

# Sunday School Lesson

**THE SUFFERING SERVANT**  
Isa. 52:13 to 53:12; Matt. 1:18-21

**GOLDEN TEXT**—But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.—Isa. 53:5

**THE LESSON AS A WHOLE**

**Approach to the Lesson**

The personal treasurer of Candace, queen of Ethiopia, having leave of absence, had gone to Jerusalem to participate, insofar as a Gentile was permitted, in the worship of God there. On his way home, as he crossed the desert of Gaza, he was improving the time by reading aloud the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. He was pondering over that portion which we identify as Isaiah 53:7, 8 when he noticed a stranger running alongside his chariot, who rather tactlessly asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" Imagine asking an officer of Queen Candace's court if he understood what he was reading! The fact is, he did not, and he was frank enough to admit it. "Of whom speaketh the prophet this?" he inquired. Then Philip (for the runner was Philip the evangelist) "began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus" (Acts 8: 34, 35).

Philip saw Jesus in Isaiah 53, and had Peter, or Paul, or James or Jesus Himself met the Ethiopian that day, his question would have received the same answer. The New Testament allusions to this chapter refer to Jesus (John 12:38; Matt. 8:17; 1 Peter 2:25). Moreover, everything that is said of the suffering servant of Jehovah in Isaiah 53 is categorically declared of Jesus of Nazareth in the New Testament—the rejection, the misunderstanding, the despising, the travesty of justice, the cutting off, the sin-bearing, the divine intervention in His burial, the prayer for His persecutors, and so on. And there is no other who so completely fits the picture of Isaiah 53. Jewish commentators and liberal theologians have tried to fit the nation Israel into the picture, perhaps the nation restored from the Babylonian captivity, or the nation within the nation (i.e., the godly core of the nation). All such attempts are futile. They just do not answer the descriptions of the chapter. Jesus does. He is the suffering servant who, in His death, accomplishes a great redemption, and lives to see its fruit and to enjoy the spoil. In our lesson, then, we frankly apply this whole chapter to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**Verse by Verse**  
Isa. 53:1—"Who hath believed... the arm of the Lord revealed?" These are questions of astonishment. The phrase, "arm of the Lord," is an expression of strength (51:9), personalized in Christ.

**Verse 2**—"... a tender plant... a root out of a dry ground... no beauty that we should desire him." For "shall grow" read "grew," an example of the prophetic past tense. Maclaren says that "tender plant" means "sucker" in the botanical sense and it is a picture of a shoot growing out of a fallen stump. The house of David was fallen, when Jesus came. The altogether lovely one of God held no attraction for sinful man.

**Verse 3**—"... despised and rejected... acquainted with grief... we esteemed him not." "Rejected" here carries the sense of "forsaken." Grief was His companion.

**Verse 4**—"... our griefs... our sorrows... smitten of God." "Griefs" in the sense of sicknesses, as in Matthew 8:17. Here is compassion in its highest form, actually suffering with and for others. But Christ's sufferings, like Job's, were misunderstood.

**Verse 5**—"... wounded for our transgressions... with his stripes we are healed." This brings us to the heart of His suffering— it was redemptive, expiatory, and remedial.

**Verse 6**—"All... gone astray... the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." The universality of sin is matched with the universality of the provision in the sin-bearing of Christ.

**Verse 7**—"... oppressed... opened not his mouth... as a lamb to the slaughter..." The English Revised Version reads, "He was oppressed, yet he humbled himself and opened not his mouth." It was this humbling of Himself (Phil. 2:8) that kept Him from answering all the revilings.

**Verse 8**—"... his generation... cut off out of the land of the living..." The reading of this verse is difficult. The A.S.V. is very suggestive, referring to the blindness of the contemporary generation to the meaning of Christ's death—that He was taking the stroke due to them for their transgressions.

**Verse 9**—"... his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death... no violence, neither... deceit in his mouth." This is not an identification of the wicked and the rich. Dying as a criminal in the eyes of men, His appointed grave was "with the wicked," but, being the sinless one, He was preserved from such indignity after death, and was given honored burial in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea.

**Verse 10**—"Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him... his soul an offering for sin... seed... prosper." The "yet" refers back to the sinlessness at the end of verse 9. The bruising was a divine activity, and its meaning is stated—"an offering for sin." Notice the activity of Christ after His death.

**Verse 11**—"He... shall be satisfied: by his knowledge... justify many... bear their iniquities." The last two verses of the chapter are spoken of Jehovah Himself concerning the work of His Servant. He promises full compensation and satisfaction to the suffering One in the justification of many, based on His own sin-bearing.

