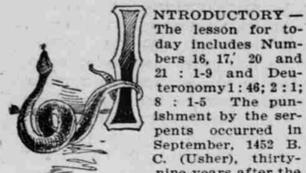


THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

LESSON VI—AUG. 11—"THE BRAZEN SERPENT."

Golden Text: "As Moses Lifted Up the Serpent in the Wilderness, Even So Must the Son of Man Be Lifted Up"—John 3:14.



INTRODUCTORY—The lesson for today includes Numbers 16, 17, 20 and 21: 1-9 and Deuteronomy 1:46; 2:1; 8:1-5. The punishment by the serpents occurred in September, 1483 B. C. (Usher), thirty-nine years after the exodus. The serpents attacked the people in the southern part of the Valley of Arabah, which extends from the Dead Sea to the head of the Gulf of Akabah, otherwise known as the eastern branch of the Red Sea. In our last lesson we left the Israelites at Kadesh Barnea, within forty miles of Beersheba, the first large place in Southern Palestine. Here they remained thirty-eight years, the long time of Deuteronomy 1-46. They arrived at Kadesh about a year and three months after the exodus, and left it nine months before taking the land of Canaan. These years Kadesh was their place of rendezvous. From time to time they changed their localities, but never gave up hope of the fulfillment of God's promise. At this time they numbered 2,000,000 souls and their camp extended over a large territory about Kadesh. Like the Bedouins of all ages, the different tribes kept shifting about within caravan travel of Kadesh. Some of the wanderings are given in Numbers 33: 19-35, extending as far south as Ezion Geber on the eastern arm of the Red Sea (1 Kings 9: 26).

The chief events of this epoch are as follows: 1. Korah's rebellion. 2. The budding of Aaron's rod (proving him a divinely chosen high priest). 3. The death of Miriam (sister of Moses). 4. Water from the rock at Meribah and the sin of Moses that kept him from entering the promised land (20:1-13). 5. The death of Aaron at Mount Hor (20:23-29).



BIT OF THE RED SEA.

The reason for the long delay is given by Moses in Deuteronomy 8:12. "I, 4. "And they (Numbers 20:22; 23:4) journeyed from Mount Hor by the way of the Red Sea (to the Red Sea) to compass the land of Edom (Judges 11:15); and the soul of the people was much discouraged on account of the way." At last they lost faith in God.

5. "And the people spake against God (Psalms 78:19) and against Moses (Ex. 16:3; 17:3). Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no bread, neither is there any water, and our soul (Numbers 11:6) loatheth this light bread."

6. "And (1 Cor. 10:9) the Lord sent (Deut. 8:15) fiery serpents (so called from the inflammatory nature of their bites) among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died." 7. "Therefore (Psalms 78:54) they came to Moses, and said, 'We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord, and against thee; pray unto the Lord (Ex. 8:28), that he may take the serpents away from us.' And Moses prayed for the people."

8. "And the Lord said unto Moses, 'Make thee a fiery serpent of brass (of copper or bronze); put it upon a pole (set it upon a standard); and it came to pass; and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he (seeth it) looketh upon it, shall live.' Thus God was to restore their faith."

9. "And (2 Kings 18:4) Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole; and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld (looked unto) the serpent of brass, he lived." And thus by means of a miracle the faith of the Israelites was again restored. Had the means of cure been a mere natural remedy (so called) the people would have believed in it and not in God. The serpent is now often used as a symbol of Christian faith.

Water and food was also supplied by aid of miracles.

It is doubtful if the serpents spoken of as poisonous were the real serpents. Lange says: "The true, peculiar, pernicious, fiery serpent were their murmuring disposition and complaints against Jehovah." Sin is like a fiery serpent, often beautiful in appearance and secret in its approach. But the effects are pains that only fire can express. It infects the whole system. It inflames every evil passion with its venom. It is incurable by man alone. If permitted to go on it ends in death, mortal and spiritual. Compare the old serpent, the devil, the tempter and destroyer of men.

TRUTH CONDENSED.

