

# INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. SELLERS, Acting Director of the Sunday School Course, the Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.)

LESSON FOR OCTOBER 17.

## ELISHA HEALS NAAMAN THE SYRIAN.

LESSON TEXT—II Kings 5:1-10, 14. GOLDEN TEXT—I am Jehovah that health thee.—Ex. 15:26.

Read carefully the intervening Scripture following last Sunday's lesson to get the account of Elisha's activities. There is recorded the story of the poisoned fountain (2:19-22). The "hoodlum" gang (vv. 23, 24) which is a story for boys. Note: Elisha had nothing to do with the bears, nor does the record say that the bears killed the boys. Next the story of the Widow's oil (4:1-7). Finally, the suggestive stories of the Shunammite woman (vv. 8-37), and the feeding of the prophets and the people (vv. 38-44).

Now we come to Elisha's most famous experience, that with Naaman of Damascus. This city is reputed to be the oldest in the world and is situated about 100 miles (air line) northeast of Samaria. This event probably occurred between 904 and 894 B. C.

**I. A Ministry in the Home, vv. 1-7.** Naaman had all that heart could wish, seemingly. Exalted, rich, a great man, honorable and successful in his undertakings, "but he was a leper." As such he is a type of the sinner. Leprosy begins practically in secret. It is transmissible, may be ameliorated, but cannot be cured by man. In his home was one who knew the Lord, one who observed, who loved as well as served. This maid was a true servant, for she showed her master how to be rid of his malady. For all of his wealth Naaman was not happy. He knew and others would soon know his condition. His wife could not help him, and did not take the maid's message to him. Perhaps she did not rightly value it. But there was co-operation in that household evidently, for "one went in and told his lord" (v. 4). There was also co-operation between the home and the government, for the king of Syria sent a letter to the king of Israel (v. 5). The strength of any nation is in proportion to the strength, unity and loyalty of its homes. It is also in proportion to the care and interest which that government takes in its homes.

**II. A Ministering Prophet (vv. 8-14).** The king of Syria thought he could buy everything, including the desired cure (vv. 5, 6). His letter brought great consternation to Israel's king, probably Jehoram. The value of the gifts presented, perhaps over \$100,000, revealed the urgency of the case. But there was one in Israel who was not disturbed, for he knew more fully the power of Jehovah. Elisha is a type of Christ who offers not only to all lepers but to every unfortunate one "rest" (Matt. 11:28-30). Elisha responded to the need of the nation (v. 8), as well as to the need of Naaman the leper, when he volunteered to become the champion of Jehovah (v. 7).

The prince came, however, filled with a sense of his importance and his pride stood in the way of his relief, hence the manner of Elisha's treatment. Waiting thus before the prophet's door Naaman is a type of the great of this earth who shall yet bow before God's people (Isa. 60:1-3) and before his Son (Phil. 2:10). His human arguments Naaman was right (v. 12) and his rage was justified, but he must learn that as a suppliant he cannot dictate means nor methods. The rich and cultured sinner cannot select his own way of healing, nor be treated any differently than the poor and the ignorant. The river Jordan is a type of the judgment on sin. Sin must be judged by confession (Rom. 10:9, 10). Sin must be renounced before we can be cleansed (I Cor. 11:31; I John 1:9). It was a slow, a patient, a public process through which Naaman must pass, but such had been the development of leprosy in his life. God had judged sin on Calvary (Rom. 8:3; II Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13) and as Naaman went down in the Jordan he took, in figure, the sinner's place, even as Jesus later took that place for us, (Matt. 3:13-15). Though inclined to act the fool, yet Naaman wisely hearkened to his servant (v. 13) and obeyed the command of the prophet.

His cure came because he obeyed Jehovah: (a) He heard of one who could cure (v. 3); (b) he believed (v. 4); (c) he forsook his own thoughts (v. 11); (d) he accepted God's thoughts and methods (vv. 13, 14); (e) he took the sinner's place (vv. 10, 14); (f) he became clean after his obedience (vv. 14, 15).

There is evidence of a great moral effect in the life of Naaman following this experience (vv. 15-19).

He became an open rejector of the heathen gods and a professed follower of Jehovah when he returned to Damascus.

As such he became the ministering prince.

**III. The Ministering Prince, (1)** By public profession (see Rom. 10:9, 10; Matt. 10:32) (2) By a peculiar request which became a great object lesson in Damascus; (3) By a new purpose of heart which would change his future course of action.

## PLOWING STUBBLE FIELDS—BERMUDA GRASS



A Wheat Field in Wyoming.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.) Moisture is one of the most important factors in crop production in the Great Plains area and its conservation a primary object of cultivation. The experience of many successful farmers and experiments conducted by the United States department of agriculture indicate, however, that there is no hard and fast rule for attaining this object. The right time to plow a field of small grain stubble for spring crops is a question of judgment for the man on the ground to decide.

