

WHY NATIONS GO TO SMASH

The International Sunday School Lesson for June 18 is "The Downfall of Judah."—II. Kings 25: 1-21.

By William T. Ellis.

There is nothing out of date in the idea that nations may go to smash. Everybody old enough to read these words has seen the collapse of empires and kingdoms. Others are trembling in the balance today. What adds plausibility and pertinence to this present lesson upon the downfall of the Kingdom of Judah is the manner in which its history parallels some of the international news that we are reading every day in the cablegrams. It is no safer today for a nation to flout God and the moral integrity than it was twenty-five hundred years ago.

One big idea stands out in these months of Old Testament studies, just as it stands out in any review of the history of Europe since the armistice; namely, the Lord God of Hosts is sure to deal with the enlightened nation that fails to keep faith with Him. Nobody can be even slightly familiar with the course of human history without perceiving that there is some overruling Moral Agency at work.

No nation is exempt. America, Great Britain, France, Italy, Germany, Russia—there is no country in the world today that is above the law of God. Only a short-sighted jingo can say, "My country is safe from disintegration and collapse." If the Chosen People, whom Jehovah had, with infinite patience and tenderness, set up as the nation of His peculiar care, were not spared from the Divine judgment when they forsook the Law, neither may we hope to be made an exception to the steady on-going of the sovereign will of the Almighty.

In a recent formal lecture in England Dean Inge, a profound if rather pessimistic thinker, declared that Great Britain has already passed the apex of her glory and power. France seems on the down grade. Whether the ferment in certain other European nations presages life or death, only time can tell. The younger nations of the West stand at the gates of decision. The point to be stressed here, in connection with the downfall of Judah, is that we should be thinking in large units if we are to understand our own changing times.

Both the daily newspapers and the school books are crowded with material pertinent to this Lesson. With the free of revolution burning ever

WAS TROUBLED WITH HER STOMACH FOR FIVE YEARS.

Mrs. Samuel Ward, Millersdale, Sask., writes:—"I feel that I must write to you before another day passes. I am so happy and so grateful to your splendid medicine, Burdock Blood Bitters, for after an illness of five years I am better."

I had stomach trouble so bad, I could not bear the smell or taste of food of any kind, and got so thin and weak I could not work. I had four doctors attend me, but they did me no good. I was in no pain, but felt so ill, at times, I thought I would die, in fact, all my friends were sure I could not live many weeks.

This time last year I saw where a man was relieved of stomach trouble by Burdock Blood Bitters, so my husband got me two bottles, but I had no faith in it after all the different medicines I had taken, however, he insisted, and after the first two days I must say I began to feel better, and after the first bottle I felt so much better I went out a little every day, but could not go alone I was so weak, but I soon got so I could walk and eat, and I have got quite stout.

I am nearly seventy years of age and I feel better than I have for years and can now do all my household work.

You may make use of this letter if you wish, as it may be the means of making others as well and as happy as I am."

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TELS DYSPEPTICS WHAT TO EAT

Avoid indigestion, Sour Acid Stomach, Heartburn, Gas on Stomach, Etc.

Indigestion and practically all forms of stomach trouble, say medical authorities, are due nine times out of ten to an excess of hydrochloric acid in the stomach. Chronic "acid stomach" is exceedingly dangerous and sufferers should do either one of two things:

Either they can go on a limited and often disagreeable diet, avoiding foods that disagree with them, that irritate the stomach and lead to excess acid secretion or they can eat as they please in reason, and make it a practice to counteract the effect of the harmful acid and prevent the formation of gas, sourness or premature fermentation by the use of a little Bisurated Magnesia at their meals.

There is probably no better, safer or more reliable stomach antacid than Bisurated Magnesia and it is widely used for this purpose. It has no direct action on the stomach and is not a digestant. But a teaspoonful of the powder or a couple of five-grain tablets taken in a little water with the food will neutralize the excess acidity which may be present and prevent its further formation. This removes the whole cause of the trouble and the meal digests naturally and healthfully without need of any of the artificial digestants.

