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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

IN THE LAND OF PROMISE

(Lesson for June 8)

Joshua 4; 11; 23 and 24;

GOLDEN TEXT—Now therefore put away . . . the strange gods which are among you, and incline your heart unto the Lord God of Israel. — Joshua 24:23.

THE LESSON AS A WHOLE

Approach to the Lesson

The Chicago Daily News has a feature column entitled "What Ever Became of . . ." It features people who at one time were headliners, but who have passed into more or less obscurity. It is a constant reminder that many prominent persons are falling "stars" — perhaps we might say "comets" that flash across the heavens of publicity and then are wrapped in forgetfulness. This is especially so with those who come into prominence suddenly, for they as suddenly disappear.

The case was very different with Joshua. Here was a man whose greatness was for forty years eclipsed by that of the towering figure of Moses, but in his secondary position gave his best. But it was through the discipline of those years that he was being made a prepared vessel to assume the reins of leadership when Moses passed off the scene. Coming slowly to his position of prominence, not in a sudden spurt, he held his place of leadership unchallenged and unweakened to the very end.

Joshua is never more noble than in his great farewell address to the nation Israel, when it was quite evident that his influence was as strong and effective as at any time. Like a great oak tree he had sent his roots deep, so he endured.

Verse by Verse

Joshua 11:16—"So Joshua took all that land . . . Goshen . . . the plain . . . the mountain . . . the valley. "Goshen is not to be confused with the Goshen of Egypt, where the Children of Israel had resided. It was, however, in the southern portion of the conquered territory. For the "plain" the A.S.V. has the "Arabah," which is roughly the plain of Jordan. The hill country lies between two plains, the plain of Jordan and the plain of the sea.

Verse 17—". . . mount Halak . . . up to Seir . . . Lebanon under mount Hermon . . . their kings he took . . . and slew." Mount Halak (bare mountain) is in the south, bordering on Edom. Mount Hermon is in the north, visible from Mount Ebal whence Moses viewed the land. For a list of the kings see chapter 12.

Verse 18—". . . war a long time . . ." The record gives us only the main operations of the subjugation, which developed quickly, but the mopping up operations must have taken some years.

Verse 19—". . . not a city that made peace . . . save the Hivites . . . of Gibeon." For the deceit of the Gibeonites who tricked Joshua into a league with them see chapter 9. Gibeon is only a few miles north and slightly west of Jerusalem.

Verse 20—". . . harden their hearts . . . that he might destroy them . . . as the Lord commanded Moses." The hardening of the hearts of these kings reminds us of Pharaoh of Egypt. Their hearts were already hardened in their sin, and their destruction at the hands of Joshua was God's judgment upon them.

Verse 23—". . . and Joshua gave it for an inheritance unto Israel according to . . . their tribes . . ." This is a general statement covering both the conquest and the division of the land. The particulars of the first are given in the preceding chapters, while the particulars of the second are given in the following chapters.

Chapter 24:14—". . . fear the Lord, and serve him . . . put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood . . ." Fear is not craven terror, but reverence and awe. The word "serve" here refers to religious service, or worship. The Septuagint (Greek version) uses a word from which the Roman Catholics derive their term "latria," the highest form of worship. The "flood" is the Euphrates, and the reference is to the gods of the Chaldees, from among whom Abram was called out.

Verse 15—". . . choose you . . . whom ye will serve . . . on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites . . . we will serve the Lord." As Moses in his day laid a choice before the people, so did Joshua in his last challenge. The gods of their distant ancestors, the gods who had failed to support their worshipers in the land that Israel now possessed or Jehovah, the God of their salvation—that was the choice before them. Joshua's choice, and that of his household, is clear.

Verse 16—". . . God forbid that we should forsake the Lord." Choice seems easy in the presence of the old warrior who had inspired them to battle.

Verse 17—"For the Lord . . . brought us up . . . out of . . . Egypt . . ." Memory was offering good reason for cleaving to Jehovah, their deliverer and preserver.

Verse 18—"And the Lord drave out . . . the Amorites . . . will we also serve the Lord; for he is our God." Their present happy and triumphant state spoke of the faithfulness and might of God. If only these considerations had been kept fresh in their minds!

The Heart of the Lesson

Joshua was a soldier, a statesman, and a spiritual leader. Both his generalship and his statesmanship were just as much under the direction of God as his spiritual ministry. There was no schism between them, but they were all of a piece in his obedience to God and his service to the people.

