breed.

Farm Problems

Conducted by PROFESSOR HENRY G. BELL

with the co-operation of the various departments of Ontario Agricultural College.

Conditions favourable for the growth of clover, and the addition of Phosphoric acid and nitrogen greatly invigorates the growth of grass.

2. QUESTION—(a) "The milk yield of my herd seems to have fallen off quite considerably during the past two years and some of the cattle have lost their healthy appearance and seem quite gaunt and weak. Is there any possibility that the soil is becoming run down and producing low grade feed? I have never used commercial fertilizer but always have quite a bit of manure each year to put back in the land."

(b) I have a clay loam field which has been in pasture for 25 years and is now very thin. I do not wish to plow it up and am wondering if re-seeding will be satisfactory along with some commercial fertilizer. If so, what procedure should I follow?"

S.A.W., Kent County. ANSWER—(a) Undoubtedly the soil of your pasture is becoming deficient in Phosphoric acid and possibly Potash. It may be also lacking in lime. The lack of Phosphoric acid and lime is becoming apparent in not a few pastures in certain parts of the province with the result that pasture animals are more and more given to chewing bones, stones and wood in an effort to obtain these elements which constitute a considerable part of their bone. Craving is bound to increase until attention is paid to putting back the minerals that are lacking in the pasture. You say that you apply considerable manure each year which is an excellent practice, but one must keep in

mind that manure even if well-kept carries only 8-9 lbs. of Phosphoric acid (P2O5) and possibly 10 lbs. Potash (K2O) per ton. It will carry 10 to 15 lbs. nitrogen. You do see from this that returning manure does not effectively correct the soil condition, especially where milk is being sold from the land and the breeding cattle are raising their young which means that still greater quantities of Phosphoric acid and lime are being removed in the skeletons of beef and other meat animals that are raised and sold off the farm. The observations you mention are being made in several sections. There are two ways of attacking the problem, one, by top dressing with fertilizer of analysis which will help the crop conditions and another, by feeding approved mineral feed mixtures which carry lime and Phosphoric acid in forms suitable for feeding. Probably a combination of these methods will give speediest and most effective help.

ANSWER—(b) Pastures such as you describe have been greatly improved by top dressing with such fertilizer as 4-12-6 or 2-12-10 in early spring as soon as the soil will carry the team. Fertilizer is best applied broadcast either with the drill, with the hose or discs suspended, or with a lime spreader.

In a pasture test conducted by the Ontario Agricultural College in Middlesex County, great improvement of herbage of the pasture and good improvement of carrying capacity has been obtained by top dressing as described. The Potash makes condi-

Christ? Many answers can be given. Certainly it would include the joy of being God's anointed one for a deeming men for all the ages to come from sin and death and the wrath of God; of being reunited with the Father in glory after his humiliation; of realizing that, by his death on the cross, Satan's doom was sealed, and a kingdom of absolute and eternal righteousness was made possible. "And hath sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." His great redemptive work was finished and accepted by the Father. He is now exalted into glory at the Father's right hand (cf. I:3:8-1; 10:12).

Storm Hits German Coast Town



An angry sea pounded the shoreline of Borkum, Germany, leaving in its wake this scene of wreckage and demolition. This is typical of damage inflicted along the entire coast during the storm as wind-driven surf lashed seaboard.

Safe on U. S. "Soil"



Endangered by aerial bombardments and artillery shelling, refugees are pictured boarding the U. S. S. Hatfield at Valencia, Spain, to be transported to safety under protection of United States flag.

Fleeing Madrid and the Death From the Skies



Women and children, carrying their scanty possessions, making their way through Madrid to the Valencia road—only outlet left to the coast—as they flee from the terror raining upon it. This is first picture of evacuation of Spanish Capital.

Going "Over the Top"



A recent test of men and equipment by German High Command. Trucks, motorcycles and autos were put through grueling paces at Wunsdorf near Berlin. Above a cyclist goes over embankment.