Isn't it strange that the man who can drink or let it alone never does? If angels had to live with some men, there would be more fallen ones. Do as much good as you can, and God will see to it that you do enough. In nine cases out of ten the man who has riches paid too much for them.

The first step toward heaven is taken when the heart says good-by to sin. When Adam left Eden, an angel went before him, whose name was Hope.

Many a prayer for a revival has failed because the preacher didn't want it.

The devil has to keep busy to hold his own in the home of a praying mother.

Give a lie one day the start, and truth will have to chase it around the world.

VIVISECTION.

How It is Done in Boston—Post-Mortems of Animals.

By means of partitions two rooms—one in Newton and one in Athol—were made as much alike as possible, both as to shape and cubic space. Each room had a capacity of about 700 cubic feet, which was somewhat larger than a room in Middleton in which a fatal case of poisoning from water-gas actually occurred. Three dogs, two cats and two rabbits, all apparently healthy and strong, were placed in the room in Athol, and the water-gas in use there, containing about 30 per cent. of carbonic oxide, was allowed to flow in from a single ordinary burner, at the rate of six feet per hour. The experiment began at 11:15 a. m., and at 11:45 p. m. vomiting, delirium, convulsions, etc., had already been noted. Half an hour later all the animals were unconscious, or apparently so, failing to respond to vigorous knocks and calls. At 2:30 p. m., or about three hours from the start, the two cats were dead, and the other animals were prone and quite unconscious. The dogs died at 3, 4, and 6:30 o'clock respectively—the rabbits all at 6:30. In a word, symptoms of poisoning were well developed in an hour and a half. Deaths began to occur in a little more than three hours, and all were dead within eight hours. This experiment was witnessed by members of your board.

In the corresponding experiment at Newton, made with coal gas containing about 1 per cent. of carbonic oxide two dogs, two cats, two rabbits and two pigeons were placed in the room, and the gas was introduced from an ordinary burner, as before, and at the same rate—6 feet per hour. The experiment began at a. m., and for three and one-half hours no symptoms of consequence were observed, and then only drowsiness and general anxiety, with salivation in one case. At 4 p. m.—i. e., after eight hours—nothing more than a gradual exaggeration of these symptoms had occurred. A recovery would, apparently, still have been possible, and even easy, at this time.

After twenty-four hours, i. e., at 8 a. m. of the next day, one cat and one rabbit were dead, but the others were not even unconscious, being still responsive to knocks and calls.

The professors also experimented on themselves to a slight extent in a similar manner. Continuing, Prof. Sedgwick said:

"We conclude that the effect will be the same, in kind, on human beings as on the animals experimented with—that is, as regards the gas investigation. We have no painful vivisections here unless some important investigation is to be made. Our vivisections are made while the animals are under the influence of anaesthetics—chloroform generally, rarely morphia. The animals used for the purpose are mostly frogs, rarely dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs and pigeons, called higher animals. Nearly every day we have painless vivisection for teaching purposes.

"This morning a graduate from a Western college set to work to study the physiology of the heart. He took several frogs, chloroformed them, cut off their heads, then exposed the hearts, and studied their movements. In these lower animals the heart does not cease beating for hours, and in some cases, days after the head is severed, but in case of all animals higher than reptiles the heart stops almost immediately on decapitation. In many cases of vivisection the spinal cord is also destroyed, which prevents any nerve feeling. No painful experiment should be made to enforce on students facts already known. I should not stop at pain of lower animals, that is, reptiles, etc., if by vivisection or dissection human lives can be saved or human suffering relieved, or if there is a reasonable hope of doing it. I think there is great misunderstanding in regard to painful and painless vivisection. The latter is as painless as dissection after death. Dogs and rabbits are used more especially to learn of blood pressure, and for the study of heart movements, respiration, etc. Rabbits are usually given hydrate of chloral and dogs morphia. I have given a dog enough morphia to kill twenty men. He was made perfectly unconscious, but still lived.