Get a few ounces of Bisurated Magnesia from any reliable druggist. Ask for either powder or tablets. It never comes as a liquid, milk or fruit and in the bisurated form is not a laxative. Try this plan and see if you want at your next meal and see if this isn't the best advice you ever had on "what to eat."

more brightly in the Holy Land, so that the continuance there as overlords of France and Great Britain is far from a certainty. We can parallel the restless land of Jeremiah's day with the equally disturbed condition of today. Now, as then, influences from the East and from the South, that is, from Mesopotamia and from Egypt, are pouring into Palestine, to complicate or determine local questions. Then, as now, a vast movement of the inhabitants of what is today known as Russia—the Scythians and Cimmerians, for example—has influenced the entire international situation.

Anybody who thinks Sunday School Lessons are "dry" and "out of date" may be fairly startled out of indifference by the simple fact that, while these stories of the fall of Jerusalem and the nation whose capital it was are being studied by a score of million of Sunday School members, the daily papers abound in reports of how the Jews have again become an acute political issue in Palestine. This is an occasion for a square look at Zionism—if a square look is possible, amid so much propaganda and politics. What is the significance of the fact that the native population of Palestine, Moslems, Christians and orthodox Jews, are united in opposition to Zionism? The Vatican is out with a recent pronouncement against Zionism. What should be the Christian attitude toward the natives of the Holy Land, who out-number all resident Jews save to one, as they plead for the preservation of their country from exploitation by Zionism? And what are the reasonable possibilities for a fulfilment of the dream of devout Jews in accordance with Biblical prophecies, that some day the Chosen People shall dwell in the Land of Promise?

All this is not mere religious speculation. It is present world political news. It is directly and vitally linked up with the current Syrian strife for liberty; with the Egyptian independence movement; with the self-government and Arab leadership of the Hejaz; with the present revolt by King Faisal and his people in Mesopotamia against a British mandate; with the Nationalist triumphs in Turkey; and with the ominous Franco-British schism. Any study of these questions of our own day leads straight back to the experience of Judah for a solution.

Hats Off to The News.

Sensible persons treat facts respectfully. To history they easily pay deference. It is hard to remove our hats in respect to present events; since we can seldom understand them until they are past. How many commentators upon contemporary life, for instance, see in the dangerous failure of the Genoa Conference a possible divine retribution for allied recalcitrance to the clear moral duty at Constantinople, after the armistice? Can God let go unpunished today, any more than in Judah in 600 B.C., the perfidy of nations whom he has made trustees of his will?

Events are the instruments of God. Nothing "happens" in a world over which Jehovah is king. The chastisement of Judah by the Chaldeans is only one ancient illustration of a truth which still holds good, that the Omnipotent uses nations as falls for the furthering of his purposes. If we were more sensitive to the spiritual significance of our own generation we should see the footprints of God in much that we carelessly dismiss as "News."