**Verse 12**—"... he shall divide the spoil... poured out his soul unto death... numbered with the transgressors... made intercession..." As a reward for His self-giving His identification with sinners, His sin-bearing, and His priestly intercessions, Christ is exalted as Lord, and as a divine conqueror shares the spoils of victory with God the Father. The thought is not that Christ takes a place with the strong ones of earth. The "many" and the "strong" are the spoil of battle for Him.

**The Heart of the Lesson**  
Isaiah 53 really ought to begin at 52:13, with the words, "Behold, my servant." Indeed, these words might be the title of the chapter. We behold the Servant

# Old-timer Ramblings Near Lemonville

I have already written about the barn raising that was held on the farm located on Lot 10, west side of the sixth, when the late Abraham Ramer owned that property. Years before that time it belonged to the late Dr. Hunter and it was farmed by his grandson Stewart Campbell and a relative of his, Fred, who now resides in Stouffville.

There was another raising of the straw shed a few years later and the shed was framed by Arthur Welsh of Vandorf. Lot 9, west side, was owned by the late Wm. Lemon who also owned Lot 7 on the east side of the 6th.

His son, the late Wilmot who married a Miss Brown from Pine Orchard, farmed Lot 9 for several years before he went to Toronto. Wilmot is laid to rest in the Dickson Hill cemetery.

There was a young man who used to visit a fine young lady on the sixth concession. He had to go past where another young gent worked and this fellow kept tab on him. He said he went to see her seven nights a week and would have gone more often had there been more nights.

Well, this young fellow he was keeping tab of, married the young lady, but the fellow who did the watching, though he went with several nice girls, was never lucky enough to make any of them his wife. He and I used to drive together with our horses and buggies years ago. He was a fine fellow and I missed him when he left that locality. He was very particular about his horse and always had his buggy shining. The last young lady he courted outlived him but I won't mention her name for fear that the next time I happen to meet her in town I might come home with a black eye—she used to be a strong, healthy girl. She also had a fine younger sister who got married and lives out west.

Harvey Wideman was laid to rest this afternoon in Heisey's Hill Cemetery. He is the first one of those four boys to pass away. They were all big stalwart men but time changes us no matter how strong we may have been. There was one man at the funeral who doesn't move around as spry as he did forty years ago, but he has seen a

suffering and triumphing. The house of David was not as a tree planted by the rivers of water when Jesus was born of "David's line." It was a mere stump, to all appearance rotting in the ground. So Jesus was "a root out of a dry ground." He received no royal acclaim. That in Him which made Him God's altogether lovely one was not recognized by men. He lacked the glamor which men admire, so He was very much left to Himself, with grief as His bosom companion (vs. 1-3).

But the sorrows which He bore were really those of the very men who despised and forsook Him. In Himself He had a reservoir of joy that made Him quite independent of the attitude of men, but He stooped to shoulder the burdens of His rejectors. They looked upon His pains as judgment for His misdeeds—was He not a glutton, a winebibber, an imposter, a devil, a blasphemer? Yet all the time He was taking the stroke due to the sins of His detractors, and due to us. He was securing peace and healing for us sinners.

In all this He did not act as one forced to do or endure something against His will. He was utterly submissive, and suffered in silence. He did not return reproach for reproach, reviling for reviling, but without a murmur endured all the pain, accomplishing in His cutting off, an atonement of which His own generation was entirely ignorant. But the moment death came the current was reversed. No more was He exposed to indignity at the hands of His enemies. His body was rescued from the burial of felons, and was reverently laid in the tomb of the rich Arimathea, Joseph (vs. 7-9).

But that is not the end. It is but the beginning. This Man, dying without children, lives to see His seed! This Man, cut off in His youth, prolongs His days to all eternity! This Man, in the eyes of men an utter failure, goes on to glorious prosperity, bringing to pass all the good pleasure of Jehovah. All because of the nature of His death—"an offering for sin." Out of His travail will come infinite satisfaction, as the knowledge of Him leads sinners from condemnation to justification, from bondage to liberty, from death to life. Great is His spoil—souls, souls, souls, for whom He died, whose sins He bore, for whom He engages His mighty intercessions (vs. 10-12). Hallelujah! what a Saviour!

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good many laid to rest who looked more like living. A few weeks ago I read a write-up in a farm paper about a certain man who was superintendent of a stock farm. Some time soon I expect to go and see that farm. I was on his father's farm last fall, which was a poor looking sample with everything slung all over just where it was dropped. I walked down the lane and didn't go very far till I saw the best thing I saw was a tree of first-class apples, which I sampled.