"People get the idea that we take dogs in here, tie them down and carve them while they are howling with pain. No such thing is done, as it would defeat the objects wished to be attained, for they would not be in a normal condition. In most experiments it is absolutely necessary to have the animals under operation perfectly quiet, as regards pulse, etc. Therefore we must give them an anaesthetic the effect of which we well know. For the purpose of gaining an idea of the normal heart, blood vessels and mechanics of the circulation of the blood, we have an apparatus called the kymograph, consisting of a long roll of white paper, made to travel between cylinders by clock work, and with the greatest regularity. On this paper tracings are made with a pen in connection with a monometer, and this is connected directly with the artery of the animal, which must be entirely unconscious, firmly secured by a holder near by, strapped to a board. The heart can be viewed in the artery to push, and a blue line is made on the paper, which can be measured and studied. Important results in regard to the effect of different drugs upon the heart and blood vessels are thus obtained, and this without pain to the animals, as they are always put to death without being allowed to recover consciousness."

Sam Jones' Specimen of a Mean Man.

I knew a fellow in Georgia who had been married ten years. His wife one morning suggested that that was her birthday, and he said to himself, 'I've got a good wife; she has been kind, self-sacrificing and true in all respects; I must buy her a present.' So he went down town that day and walked into a store and bought himself a new hat, consoled himself that nothing would more please a good wife than to make her husband a present of a new hat. It's the meanest man I ever saw, as old as the city.

THE FALL OF PRICES.

WHAT ARE THE TRUE FIGURES IN THE PROBLEM?

Champions of Gold Standard Accused of Using False Averages—How Mathematical Accuracy Requires Computation to Be Made.

D. O. Mason in Chicago Daily Record: In part the issue between those who favor the free coinage of silver, of bimetallicism, and those who oppose such coinage is a question which involves the extent of the fall of prices since the year 1873. The silverites aver that the decline in the prices of commodities in general exhibits a signal proportion to the decline in the price of silver bullion, the downward movement of the latter being responsible for the downward movement of the former. To support this view various evidences are set forth; for instance, that silver bullion has had during its shrinkage of valuation in the world's markets a certain steadiness of purchasing power in exchange for staple articles, while the purchasing power of gold has correspondingly advanced. This position is rejected by the goldites, who resort to elaborate statistical tables of prices for proof that the contention of their opponents is untrue, and seem to show by the quoted figures, that the fall of prices from 1860 to 1892, covering 232 different commodities, was only about 8 per cent on the average, so that the decline from 1873 was from a heavy advance in prices above what they were in 1860, and not from a legitimate starting point.

Now there is an insuperable objection to the use of these tabulations of average prices. They are not actual prices, but only theoretic prices, and they bear the same sort of relation to actual prices which sophistry bears to legitimate argument. In brief, they are prices obtained by violating a rule of arithmetic, yet they are paraded as having all the facilities and inclinations of mathematical accuracy and certainty, while really involving an increase of blunder at every advancing step of their spurious computation or of their complication with other prices. If, for example, a fundamental error of arithmetical calculation is committed in obtaining the average price of any individual commodity for one day, how much augmented and aggravated must the error become when the calculation is extended over a week, a month, or a year, and how utterly unreliable, and even worthless, must such average price become when wrought into combination with 231 other average prices, each arrived at through the same vicious and misleading process directly violating arithmetical requirements.

In order to compute an average price arithmetic demands the division of aggregate cost by aggregate quantity; or, to express the rule differently, there must be obtained first of all the total of the quantities sold of any commodity, or of an assortment of commodities, sum of values realized at the various prices, whereupon the sum is to be divided by the total, and the quotient is the average price. But within the last half century there has come into vogue a bastard system of calculating average prices—a method which probably had its origin in the frequent impossibility of procuring the quantities and the values indispensable to arithmetical accuracy. By this illegitimate process the proper and essential data are entirely, arbitrarily, recklessly ignored, and so-called average prices are computed by adding together the different prices and dividing by their numbers—a departure from fact and truth which is without an atom of reason or justification, because it invariably leads to error continually, in every direction whither it proceeds, and accumulates error upon error until a jumble of absurdities and inconsequentialities has been put in mathematical form with the superficial appearance of unassailable strength, yet worthless for any purpose of argument except to demonstrate its falsity and utter unreliability.