Woman Brings Fame To City

Wins \$1,000 Prize in Book Contest; Husband Is Wheat Champion

WINNIPEG.—Lillian Gibbons writes in the Tribune of the resident of the city who has brought to it new fame—Kathleen Rodman Strange (Mrs. H. L. G. Strange, formerly of Fenn, Alta.) who won the \$1,000 prize in a book contest.

One thing that put Fenn on the map was the world's wheat championship, awarded to her husband in 1923. It was July, and very hot, when the young English girl (Mrs. Strange) stepped off the train on the platform that had no station. With her was her mother-in-law, "beautifully dressed." "I can look back now," says Mrs. Strange, "and see how peculiar I must have looked to people on the farms; trim blue suit, high-heeled slippers, the flimsiest of stockings, and a little hat bought in Paris. And in front of me, as I got off the train, were miles of prairie and a little store."

The harvesters were on the farm, so were the carpenter—for the farm boasted no house or buildings as yet. The mother-in-law went home within a week or two "and I was left." She couldn't "even boil an egg." "I had to bake bread—we couldn't get anything in that far-off spot... and great hunks of meat were brought in; I did not know what they were. The only reason I got through was that I had to do it."

She sat "on the wrong side of the cow" so that the animal would not give of her store that night; next morning she (the cow) accepted even the new bride. "But I did love looking after baby chicks."

After that she "wrote about everything, even hall and the effect it had on the people." Rubber apron was the story of her own experience when the waving fields of grain were laid low by a swift hail storm. Mrs. Strange had been planning a "rip home to see her mother in London, she even had her ticket. Well, as the woman in the story did, she took down the rubber apron from behind the kitchen door and started to work again. The trip had to wait.

Skirts Shortened For New Dresses

Skirts With a Tendency To Flare Are Very Popular

NEW YORK—Women have so often been told that they are the real judge and jury on fashions that it may seem trite to mention the fact. But this is the season when this is more apparent than at any other.

Countless fashion shows may be watched with delight and many extravagant ideas applauded, but when the moment for personal selection arrives—that's the moment when fashions are actually born. Hence the tremendous importance and significance of what smart women are wearing.

Well, then, women are wearing black, princess dresses, shorter skirts, padded shoulders — many severely trimmed—tailored woolen ana velvet dresses, coachmen's coats with scarfs instead of fur, Persian peaks, and more jewelry than usual, much of it gold.

They like skirts with a tendency to flare, buttons, three-quarter length sleeves, high cut bodices wool satin, silk jersey, in black only, and skirts with concentrated fullness either the back or front. They like absurdities in hats, some with wells, many bows. They like coats resplendent with silver "ox or coats with no fur at all to be worn with or without a fur cape or animal scarf.

They like handbags that swing from the wrist or that are suspended by some sort of handle. They like crinkly, elbow-length gloves with their short sleeve dresses, mitts and shoes cut high over the instep.

Distinctive jewelry is increasingly important where fashionable Parisienne foregather, including large brooches pinned against the plain bodies of black dresses, and also dress and ear clips. There is much gold with black, including heavy gold chain necklaces and bracelets and polished brooches set with gems in usual shapes like leaves. Especially smart was a large heart-shaped brooch worn to pin a little twisted scarf in rose and gold lane at the neckline of a black dress.

What Every Woman Has Always Known

Doctors in Concord State Hospital Discover Importance of Beauty

CONCORD, N.H.—The importance of a woman always looking her best has been recognized by the Concord State Hospital in the establishment of a beauty parlor for patients.

Dr. Charles H. Bollof said the beauty parlor was in full swing and women patients were "scrambling for appointments."

The parlor gives permanent waves, facial treatments and the other aids to beauty, all without charge. Dr. Bollof said the treatments helped women patients maintain morale and self-respect, and aided in eliminating a feeling of depression.

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