When I worked at the war plant at Ajax, I got a good eye-opener of how things were handled there. A good many men were going around doing just to nothing except looking wise and wearing a white collar. Anything that went wrong was never blamed on the official, it was always the worker. A serious mistake happened one time but it was twinned around and the blame fell on the worker in the end. Those fellows who were all dressed up were sure "helping the war effort!"

At a tremendous rate and some of them didn't live too far from Stouffville or Markham. Some of them are dead now but there is one sure thing, hard work didn't kill them. Half of Lot 9 was owned by Alfred Tooze, who used to live in Stouffville, and the east half belonged to George Lemon. Those were some grand horses they used to keep there and they had some real good garden parties, too. The Unionville quartet used to sing at some of those socials. There was a first class gravel pit on the Lemon's half. I often wonder why some gravel company didn't snap up that

farm but they haven't yet. Lot 8, east side, was owned by Crawford Macklem whose good wife came from Sharon, a Miss Kitley. They are both laid to rest in Dickson Hill Cemetery but their only daughter Nora is still living and enjoying single blessedness.

Wm. Lemon lived on Lot 7 and his property was bought by the late George Emmerson who later moved to Vandorf and operated the blacksmith shop there. Peter Steckley owned Lot 8, west side. He had a large family of boys and girls who were a great asset to any district wherever they resided. He later sold that farm and bought one east of New Gormley on Lot 1. Peter was a first-class preacher and anyone who lived up to the advice he gave from the sacred desk would become a good citizen. Peter has one son who is a preacher also, living west of the Don Mills Road.

Lot 6 was occupied by the Hoover family, Anthony's father who also owned the land south of Dickson's Hill now farmed by Anthony's hard working sons and their good wives. Lot 5 east side was owned by Philip Macklem, father of Crawford. He also owned fifty acres on the eighth, Lot 14. I will remember when he used to ride horseback with his team to work that land.

Lot 5, west side, was owned by James Hastings, I believe, the son of Adam who ran the store at Lemonville. It was later sold to William Leathers. Harvey Clendenning's good wife grew up on that farm. Harvey would walk from home and they would walk together over to Bethesda church. That was a common occurrence in those

**1958 Work, First in 41 Years**  
**Canada Atlas Depicts History**  
Canada's new official atlas—the first since 1917—may be ready in 1957. Geographers and draftsmen of the federal Mines Department have been working on the long-awaited atlas for more than four years. Head of the project is Dr. Norman L. Nicholson, 37-year-old director of the department's geographical branch, who says the 1958 date "is very approximate."

The new atlas, eagerly sought by teachers, industry, universities and other sources, will be a big improvement over the obsolete bound volume of 1917. It will contain 112 sheets of maps, measuring 28 by 20 inches, in a loose-leaf binder so they can be removed and placed on a wall or blackboard for teaching purposes. Loose-leaf replacement of maps that become obsolete.

Need for the atlas, which will be sold to the public through the Queen's Printer, was pointed out in 1946 by the Canadian Social Science Research Council—an advisory body made up largely of university personnel in the social sciences. The geographical branch was put to work on the project after the government studied the council's recommendations.

**Aims at All Aspects**  
Dr. Nicholson says the product days but what young couple would have the ambition to do it today?

ers of the atlas "intend to try to present all important aspects of Canada's geography—physical, human and economic." The maps will show such things as the distribution of the country's population, where its Eskimos and Indians live, its natural resources—grain crops, mineral wealth, forests and others— atmospheric pressure and climate conditions. One map of the branch is particularly proud of will feature parts of historical maps, starting with one made in the 17th century by the French explorer Samuel Champlain. These maps, said Dr. Nicholson, "will show the way in which knowledge of Canada grew."

Dr. Nicholson was appointed branch director Oct. 12 this year. He joined the branch in 1949 as head of its Canadian geography section and served as assistant director under W. J. Watson, now professor of geography at Edinburgh University. Headed Arctic Studies

A native of England and graduate of the University of London, University of Western Ontario, London, Ont., and Ottawa University, he planned the branch's annual field programs and himself headed up studies in the Arctic. He says the north's vast development and survey and aerial photographic work will result in vast changes in maps of the region. Scale of the basic map will be approximately one inch to 158 miles—an internationally accepted scale.

Dr. Nicholson says he already has a "big file" of requests from other countries for copies. Most major nations have official atlases, usually published by state governments. India and Australia recently published new ones. Work is under way in the United Kingdom on an up-to-

date version. "The United States has always wanted one but it is not ready yet," Dr. Nicholson said. "Work there is still at the committee stage."