Let me here illustrate the wide difference in result between the genuine method and the spurious method of computing average prices: Ten barrels of flour at \$3.75 each and one barrel at \$6.50 would amount to \$44; dividing this sum by eleven, which is the total of quantities, we have \$4 as the average price. Or, on reversing the terms of the problem, one barrel of flour at \$3.75 and ten barrels at \$6.50 each would amount to \$68.75; and, as before, dividing by 11, we obtain \$6.25 as the average. This is the arithmetical method—the sound process; it will endure every test of accuracy to which it can be subjected. But the bastard method arrives at exactly the same answer in both of these problems. According to that method the two prices—\$3.75 and \$6.50—are added, making the sum of \$10.25 in each case; and on division by two, which is the number of different prices, we get \$5.12½ as the average price—a bastard average which is \$1.12½ above the fact in one instance, and \$1.12½ below the fact in the other instance. At the rate above the fact the eleven barrels would have cost \$56.37½ an error of \$12.37½—a little more than 28 per cent wrong. At the rate below the fact the eleven barrels would have cost precisely the same as before, with the same amount of error, but now too little. Save as curiosities of mad arithmetical computation, what practical use can such trash of statistics be to anybody? To palm them off upon the public as genuine prices and as staple material for argument is seeking to obtain the people's convictions under false pretenses.

The illustrations above given of getting average prices by sound rule and by violation of sound rule are supposed cases. Let us now apply these opposite methods to actual experience. Below are the quantity and value of flour

exported from the United States in each fiscal year named, to which is added the average price a barrel, the fraction of a cent being extended to three decimal places for the sake of great exactness:

Years ending	Barrels.	Invoice values.	Av. per barrel.
1862	4,882,033	\$27,534,295	\$5.63990
1863	4,390,055	28,366,069	6.46144
1864	3,557,347	25,588,249	7.13130
1865	2,804,542	27,222,031	10.45175
1866	2,183,050	18,396,686	8.42706
1867	1,300,106	12,807,775	9.84825
1868	2,076,423	20,887,798	10.05950
1869	2,431,373	18,813,865	7.73637
1870	3,463,333	21,169,593	6.11249
1871	3,653,841	24,093,184	6.59393
1872	2,514,535	17,958,684	7.14076
1873	2,562,086	19,381,664	7.56480
1874	4,094,094	29,258,094	7.14641
Totals	39,713,318	\$291,470,987	\$7.33938

These are average prices which are genuine and reliable. They are so near to absolute correctness that on multiplying the grand total of 39,713,318 barrels by \$7.33938, the general average price, the product will be found to be only \$143.76 in excess of the fact, and a trivial error, which might be greatly reduced, or altogether avoided, by sufficiently extending the decimal places representing the fraction of a cent in the price.

How different, however, will be the result of computing average price by the method which violates arithmetical rule. In that case the sum of the annual average prices is \$100,375.76, which, on being divided by 13, the number of different prices, yields an average of \$7,721.23 per barrel, or \$9,381,823 in excess of the real average. This error, applied to the grand total of 39,713,318 barrels, amounts to \$15,163,972.41, being a departure of a trifle over 5 per cent from the fact. And if an error to that extent can be committed in falsely computing the average price of a single commodity, who can truthfully say that a like error will not be committed many scores of times in computing the average prices of several hundred commodities? When, therefore, it is asserted that the general average price per year of 232 different articles, measured in their rise or fall in price by an index number, that the decline between the year 1860 and 1892 was only about 8 per cent, what reliance can be safely placed on the conclusion, and what possible worth is it as evidence that the silverites are wrong in their contention?

The long array of prices supporting the conclusion bears on its own face testimony to its own unreliability. Where is to be found the record of quantities sold and of values obtained therefore, covering several hundred commodities throughout more than thirty years, and furnishing such a divisor and such a dividend as would comply with arithmetical rule in ascertaining average prices? Who can point out such a record? Nobody, for the record does not exist and never has existed in a shape to be available for the purpose named. Only one resort has been open to use—the spurious and worthless method of adding prices together and dividing by their number.