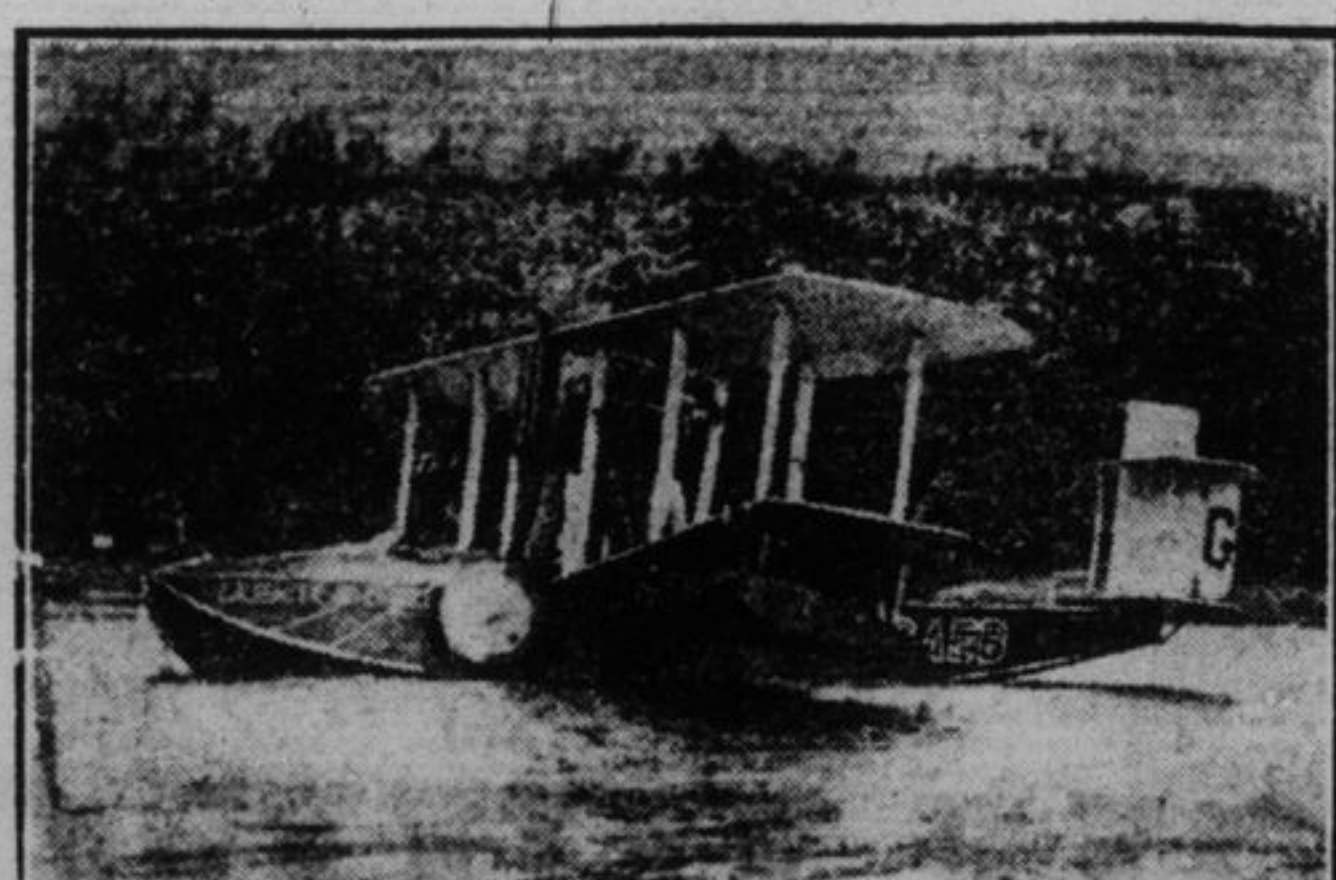
Nations are entities. God deals with them as he does with men and women; the Bible makes that truth clear. Judah was punished and wiped out because she was disobedient to Jehovah. All his glorious plans for her as the nations of his delight were altered by her own waywardness; just as a parent's purposes for a child are nullified by the latter's willfulness. There is in this old story a tremendous summons to citizens to rise above their petty and sordid politics, and to regard as all important the faithfulness of their country to the Divine will. States, as well as souls, are saved by religion.

The End of a Beautiful Dream.

Tragedy is written large over the event which is the theme of this Lesson. A great dream had collapsed. The vision of Abraham, the comely; the faith and expectation and experiences of the patriarchs; the hope of the Hebrew slaves in exile and in deliverance; the efforts of prophets and kings and patriots—all the varied and sacred service and desire that had gone into the building of this Jewish nation seemed to go down in bitter failure, as the soldiers of Nebuchadnezzar smashed and looted and burned the holy city of Jerusalem.

Off-warned, and yet heedless; unmindful of the fate of the northern kingdom and of the solemn words of many prophets of Jehovah; chastised repeatedly, and although frequently given another chance, the end had now to come to Judah. Jehovah had been disobeyed, flouted and spurned. So, as Jeremiah had foretold, Judah was conquered by Chaldeans; its king taken captive; and then, when it foolishly rebelled once more, it was removed from the roll of nations, its capital wiped out, its people carried into captivity, and its last king, after seeing his sons slain before his eyes, was blinded and carried away to Babylon in chains. What a descent from the glories of David!

That year, 586 B.C., when Jerusalem as a Jewish capital ceased to exist, should be burned into the consciousness of every statesman. It



VICKERS-VIMY ARRIVES IN TORONTO.

Flying machine of the Laurentide air service, piloted by Capt. W. R. Maxwell, which left on Monday for Renny Lake, near Moonbeam station, 650 miles north of Toronto, which will be used as the operating base for two new planes to be used for government reconnaissance and survey work by the province of Ontario.

CONDITIONS THAT CALL FOR A TONIC

Symptoms That the Blood is Thin Should Not Be Neglected.