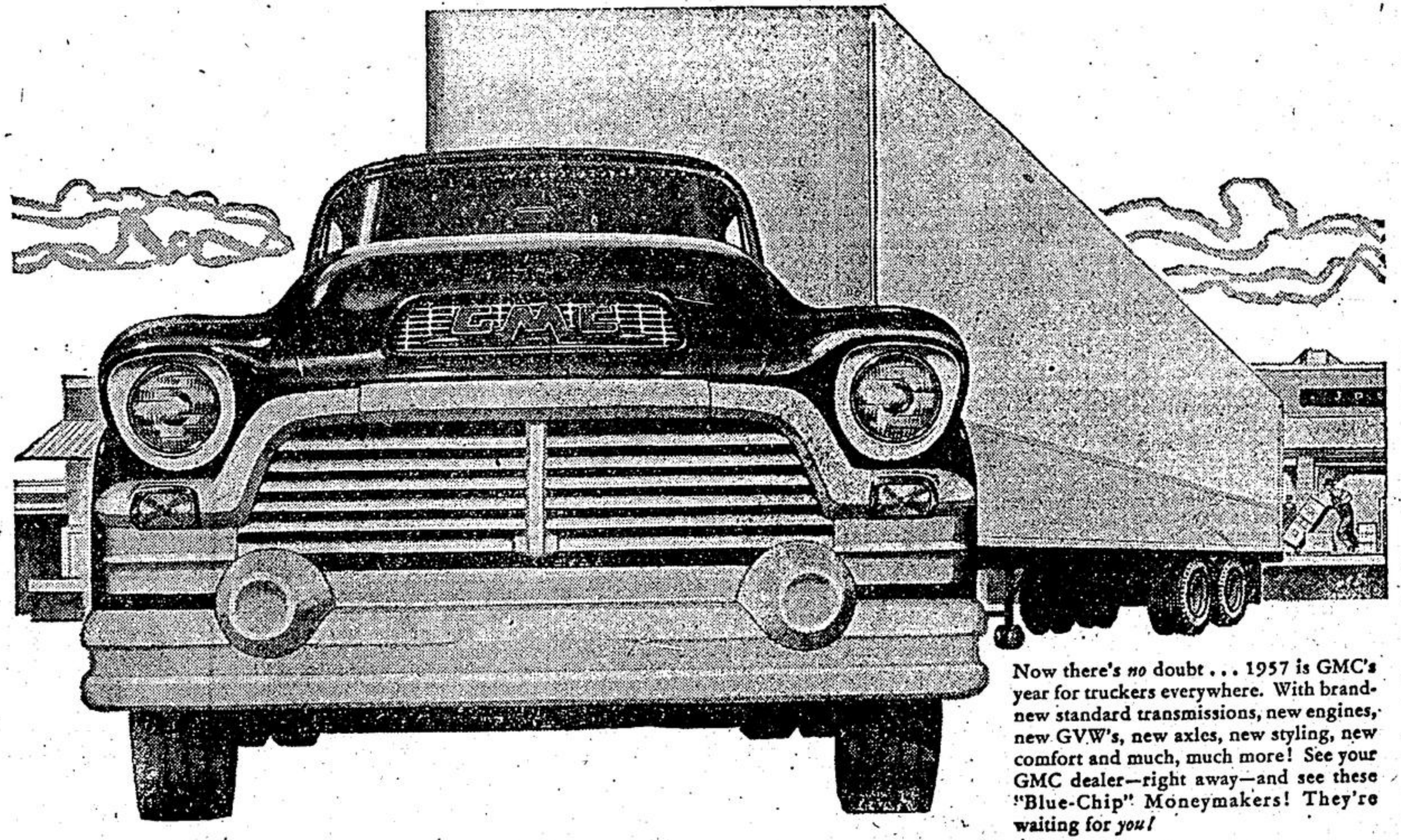
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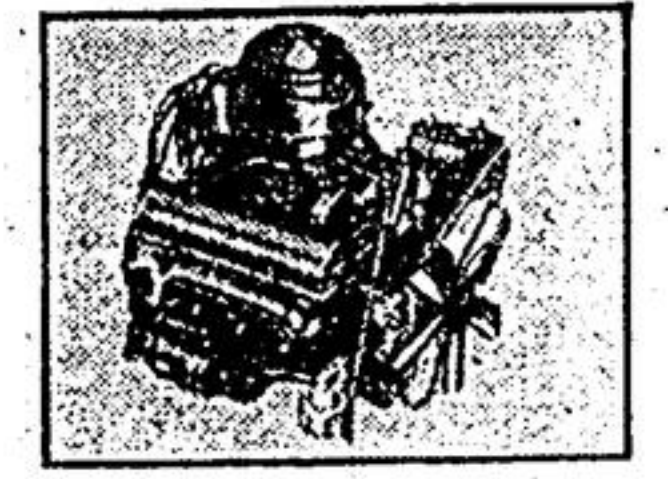
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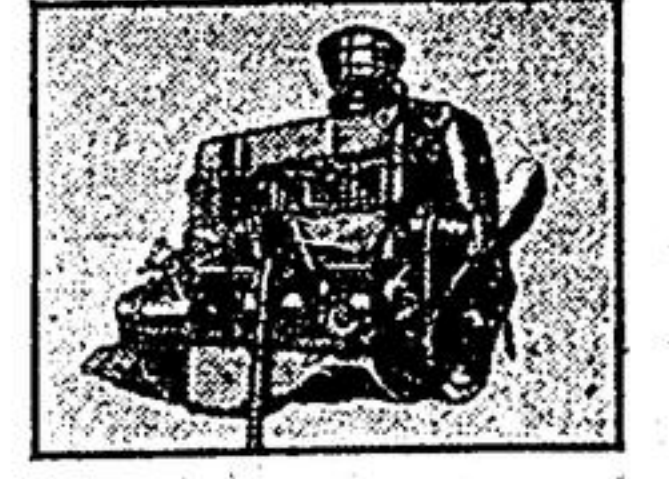
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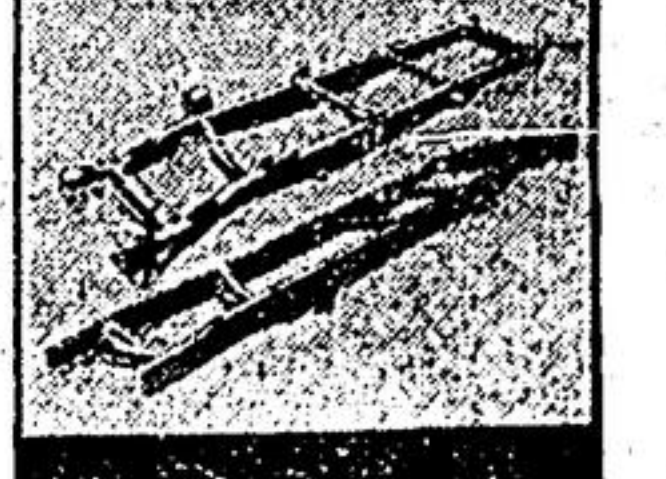