His threefold task was to conquer the land for the people, divide the land to the people, and settle the people in the land on the firm foundation of faith in and loyalty to God.

The military undertaking was a big one for a nonmilitary people, whose experience in war was still limited. God indicated to Joshua the extent of the territory to be conquered. Now at the end of the first phase of conquest we are told how much had been accomplished (11:16, 17). The list of the kings involved is given us in 12:7-24. It was not done in a day. While the main movements seemed to be with whirlwind rapidity, finishing the task took considerable time (11:18). But even then, the territory won did not equal the territory promised (13:1-6).

There remained "yet very much land to be possessed." This is a true picture of the Christian life. Conversion is (or ought to be) a great burst of conquest, but it is only a beginning. Even the discovery of the secret of victory does not "finish the job." There are always more areas of conquest calling us on, so we had better not hang up our armor as if all conflict were over.

After conquering the land, "Joshua gave it for an inheritance unto Israel according to their divisions" (11:23). After conquest comes possession, inheritance, enjoyment. Now it is true that some of the tribes were to receive their portion in unconquered territory (13:6), and all of them had enemies to overcome in their allotted inheritance. This also teaches us a spiritual lesson. We walk by faith. We claim spiritual land as our portion in Christ, and we move into it in the assurance that the enemy's hold will be broken. Let us not be afraid to "possess our possessions," even if Anakim stand to bar our way.

Joshua's last service was to confirm Israel in the service of Jehovah. There were three rival claimants for their allegiance—the gods of the Chaldeans, among whom their father Abram lived before God called him out; the gods of the Egyptians, in whose land they had sojourned so long; and the gods of the Amorites, in whose land they now dwelt. But what had any of these gods done for them? They were no gods. But Jehovah was the God of their salvation, and, inspired by the aged Joshua's confession, they too, committed themselves to be servants of the God who brought them out of Egypt.

GOODWOOD

(May 29)

We are pleased to hear Mr. Mr. F. A. Forsythe is improving in hospital where he was rushed to a couple of weeks ago.

Birthday congratulations come a few days late, we know, to Mrs. John Thompson who had hers on May 22nd, and to Mr. Jonah Faulkner on May 24th.

Mrs. Barnham of Agincourt visited with cousins Mrs. C. Jones and Mrs. D. Wagg last week one day.

Mr. and Mrs. Dean Percy of Markham and Mr. and Mrs. Newton Laughlin and Emma of Cherrywood had Sunday supper with Mr. and Mrs. Wm. May.

We understand there are some good ball games in our park on Tuesday evenings. Perhaps a work bee would make a pleasant evening!

Sorry to learn that Mrs. John May Sr. fell with a teapot of hot tea and was quite badly burned.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Evans and children visited his sister, Mrs. Stan Slack and family on Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Yakely and children, Miss Elva Yakely and friend visited on Sunday with parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cris. Yakely.

Word has been received that the newly-weds, Mr. and Mrs. Don Heard flew to New York and are enjoying a holiday there.

Sympathy is extended to Mr. Tolar Boake and family. His father, Mr. Byron Boaks passed away quietly on Thursday last at his son Albert's home at Pine Orchard.

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Hog Producers Back Marketing Board Plan

Representatives of county hog producer organizations met in Toronto Thursday and unanimously confirmed the action of the Ontario Hog Producers' Marketing Board in maintaining the present system of selling hogs in Ontario through a co-operative sales agency.

Ninety percent of Ontario's hog crop is now being directed through 15 assembly marketing points of the Hog Producers Co-operative.

Producer support was given to the Hog Marketing Board in the face of considerable agitation in processor circles for the Hog Co-operative to dispose of their hogs through a dutch clock system, a mechanical auction device used in the marketing of cheese and tobacco.

Hog Producers at Thursday's meeting objected to the dutch clock system because they felt it would place the smaller and more numerous processors in an unfair trading position and limit the effectiveness of the majority of buyers in effective bidding. Another producer objection to the dutch clock system was that processors have been unwilling to agree to minimum prices essential to the dutch clock operation for other products such as cheese and tobacco. Also, it was expressed that hogs were a perishable product which could not be stored at times when unsatisfactory prices were being offered through the dutch clock system.

A resolution from the hog producers' meeting further stated that the Hog Board accepted a challenge of the Farm Products Marketing Board to have a vote as announced but that it was the opinion of the organization that 60% of those voting in favor should have been a satisfactory majority as has been in the past.