Weak, run-down, lacking strength, energy and ambition, nervous, sleepless, poor appetite, digestion disturbed—these are the symptoms named by a great majority of people who have been benefited by the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. These tonic pills correct the condition described and if you have any of these symptoms you should give these pills a trial. Their great value in cases of this kind is shown by the statement of Mrs. Melville Fortune, Preston, Ont., who says: "Some months ago I became very depressed and worried. My friends thought I was in a decline. I would often faint, was weak, pale and hardly able to go about. I lost weight to the extent of 34 pounds in four months. I was taking treatment but did not get any benefit until I began using Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. These made a wonderful change in my condition, and by the time I was on my fifth box I had regained 22 pounds of my lost weight. I feel altogether like a new woman, can do my household work with ease, and have reason to praise Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for the great good I have found through their use. I will always gladly recommend them for anaemia and general debility."

You can get these pills from any medicine dealer or by mail at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50 from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

Wealthy Chinese Fleeing

Kiukiang, Kiangsi Province, China June 15.—Wealthy Chinese, with their families and valuables, are fleeing from Nanchang, Capital of Kiangsi Province, as the army of Dr. Sun Yat Sen, the South China leader, advances northward. Looting at the hands of the Southern troops is feared.

Two Japanese warships, also British and United States vessels, are here. Dr. Sun's army has captured Kancho-Ki, in the south of Kiangsi province. A report from the South June 10th said the forces of Wu Peifu were retreating northward.

KEEPING IN FORM BY NEVER BEING IDLE

Palm Beach cloth is made in varying prices—just according to the quality and quantity of work put into each suit by the tailors. A good tailor can't make a poor suit, nor can a cheap tailor get a sudden inspiration to produce good work. The Semi-ready tailors keep up to a high standard, and they keep in form on special orders or custom suits made-to-order in four days—whilst the cheap ready-made shops are idle between seasons.

"I am happy to state that the advantage of the better preferential on British woollens overcomes the increase in the sales tax, and there will be no advance in prices," said George VanHorne, of the Semi-ready store on Princess Street.

Chosen President by Convention.

Victoria, B.C., June 15.—Hon. J. L. Perron, Montreal, was elected president of the Canadian Good Roads Association for the ensuing year. Other officers were: Honorary president, Hon. S. J. Latta, Regina; first vice-president, Russell T. Kelly, Hamilton; second vice-president, F. L. Fellows, Vancouver; secretary-treasurer, G. A. McNamee, Montreal.

Short Tether

Wife—Oh, doctor, my husband seems to be wandering in his mind. Doctor, who knows the husband? Don't trouble about that—he can't go far."

Every woman will implicitly trust her husband just as long as she knows he knows she has her eye glued on him.

Three Minute Journeys

Where Women Wear Brass Rings to Make Their Necks Long.

In Burma, the country east of India, and under the rule of Great Britain, there are some very unusual and interesting tribes known as Karens. They live in the hill country, halfway between Mandalay and Rangoon, the two principal cities of this Oriental province.

However, unless the traveler is of an adventurous turn of mind and does not object to a hundred-mile climbing expedition after he has left the railroad, he is not likely to see these strange people under their natural home conditions.

But, if he should be at Mandalay during a Durbar, or when the viceroy is making a visit, he could see some of the Karen tribes, because during these celebrations they are brought down from their mountain homes and exhibited as great objects of interest, because they are peculiar.

In some countries of the east a woman must be fat to be considered beautiful. In old China, the women



A Karen Beauty Parlor.

thought it not only correct but beautiful to bind their feet. In Java black teeth are very fashionable.

But in Burma, among the Karens, a long neck is the ambition of every woman. Her mother starts thinking about this when her daughter is a baby, and starts to accomplish this swan-like effect when the little tots are scarcely able to walk.

The method employed is a series of heavy brass rings, which are as thick as your little finger. These are put around the child's neck, and as she grows, more rings are added, thus forcing her neck to lengthen out.

More rings are added year after year as the girl grows into womanhood. Twenty-one of these coils is the average worn, although twenty-five have been achieved.

The twenty-one-ring-collared woman is thought beautiful, but the twenty-five-ringed lady is considered a ravishing beauty among the Karens of Burma.

ACCEPT EMPLOYERS' OFFERS.

Amalgamated Union Endorses Lock-out Settlement.

London, June 15.—By 76,478 votes against 39,423, the Amalgamated Engineering Union has voted for acceptance of the employers' proposals for the settlement of the lockout in the engineering industry.