**Conserve Moisture.** Early fall plowing keeps down weeds and therefore conserves the moisture these would otherwise consume. On the other hand, it leaves the ground in a less favorable condition for the winter. Stubble, weeds and uneven ground may be unsightly, but they aid in retaining snow and in checking the blowing of the soil. One great question for the farmer to decide is, therefore, whether a greater amount of water will be accumulated from snow than will be lost through weeds. If the rainfall in August and early September is heavy he will probably decide to conserve it by fall plowing or some other cultivation; if the rainfall at this time is light, he will be inclined to leave the stubble on the field throughout the winter.

**Encourages Weeds.** Another disadvantage in fall plowing is the opportunity afforded weeds to start before the crop in the spring. Plowing in the spring, on the contrary, thoroughly eliminates the weeds, and if done immediately before seeding gives the grain crop a start before the weeds commence to grow. The ideal cultivation would prevent weed growth in the fall, leave the land in such condition that it would retain the maximum snow in the winter and thoroughly destroy small weeds immediately before seeding. Possibly this may be accomplished by disking in the fall and plowing in the spring, or listing in the fall and plowing in the spring may be more practicable. Early fall plowing is effective in that it destroys weeds which use the early fall precipitation, but it does not leave the land in a condition to retain the snow in the winter, and it gives the weeds an opportunity to start before the crop.

**Labor Factor.** The labor factor must, of course, be taken into consideration. In fact, the only advantage in late fall plowing is the saving in the labor required in the spring to prepare the seedbed. Where labor is scarce in the fall, cultivation other than plowing which will kill weeds, and can be done rapidly, may be resorted to. If this cultivation leaves the stubble on the surface, or leaves the surface rough enough to hold the snow, it may be of even greater value than plowing.

**Bermuda Grass.** Bermuda or wire grass is at the same time a valuable forage plant and a serious weed pest, depending upon where it is growing. It is the Doctor Jekyll and Mr. Hyde of the grass family. Bermuda is a perennial plant, spreading rapidly by rootstocks, which send out shoots at frequent intervals, thus forming a close sod. The very qualities, therefore, that make Bermuda such a desirable forage plant also make it a formidable weed.

**Bermuda Grass as a Forage Plant.** As a forage plant, this grass is utilized largely for pasture purposes, although it is cut for hay to some extent. It is resistant to heat, drought and trampling by live stock, but is quite susceptible to frosts. Hence this grass finds its chief field of usefulness in the southern states as far north as Virginia and Kentucky. Propagation is largely by sowing or planting small sections of the rootstocks. These sections or cuttings, about an inch long, are sown broadcast and harrowed in. Some farmers prefer to plant cuttings in shallow furrows about three feet apart, the plants being set about eight inches apart in the furrows. A corn marker or a shovel cultivator may be used for opening the furrows. After the cuttings are dropped they should be covered at once with soil. The covering may be done either with the foot or a hoe. Bermuda is sometimes sown with hairy vetch, lespedeza, or other crops in permanent pastures, thus improving the quality of the pasturage. On Bermuda and vetch pastures the live stock are kept off

for certain periods to permit the vetch plants to mature their seeds and later in the summer to allow the young vetch plants to make a start.

Bermuda grass makes good hay when cut sufficiently early. Its reputation has suffered somewhat by an inferior quality of overripe hay that has been put on the market. Two crops can ordinarily be cut each year. While the yields are small on poor land, a rich, moist soil will produce several tons per acre a year. With both pastures and meadows the sod should be plowed once every few years on account of the tendency of this grass to become sod-bound.

Bermuda is also the common lawn grass in the cotton states. A still further use is for planting on steep land and in gullies to arrest soil erosion, as well as on sand that has a tendency to drift.

**Bermuda Grass as a Weed.** To control Bermuda grass on farm land is a rather difficult matter. Growing another crop, such as cowpeas, soy beans, millet and sorghum has been advocated. This method is successful only under favorable conditions. Where the soil is productive enough to produce a thick stand and vigorous growth of these crops, they may be depended upon practically to rid a field of the pest in several years' time. Most farmers, however, will have to rely upon clean cultivation. This method may be followed either with or without a cultivated crop growing on the land. The best plan usually is to put the land to grass for a year or more, either as pasture or meadow. When the sod has become more or less root-bound it is in a susceptible condition. Plow shallow in midsummer, just deep enough to get under the sod. After that the land should be disked during the rest of the season at intervals frequent enough to prevent top growth. By being thus kept at the surface of the soil during the hot weather of summer the sod soon dries out and dies. The frequent disking, by keeping down the top or green growth, finally narrows out the rootstocks that were not turned by the plow. If the work is thoroughly done, all of the Bermuda will be dead by fall, unless it be a very wet season. It is advisable, however, to put in a cultivated crop the following year to locate and destroy any wire grass plants that may persist.

