

# The Stouffville Tribune

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## NOTES and COMMENTS

### Most Stouffville People Take Pride in Their Surroundings

The slow but nevertheless fairly certain arrival of spring in Stouffville has revealed that the vast majority of townfolk are extremely conscientious about spring cleaning the outside of their premises. A walk down any street on a fine evening will reveal an industrious lot of citizens putting the front or back "fifty" in shape for the coming season. This is a good thing in many respects: It is first class exercise for the able-bodied; it's beauty treatment which every residential lot needs and it is a fine moral builder.

In addition to the foregoing a tidy lot is also good insurance against fire and accidents. It is much safer from both of these standpoints to have orderly surroundings. Rubbish piles should not be encouraged nor should the habit of leaving things lying about all over the yard.

While we're busy making these spring clean-ups it is also not a bad idea to check on possible dangerous limbs of trees surrounding the home and make sure that clotheslines are secure and sufficiently high above the ground to permit free passage underneath for every member of the family.

### 70,000 Tons of Carrots

Somebody with a statistical turn of mind says that the average Canadian eats 11 pounds of fresh carrots each year. That would make 44 four-ounce servings of carrots, or less than one serving each week, and it does occur to us that most people eat carrots more often than that. And how can anybody compute the carrot consumption of the millions of Canadians who grow their own, in their farms or their city gardens?

The carrot is one of the most common of vegetables, and it must be surprised to find itself the subject of a press release about its many virtues. This tells us what many a farm boy long since discovered for himself, that the carrot can be eaten raw, and with some moderate degree of pleasure. But carrots have come into a versatile career. They are cooked and served as a vegetable, they appear in salads, they are put in soups and stews, they are sliced and simmered with beans or fried with chicken or pork. And they can be served whole, or cut into discs or long thin strips, or cut into balls, or shredded for those who happen to like their carrots shredded.

The humble carrot has indeed come a long way. If the 11-pound average is accurate that means the annual consumption of 70,000 tons of carrots in Canada and anybody who wants to may contemplate the sight of 140,000,000 pounds of carrots shredded, sliced, diced, stewed and roasted.—Ottawa Journal.

### Don't Know Counties or Townships

Those attending secondary schools a few decades ago, and even those in public school were drilled thoroughly on naming and locating the counties of Ontario, and many could tell you the name of county towns. Very little drilling is given now however on the setup of local municipal governments, county, township, town or village, what might be termed the practical side of government.

Many devices were used years ago to acquaint the pupil with the lists of counties and townships. Numbers of our Uxbridge and Pickering Township readers will recall the rhyme which always brought to mind the lineup of townships in Ontario county — Rama, Mara, Thorah, Brock — Uxbridge, Pickering, Whitby, Scott.

Evidently stress on this phase of geography has lessened with the result that pupils leave elementary schools with rather vague ideas about counties.

Proof of this lack of knowledge of Ontario geography was given the other day by Harry Hutton, once a teacher himself and now director of extension courses at Queen's University.

With the co-operation of elementary schools in all parts of the province, Mr. Hutton invited 1,000 pupils of grades 7 and 8 to name and locate five counties in Ontario. The result of the poll was astonishing. Only 27 of the 1,000 pupils answered correctly. Thirty others gave correct names but vague locations. The remainder, 943 of them, scored from zero to 30 per cent — 25 answer papers were blank. Among places named as Ontario counties were Thornhill, Montreal, Rome, North Bay, Winnipeg, Noranda, Stratford, Toronto and the Holland Marshes.

The test confirmed Mr. Hutton in his belief that dropping formal instruction in county geography was a mistake, that it is wrong to suppose such facts will be picked up incidentally.

It would appear that in streamlining educational methods we have discarded some old teaching practices that might well be revived.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(For June 4, 1950)

### HABAKKUK TEACHES TRUST IN GOD

Habakkuk: 1:1-4, 12, 13; 2:1-4; 3:17-19

Golden Text.—I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation. —Hab. 3:18

The Lesson as a Whole Approach to the Lesson

One of the shortest books of Scripture — the prophecy of Habakkuk — contains important truth which no reverent student of the Word of God can afford to overlook. Brief as it is, it is directly referred to or quotations made from it, a number of times in the New Testament.

The great apostle to the Gentiles is particularly partial to it, finding in it the inspired authority for the fundamental doctrine of justification by faith, and the certainty of judgment to come upon all who reject the testimony of the Holy Ghost as to the Lord Jesus Christ. Compare Acts 13:40, 41 with Habakkuk 1:5; and Romans 1:17, Gal. 3:11, and Hebrews 10:38 with Habakkuk 2:4. There is evidently, likewise, very close connection between Habakkuk 3:17, 18 and the fourth chapter of the Epistle to the Philippians.

