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**THIS WEEK'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON**

Lesson 10, December 9th  
**MOSES CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE**  
 Golden Text.—The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.—Deut. 33:27.  
 The Lesson as a Whole  
 By J. G. Macaulay, D.D.  
 Approach of the Lesson  
 Take again your Bible atlas and turn to the map showing the journeyings of the Children of Israel. When they were within easy reach of their destination, the refusal of the king of Edom to allow them to pass through his territory necessitated a circuitous march, south to the Gulf of Akaba, eastern arm of the Red Sea, then east and north, till they crossed the River Arnon, in the land of Moab. Here they were challenged by Sihon, the Amorite and by Og, king of Bashan; both of whom were destroyed. So Israel possessed the land of these two kings, and camped at Shittim, on the east side of Jordan, opposite Jericho. Here we find them in today's lesson—a people disciplined in the wilderness, who had already begun their career of conquest, and were preparing to cross over Jordan.  
 A whole generation has passed since the nation was organized at Sinai. All who were twenty years old or more when they came out of Egypt had found the grave in the wilderness which they asked for (Num. 14:2) that is, all except Caleb and Joshua and Moses, and Moses was appointed to die without entering the land. Nearly forty years had passed since the covenant was made at Sinai. Only a small minority could have any remembrance of those stirring days. To the new generation it was a matter of report. Therefore, before leading the nation into the Promised Land, God renewed the covenant, so that all would pass over Jordan with this sense of being the people of God fresh and strong in their hearts. The Book of Deuteronomy is largely a recapitulation of the revelation of Sinai, with added instructions and warnings appropriate to their new situation. This renewal of the covenant on the plains of Moab constituted the climax of the ministry of Moses. It will pay big dividends to read through Deuteronomy at this point.  
 Verse by Verse  
 Deut. 30:15.—"Life and good, and death and evil." Compare chapter 11:26, which is enlarged here, the blessing being life and good, the curse being death and evil. Every true sermon opens up two roads before the people, and demands a choice.  
 Verse 16.—"In that I command thee . . . to love the Lord thy God." This is the way of blessing. Remember that the Gospel as well as the law comes with a command and calls for obedience (Acts 17:30; 2 Thess. 1:8). It is serious business to hear the Word of the Lord.  
 Verse 17.—"But if thine heart turn away . . . and worship other Gods." This is the alternative course which brings the curse. If we turn away from the Lord Jesus, it is because there are other gods which we prefer to worship and serve—money, pleasure, ambition, and the like. Can any of these save us?  
 Verse 18.—"Ye shall surely perish . . . ye shall not prolong your days." Here is the curse at the end of the road of disobedience. Satan may try to soften this solemn warning, as he did in Eden (Gen. 2:17; 3:4), but there are no dead ordinances in the divine pronouncements. Israel's history should warn us.  
 Verse 19.—"I shall call heaven and earth to record . . . that I have set before you life and death." For this solemn imprecation see also chapter 4:26. Is our teaching or preaching so clear on eternal issues that none can say we left them in doubt about the two ways? This may not make for popularity, but it makes for "a conscience void of offence."  
 Verse 20.—"That thou mayest love . . . obey . . . cleave." Love is the sure basis of a life of obedience and faithfulness. God does not want an unwilling, or forced obedience, but the glad response of the heart. "For he is thy life." If we accept  
 this reading, it is a truth which finds its full expression in the New Testament. See Colossians 3:3, 4; 1 John 5:20. Some prefer to read "it" instead of "he," the "it" referring to loving and obeying and cleaving to Jehovah. See Luke 10:28.  
 Chap. 31:1.—"And Moses . . . spake . . . unto all Israel." Here begin the farewell speeches of the great leader of Israel, as he is about to hand over his responsibilities to his divinely appointed successor, Joshua.  
 Verse 2.—"I am an hundred and twenty years old . . . also the Lord hath said." Two reasons are here given for relinquishing his post; old age, and the divine decree. It was a great disappointment to Moses not to go over into the good land and he refers to it time and again (chap. 1:37; 3:23-28; 4:21; 32:48-52). One flare-up of temper can dash the fairest hopes.  
 Verse 3.—"The Lord thy God, he will go over before thee . . . Joshua, he shall go over before thee." The Lord and Joshua. Joshua, like Moses before him, was the human representative of God's own leadership of His people. This was to give them confidence and command their obedience.  
 Chap. 33:27.—"He shall thrust out the enemy . . . and shall say, Destroy them." The power was God's, but His agent was Israel (see Jer. 51:20). God stopped thrusting out the enemy when Israel withheld their hand from destroying them.  
 Verse 28.—"In safety alone . . . a land of corn and wine. Safety separation, and substance were to mark the nation under God's blessing.  
 Verse 29.—"The shield of thy help . . . the sword of thy excellency." The Lord was a shield to save Israel from destruction, and a sword to assure Israel's eminence among the nations. These last three verses are part of the Mosaic blessing, uttered in magnificent, poetic language.  
 The Heart of the Lesson  
 In our lesson we have a new generation receiving instruction. Some "new generation" sentiments are noticeably absent. Moses did not tell them that, being a new generation, they were more enlightened, more modern, more advanced than their elders, and would therefore be free to discard the outworn, old-fashioned inhibitions of the former tight-laced generation! Instead, he called them to the same obedience, the same avoidance of defiling things, the same diligent cleaving to the Lord and His law and covenant, with solemn warnings of the consequences if they should turn aside. God's standards of righteousness do not change from generation to generation. The widespread looseness of our day does not give us license to throw aside Biblical standards of conduct. God's children are called unto holiness which is not a relative quality, but an absolute.  
 Not only do God's standards remain constant, but His promises hold. The passing of forty years since the Exodus from Egypt did not weaken God's purpose to bring His people into Canaan, so Moses was able to assure Israel of Jehovah's presence and leading as they prepared to enter the Land. Even a change in the human leadership would not affect the promise of God. How often we have received an assurance from the Lord, but when the matter in hand did not immediately come to pass, we allowed it to slip from our minds, only to find, perhaps years later, that God had not forgotten, even if we had, but manifested His faithfulness in ways far beyond our expectation. Time does not abrogate the promises of God any more than it does the commands of God.  
 It is delightful to see a servant of God coming to old age with his devotion unabated and his vision undimmed. Moses, at one hundred and twenty is manifesting the same jealousy for God and concern for his people as he did forty years earlier. His spiritual stature in Deuteronomy is bigger than ever before, and his great ministry does not taper off, but rises to a mighty crescendo in his last utterances. The song of chapter 32 and the benediction of chapter 33 constitute a magnificent climax. For men who walk with God, eventide is a blaze of glory.