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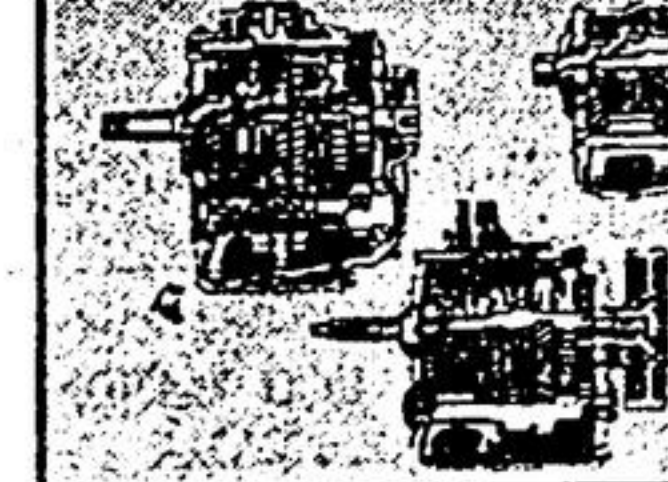
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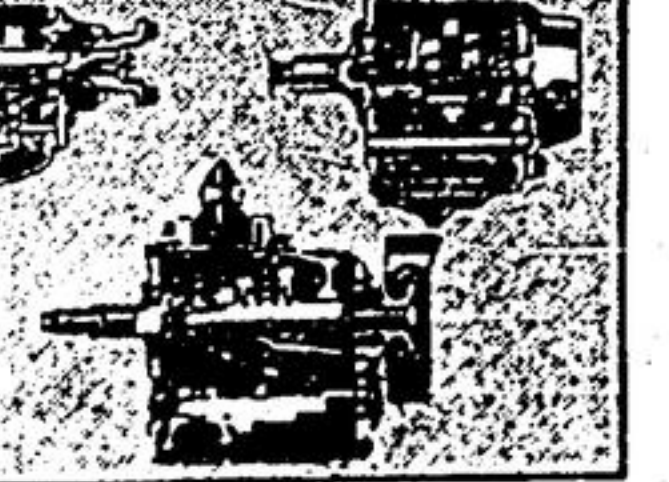
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