This resolution followed the government announcement that a vote would be held on the Ontario Hog Producers' marketing plan July 25 which said that a two-thirds favorable vote of those voting would be necessary to continue the hog marketing plan in effect.

Price Steady—

In Ontario last week hog prices remained steady at $34.50 per cwt. at the marketing points of the Ontario Hog Producers Co-operative. The market was closed on Monday for the holiday. The general price range for Ontario heavy sows last week was $26, light sows $28 and stags $16.

Prices on the western market were as follows: Winnipeg Tuesday and Wednesday $33 to $33.50; Edmonton Tuesday and Wednesday $31.50. Hog prices on the Montreal market were as follows: The west end market remained steady at $34.50 and the east end market at $33.00.

Total hog gradings for the province of Ontario during the week of May 12 - 16 were 37,768 which was up 1,092 from the previous week. Through-put of hogs at the 15 Ontario marketing points of the Hog Co-operative during the week of May 12 to 16 was 34,028 which was 89% of gradings.

Ringwood News

Church services at 11.10 a.m. and 7.30 p.m. Sunday, June 8th.

We were sorry there were not more folks at the church on Sunday evening, June 1st to see the film of "Life at Toronto Bible College."

Mr. Galvin Dadian was guest speaker and soloist at the Missionary C. E. meeting on Monday evening, May 26th. Most of us have only one talent.

The only way to know what you miss by not attending a Sunday School Convention is to go next time and find out. We refer to the Whitchurch Township meeting just held recently at Baker Hill Baptist Church. There was both a spiritual and a physical feast.

This Saturday afternoon is the time to take off an hour and attend the garden party sponsored by the Evening Guild of Stouffville Anglican Church to be held on the lawn at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. Knox-Leet.

Mr. and Mrs. Murray Pipher and baby Rodney spent Thursday evening with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Pipher.

Mrs. G. Johnson, Mr. Ross Vague and Mr. Walter Vague visited Mr. Wilmot Vague at the East General Hospital on Friday evening, it being the occasion of his birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ross Vague spent the weekend with their daughter, Mrs. E. Tew and family.

Omitted last week:

The fireworks display sponsored by the Stouffville Veterans was well worth going to see.

Also a Correction:

Mrs. C. Hodgson was the speaker, not the soloist, at the meeting of the 'Excelsior Class" and Mrs. Fred Byer (Lillian Wagg) was the soloist.

There are approximately 600 plants in the United States making enough fibreboard to cover the State of Delaware, the District of Columbia and keep the sun out of the Grand Canyon.

STOUFFVILLE SKATING CLUB

Annual Dance

CEDAR BEACH PARK
Musselman's Lake

Friday, June 13

Music by the Skyliners

OLD TIME & MODERN DANCING.

★★★

— Admission $3.00 Per Couple —

Dancing 9.30 to 12.30

WORLD OUTDOORS

By Mike Bennett

Catch a bass fisherman with his tackle box open and you have a good subject for color photography. Fishing plugs come in as many colors as there are in the brightest rainbow and one individual plug is sometimes made available in a dozen different hues.

Is color so important? Probably since man first began to fish for fun as well as food, anglers have disagreed upon just how important color really is. Most fishermen will tell you that "motion" is the most important quality of a plug and more recently the element of sound has been brought into the picture with the new "sonic" plugs.

And color? Well, let's put it this way: If you ever sat in the boat with a fellow who was busy with strike-after-strike while you worked yourself arm weary for nothing, you'd figure that something must be wrong. It couldn't be the lure, for you were both using the same kind. Obviously, they therefore chose his yellow bucktail over the black one you were using. It happens all the time.

The bass fisherman's tackle box is colorful because the bass fisherman tries to "think" like a fish. He spots a bright new plug on the counter of the local sports store and his temperature rises. This, he tells himself, is the one they'll really go for; this is it. He adds it to his collection. Next time out he offers the new "killer" (and everything else in his box) to the uninterested fish. But, he isn't too disappointed. Today just wasn't the day. Next time out, this plug is really going to "load the boat."

Although it has become practice for the "dummy" to lay down his trump suit before the first lead has been made in a bridge game, the rules of Contract Bridge clearly state: "The opening lead is made by the player on the declarer's left. Then (and only then) the declarer's partner spreads his hand."

San Francisco's Union Square, a manicured garden with green shrubs, flower beds and tropical palms, covers an underground 4-story parking garage that handles more than 3,000 cars during an average day. Attendants use metal poles for a quick slide between parking levels.

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$15 every other week	$300	$390

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