### When Building the Silo—Remember

That— Good silage can only be secured by having practically airtight silo walls. Silage will keep better in the round silo, as the shape makes possible a more thorough packing. Smooth and perpendicular walls, from top to bottom, prevent air pockets forming which will spoil more or less silage. Silo walls must be strong to resist the pressure of the silage. Durable materials are necessary to resist the decaying action of the weather, and of the silage. The cost of maintenance can be cut down by building the silo of a material that requires little attention. Any silo to be permanent must be fire-proof. The silo wall that will prevent freezing to the greatest extent is the most desirable.—Farm News.

**Water for Chicks.** Chicks need the purest of water. If you have never used a faucet in a lard tub, keg or candy bucket, get one and insert the valve from a gasoline stove or make a gimlet hole in the keg so the water will drip very freely and keep the vessel always overflowing. Five gallons will water a large flock for 48 hours or more. Constant dripping keeps it pure.

**Open-Front Henhouse.** Convert your henhouse into an open-front house, use the south side, and by placing a muslin curtain on a frame, as it can be let down on cold nights, you will have no cases of roup or other diseases.

**Implement Generally Used.** "Sir, we are starting a new railroad and want your daughter to drive the first spike." "I have no doubt she will consider it an honor to officiate." "Thank you. We have provided a small gold spike. Also a silver hammer." "One minute. I don't think she could drive a spike with a hammer. Better provide a hair brush."

### SAVED MINISTER'S LIFE.

Rev. W. H. Warner, Frederick, Md., writes: "My trouble was Sciatica. My back was affected and took the form of Lumbago. I also had Neuralgia, cramps in my muscles, pressure or sharp pain on the top of my head and nervous dizzy spells. I had other symptoms showing that my kidneys were at fault, so I took Dodd's Kidney Pills. They were the means of saving my life."

Dodd's Kidney Pills, 50c per box at your dealer, or Dodd's Medicine Co., Buffalo, N. Y. Dodd's Dyspepsia Tablets for indigestion have been proved, 50c per box. Write for Household Hints, also music of National Anthem (English and German words) and recipes for dainty dishes. All 3 sent free.—Adv.

**Are They Still Friends?** The young women present were discussing their ages. And one of the girls said: "I don't know what it is about my appearance, but everybody always guesses me a lot younger than I really am."

And another of the girls answered, oh, so sweetly: "Oh, that's after they have heard you talk, isn't it, dear?"

**Not Here.** She was looking for an apartment. "It must be in a first class neighborhood," she said, "and it must have ten large rooms, three baths and all modern improvements, and I won't pay a cent over \$40 a month." "I know the very place you're looking for," replied the agent, "but if you want to find out how to get there you'll have to consult a clergyman."

**No Compromise.** "Is Jiggers consistent in his vegetarianism?" "I should say he is." "Why, he won't even eat cabbage, because it is so intimately associated with corned beef."

Most of the old axioms are as misleading as the one to the effect that women suffer in silence.

A man plays golf because he likes to sport. A woman plays golf because it is a proper thing to do.

It may be true that marriage is a failure. But so, for that matter, is remaining unmarried.

It is easy to get around anyone you can manage to see through.

Other people may have good taste, but, of course, yours is a little better.

**The Idea.** "What do you think is the most lucrative way of paving?" "With gold bricks." **Explanation.** "What's an automobile lunch?" "Why, the kind you see put up all ready for a motor trip."

**Logical.** "Do you know, I think Dick acts rather bashful when he's with you?" "Maybe so, but you should see him when we are where no one can see us." And a lot of people would rather believe a lie than the nude truth.

## The Kind You Have Always Bought.

THIS is the caution applied to the public announcement of Castoria that has been manufactured under the supervision of Chas. H. Fletcher for over 30 years—the genuine Castoria. We respectfully call the attention of fathers and mothers when purchasing Castoria to see that the wrapper bears his signature in black. When the wrapper is removed the same signature appears on both sides of the bottle in red. Parents who have used Castoria for their little ones in the past years need no warning against counterfeits and imitations, but our present duty is to call the attention of the younger generation to the great danger of introducing into their families spurious medicines. It is to be regretted that there are people who are now engaged in the nefarious business of putting up and selling all sorts of substitutes, or what should more properly be termed counterfeits, for medicinal preparations not only for adults, but worse yet, for children's medicines. It therefore devolves on the mother to scrutinize closely what she gives her child. Adults can do that for themselves, but the child has to rely on the mother's watchfulness. Genuine Castoria always bears the signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher*

## Don't Persecute Your Bowels

Cut out cathartics and purgatives. They are brutal, harsh, unnecessary. Try **CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS**. Purely vegetable. Act gently on the liver, eliminate bile, and soothe the delicate membrane of the bowel. Cure Constipation, Biliousness, Sick Headache and indigestion, as millions know. **SMALL PILL, SMALL DOSE, SMALL PRICE.**

Genuine must bear Signature *W. D. Wood*

**Too Much for Them.** It was a minstrel performance, and in the intervals between the songs the usual jokes were being perpetrated.