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**MT. PISGAH**  
 (November 20)  
 The Mt. Pisgah Sunday School is holding its Christmas Concert on Thursday, December 20th, at 8 p.m.  
 Mrs. R. C. Bayeroff and Mrs. Ern Smith visited Bogartown W.I. at the home of Mrs. Davidson on Gorham St., Newmarket, on Tuesday of last week.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Russ Elias and Linda visited Mr. Joseph Helmky and Mr. and Mrs. John Helmky and family at St. Catharines over the weekend.  
 Mr. and Mrs. R. Hodgson of Toronto were Sunday visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Ian Reid and family.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Emmerson, Gladys and Irene of Nestleton visited Mr. and Mrs. Jack Gamble and family on Sunday.  
 Mr. and Mrs. C. Stong and Mrs. Annie Morrison, Edgley, were Sunday visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Les. Smith and family.  
 Mrs. Frances Price is on a week's visit with her daughter in Hamilton.  
 Mr. and Mrs. J. MacDonald and family visited Mr. and Mrs. Tom Powers at Maple on Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Hoare, Todmorden, visited the MacDonald's the same day.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Meredith Ash and Sheila had Sunday supper with Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Rumble in Weston.  
 Mr. Emmerson Siles, Toronto, was a weekend visitor with Mr. and Mrs. John Ash.  
 This community would like to extend congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Perez,

**PINE ORCHARD**  
 (November 20)  
 Mr. and Mrs. Hargreaves and son of Toronto were recent guests with Mr. and Mrs. Howard McClure.  
 Sorry to report Mrs. J. Hope has been on the sick list.  
 Miss Joan Sytema attended commencement in Stouffville on Friday night.  
 Club was well attended Friday night with the main program being pictures by the National Film Board.  
 Mr. Frank Sheridan has purchased a home in Stouffville.  
 Mrs. L. Harper spent Saturday with Mr. and Mrs. R. Chapman.  
 Miss B. Colbourne went to her home in Toronto over the weekend.  
 Miss Eileen Fair of Toronto was a visitor at the home of Walt Johnston on Sunday and Monday.  
 Forester of Strange, 6th concession of King, who on Wednesday, Nov. 28th, celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Mr. and Mrs. Forester lived in this community nearly all their life until eighteen years ago when they moved to their present home. May they have many more years together.  
 A four-leaf clover is considered lucky because its four leaves form a cross.