The form of the book is that of a dialogue, and the structure is exceedingly simple. Habakkuk, oppressed by a sense of the prevalence of iniquity, unburdens his heart to Jehovah, who in grace answers the cry of His servant. The true divisions are easily found. Chapter 1:1-4 gives the prophet's complaint. Verses 5 to 11 are the Lord's answer. From verse 12 to verse 17 we have Habakkuk's remonstrance. Verse 1 of chapter 2 stands by itself. There is no immediate reply to the cry with which the previous chapter was concluded. In verses 2 and 4 the Lord goes far beyond the prophet's thoughts, and predicts the final bringing in of blessing through Messiah: meantime "the just shall live by his faith." The actual response to the remonstrance of chapter 1 is given in verses 5 to 8. The balance of the chapter would seem to be prophetic ministry. The Historical Setting

Very little is known of Habakkuk. According to Jewish tradition he was of the tribe of Simeon, and he is commonly supposed to have been contemporary with Jeremiah during the latter part of "the weeping prophet's" ministry. His book would seem to evidence this, as it was written in view of the Chaldean invasion. Of his birth or death we have no record. He is commonly supposed to have remained in the land when the mass of the people were carried away by the triumphant armies of Nebuchadnezzar. Of this, however, we have no positive proof.

Verse by Verse

Chap. 1:1.—"The burden which Habakkuk . . . did see." A prophetic message was designated frequently as a burden because of the pressure on the spirit of the speaker, who, as the Lord's messenger, entered deeply and sympathetically into the condition and circumstances of his people.

Verse 2.—"O Lord, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear!" Overwhelmed with the sense of his people's distress, the prophet cried to the Lord; but there seemed to be no answer from God. He realized the danger that lay before them and knew that, only by repentance could the evil be averted; but his prayer to this end seemed to avail nothing.

Verse 3.—"Why dost thou shew me iniquity?" He felt, as many another has done, that it were better not to see the iniquity than to see it only to be burdened thereby, finding no remedy for the state that so distressed his sensitive soul.

Verse 4.—"The wicked doth compass about the righteous." One of Judah's greatest dangers was the spirit of strife and contention among them, giving rise to spoiling and violence. In verses 5 to 11, Jehovah answers the prophet's complaint, telling him that He Himself is about to judge His people by giving them over to the power of the Chaldeans.

Verse 12.—"Thou hast ordained them for judgment." Recognizing the holiness of God, the prophet was perplexed that He should use so corrupt and wicked a people as the Babylonians to chasten Judah; but he feels assured that God's way must be right.

Verse 13.—"Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil." It seemed incomprehensible that the Holy One of Israel should use an idolatrous nation, which after all was far more wicked than the people of Judah, to punish the latter for their iniquities. Therefore he dared to wrestle with God, as it were, on their behalf.

Chap. 2:1.—"I will . . . watch to see what he will say unto me." There is nothing harder for a man to do than to wait for God to make plain His counsels and justify His dealings. For the moment, there seemed to be no answer from God to the prophet's complaint, but in quiet confidence he waited, as upon a watchtower, for the divine ways to be made plain.

Verse 2.—"Write the vision." At last the voice of God was heard, commanding His servant to write that which was about to be revealed to him and to make it plain and clear upon tablets in order that others reading it might run to proclaim it.

Verse 3.—"The vision is yet for an appointed time." That which was to be revealed was not for the then present time alone, but was to be for the instruction of those who should live in the distant future. The last

part of this verse is quoted in Hebrews 10:37, where the personal pronoun "he" is exchanged for the neuter pronoun "it," showing that it was God's Messiah who was in view, the one who will at last deliver Israel from all their troubles.

Verse 4.—"The just shall live by his faith." This is the oracle which Habakkuk had been bidden to write so plainly. This is the word that the reader should run to declare. Three times this oracle is referred to in Paul's Epistles. It forms the very foundation of the Gospel message in the Epistle to the Romans, chapter 1:16, 17, and also in Galatians 3:11. In the Epistle to the Hebrews, chapter 10:38, it is used to emphasize the importance of faith in the Christian's daily life.

Chap. 3:17-19.—"Although the fig tree shall not blossom . . . yet I will rejoice in the Lord." Crops might fail, flocks might be destroyed, fields might be barren, and cattle be cut off, but God would abide, and in Him was abundant supply to meet every need. He is the God of our salvation. He is the strength of our hearts. What more can we crave? The closing line is the dedication and, to the anointed eye, is unspeakable precious; for, to us, the chief musician is our precious Lord Himself, as indicated in Psalm 22 and Hebrews 2:12.

The Heart of the Lesson

How great the difference in the opening and the closing of the burden of Habakkuk! He begins as a man bewildered and confused, who is filled with questions and perplexities; he closes as one who has found the answer to all his questions, and the satisfying portion of his soul is God Himself. This is most blessed. As we thus are permitted to enter into the varied experiences that this man of like passions with ourselves passed through, till the Lord alone filled the vision of his soul and satisfied his every longing, likewise resolving all his doubts and difficulties, we get some little sense of what may be the sustaining portion of our own hearts, if He be but permitted to have His own way with us in all things.

### CLOTHES WASHED BY SOUND WAVES

Threatening to steal the show when Canada's third International Trade Fair opens in Toronto, May 29, is a radically new washing machine from Australia reports The Financial Post. The machine, making use of ultrasonic waves, dispenses with soap or other cleaning agent, is claimed to do a 14 lb. wash in 15 minutes or less, and it could be produced in Canada to sell here for \$10! The Australian-made model could be imported to sell in Canada for \$55.

Outwardly the revolutionary machine looks like a standard washer, but there are no moving parts inside. The washing is accomplished by vibrations transmitted through the clear water from a small box with a patented airtight, The Post reports.

The export manager of a Toronto appliance firm says he used one of these machines when he was in Australia recently, and their cost of operation is fantastically cheap—one Australian penny (2½ cents) for 100 hours.



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