"What am de difference between an old maid and a married woman?" asked Sambo.

"I done give it up," replied Bones. "Why," explained Sambo, "de old maid am lookin' for a husband every day, an' de married woman am lookin' for 'im every night!"

There was a pause, and several elderly gentlemen got up and stole slyly into the night.

**Sure Thing.** "Carrie is a long-headed girl." "How so?" "Instead of trusting to luck at the seaside she got engaged before coming down, and makes her fiance come down to see her once a week."

**The Test.** "I have been chasing a smuggler." "I call that a pursuit of duty."

One of the compensations of life is that a man can't study himself through a microscope.

Instead of waiting for a rich uncle to die go and take lessons of the industrious ant.

There are all kinds of clumps, including the one who has a ship tattooed on his arm.

## SELDOM SEE ABSORBINE

a big knee like this, but your horse may have a bunch or bruise on his ankle, hock, stifle, knee or throat. **ABSORBINE** TRADE MARK REG. U. S. PAT. OFF. will clean it off without laying up the horse. No blister, no hair gone. Concentrated—only a few drops required at an application. \$2 per bottle delivered. Describe your case for special instructions and Book #3 free. **ABSORBINE, JR.**, the antiseptic treatment for mankies, reduces Painful Swellings, Enlarged Glands, Wens, Blisters, Various Venous ulcers, Pain and Inflammation. Price \$1 and \$2 a bottle at druggists or delivered. Made in the U. S. A. by *W. F. YOUNG, P. O. F., 310 Temple St., Springfield, Mass.*

W. N. U., LINCOLN, NO. 42-1915.

## EVIDENTLY NOT AN ARTIST

Judging From Comment, Bilkins Had a Good Deal to Learn About Photography.

Young Bilkins is an enthusiastic devotee of amateur photography. He always insists upon "taking" his family and friends posed in more or less artistic attitudes.

Not long ago there was an exhibition of the work of a local photographic club to which the young fellow belongs, and where were displayed the results of certain of his efforts to immortalize his family and friends. In one corner hung a group of figures twisted into the most extraordinary positions, the general effect being that of persons in various stages of paralysis.

"Who in the world are those queer-looking people?" asked someone. "Oh, those are some of Bilkins' strained relations," said a bystander.

**Paw Still on the Job.** Little Lemuel—What's a book-worm, paw?

Paw—It's a worm that would rather digest a book by eating it than by reading it.

A woman often looks as well as the display in a shop window. But a man never does.

The acid test for a woman is the way she looks when she is forty.

## Surgeon General Rupert Blue of the U. S. Public Health Service Says:

"I WANT TO WARN YOU AGAINST THE CRAZE PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY HAVE FOR WHITE FLOUR. THE WHITEST FLOUR IS NOT THE BEST; IT IS NOT THE PUREST; IT IS ONLY THE DEAREST, AND WHEN YOU BUY IT YOU BUY LOOKS AND NOT NOURISHMENT. IN ORDER TO MAKE IT WHITE, SOME OF THE MOST NOURISHING AND ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF THE NATURAL WHEAT HAVE BEEN TAKEN AWAY."

These "nourishing and essential components" are the priceless mineral phosphates of the grain, known as the "tissue salts," indispensable for perfect health of body, brain and nerves.

Everywhere food scientists and physicians are sounding a like note of warning, for a host of ills is following the pernicious practice of casting out these elements in the milling process, and that, simply to make the flour look white and pretty. Neurasthenia, anemia, Bright's disease, constipation, rickets, and a lowered resistance against disease in general, are some of these ills.

More and more thinking people are waking up to this evil. There's a way out.

## Grape-Nuts FOOD

made of whole wheat and barley, retains all the nutriment of the grains and those "essential components"—the mineral elements. This splendid food was devised years ago to supply this very lack in ordinary food and fortify the system against the onslaughts of disease. It does it wonderfully well.

Grape-Nuts comes ready to eat, convenient, economical and nourishing, and has become a household word in thousands of homes for its sterling food values and delicious flavor.

"There's a Reason" for Grape-Nuts

—sold by Grocers everywhere.