This acceptance needs only the ratification of the employers' federation, which is expected speedily, to end the impasse which has existed for fourteen weeks in the engineering trades and enables the men to return to work. The lockout originally affected some three-quarters of a million workers.

New Translation Without Beauty

Nahum Tate, a poet laureate, is remembered, when his name is recalled at all, as the man who re-wrote Shakespeare and turned the Psalms into rhymed verses. Not so impious, because of the scholarship of the author, yet rather staggering is the feat of the late Dr. Morris Jastrow, who gave us a new version of the Book of Job and the Book of Ecclesiastes, and whose latest translation is "The Song of Songs." It is probable that the Jastrow version is a more faithful translation of the text than that in the King James version, but after seeing a few samples of his work, no doubt need remain that he misses a great deal of the beauty of the English tongue. In accuracy, he loses in poetry, and, as Richard Le Gallienne says, his translations are inferior in importance to the human soul to the glorious translations of those men who knew less Hebrew and Greek than he, but had a superior mastery of the poetic capacities of the English tongue, and possibly a more intimate acquaintance with the Holy Spirit.

Long before Prof. Jastrow began his researches there were many doubts that Solomon was the author either of Ecclesiastes or of the Song of Songs, and it is now taken for granted that, in the words of the professor, there was no author in our sense of the word to the Song of Songs. He says: "All the songs are the expression of folk-emotions. They voice the joy felt by the young on the awakening of passionate love; and the popularity of the songs must have enjoyed, and which led to their preservation, was due to the response which they found in the hearts of those who heard them and sang them. The poet who thus gives voice to emotions felt by all becomes merely the mouthpiece of the clan to which he belongs or of the village into the life of which he enters with all his fellows." But Le Gallienne thinks that since no individual arises to claim credit for the Song of Songs, the credit might be better given to Solomon than to an anonymous throng of minor philosophers and peasant lyricists.

Here are a couple of examples of Dr. Jastrow's work, which arouse the suspicion that all his labor and scholarship were expended to little purpose. The St. James version, chapter two, is as follows:

1. I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys.

2. As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters.

3. As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste.

4. He brought me to the banquet house, and his banner covered me with love.

5. Stay with me, my beloved, comfort me with apples; for I am sick of love.

6. His left hand is under my head, and his right hand doth embrace me.

7. I charge you, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, by the roses and by the hinds of the fields, that ye stir not up, nor awake my love, till he please.

Here is Dr. Jastrow's version:

(Beloved)

The saffron of the plain am I; The lily of the valleys.

(Lover)

As the lily among thistles, So is my darling among maidens.

(Beloved)

As the apple among the trees of the forest, So is my love among youths. In his shadow I love to dwell And his fruit is sweet to me. Bring me to the house of wine, And serve me with love. Stay me with raisins; Refresh me with apples. His left arm caressing my head; His right one embracing me.

(Refrain)

O maidens of Jerusalem, I charge you, Arouse ye not and disturb not. Until love is satisfied.

We are sure that nobody but a professor would have substituted the word "refresh" for the word "comfort" or "raisins" for "apples." One more translation of verses 8:13 is all that there is space for:

(Beloved)

Hark, my love is coming. Leaping over mountains; Bounding over hills, Behold him behind our wall, Looking through lattices. My love began to speak to me.

(Lover)

Rise up, my darling, My fair one, come away. For, lo, the Winter is past, The rain over; The cold (?) is gone, The ground is covered with blossoms; The time of pruning has come; And the voice of the turtle-dove is heard.

The fig tree is ripening her figs; And the vines are in blossom; Giving forth their fragrance. Rise up, my darling, my dove.

Why Trees Swell and Shrink.

Measurements with newly designed instruments have shown that tree trunks may not enlarge for many days or even weeks after leaves, flowers and branches have begun to grow. In the curious daily variation the trunk may be actually smaller in mid-afternoon than at sunrise. The sap is assumed to ascend in a kind of expanding and contracting hose of wood-cells, and like a hose feeding an engine, this shrinks when the tree tends to draw up sap faster than formed, and swells when the demand slackens.

British princes and princesses may not marry before the age of 25 without the King's consent. If over 25, they may marry by giving notice twelve months beforehand to the Privy Council, unless Parliament decides against the proposed match. Little boats must keep near the shore.



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