It is no defense of such prices to say that they are published under the authority of the United States, and are embodied in a report made by the finance committee of the United States senate. Arithmetical rule is not to be nullified by the pressure of mere authority, no matter how high and powerful. The government, in preparing statistics for public information and use, is as much bound to obey the rules of arithmetic as any private individual. When government refuses such obedience, its departure from mathematical accuracy has no more binding force, and deserves no more respect, than the same blunder committed by one of its most ignorant citizens. Whoever employs these bastard prices in argument, giving them the position and significance of general prices, serves under the banner of error and contributes to the exaltation of sophistry.

A still greater entanglement in error takes place when, to strengthen the case against the friends of bimetallicism, the false average prices are reduced to equivalent gold value; for such reduction must be preceded by the ascertainment of the average price of gold—an unattainable end. Not even for one day, much less for a week, a month or a year, can the average price of gold be obtained, simply because no record was kept of the data essential to the purpose from Jan. 13, 1862, until the close of December, 1878—the period of almost seventeen years during which gold was at a premium. It would be necessary to have the total quantities of gold sold within any chosen term and the whole sum paid for these quantities before the divisor and the dividend would be supplied, as demanded by the arithmetical rule. In the absence of these indispensable data, the only substitute is the false method of adding together the different prices of gold and dividing by their number. That additional violation of arithmetical rule augments and complicates the blunder.

It is stated in the Buffalo Express that Nikola Tesla has perfected a means of conducting the electric current through a fluid in a tube, by which he claims that electricity can be transmitted from Niagara Falls to New Orleans and successfully compete with steam at the latter place. The fluid he uses in the tubes costs scarcely more than water, and loses so little electricity in transit that the cost of transmission is little more than interest on the cost of putting up the poles.

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When He's Dead and Gone. A Topeka man has arranged to have a St. Joseph newspaper thrown into his mausoleum every morning after he is dead. He evidently expects a light punishment and wants to give the devil his due.

The river Rhine flows at three times the rate of the Thames.

gold value, as published in tabulations by the bureau—a mode of statement which has led many honest minds to erroneous conclusions. Now we have the voluminous report of the finance committee of the United States senate tainted with the same violation of arithmetical rule. What has brought into such persistent vogue a practice so inexcusable, when it is considered that every graduate of our public schools is taught the rule which governs the case, and should be armed with information to detect at once the violation of the rule?

DECIDEDLY MEAN

The Decision of a Denver Judge on a So-Called Disturbance Case.

A Salvation Army captain has been arrested and sentenced to thirty days in jail in Denver, Col., for "disturbing the peace," but really for holding outdoor meetings of the familiar noisy sort. This captain is a woman, Blanche Cox, and she is said to be refined and educated, and to have offended no more seriously against the peace and quiet of the good people of Denver than Salvation Army meetings are apt to. There may be circumstances that afford some justification for this performance of the Denver authorities, but it looks from this distance as though they had been guilty of a bit of mean intolerance, of which their city ought to be thoroughly ashamed. The Salvation Army is a noisy institution, and their noise is an annoyance, and at times a nuisance, but it can be easily borne if the spirit and purpose behind it and the great good accomplished by that organization be kept in mind.—Exchange.

Peasant Costumes for Fairs.

Suitable costumes for the waitresses at an international fair to be held in a church would be the peasant costumes of the various nations. The most picturesque of the French peasant costumes is the Normandy, which consists of a gray woolen skirt, worn ankle length, a black overskirt turned back, washwoman fashion, a black velvet bodice with a white muslin chemisette and short puffed sleeves. The cap should be of the kind known as Normandy. The Italian costume is a bright-colored skirt, with a long white lace or drawn-work apron. A Roman silk scarf should be knotted about the waist. A black velvet bodice and a muslin chemisette and long very full sleeves with a little Italian cap complete the costume. The Italian cap is a long and narrow strip of linen which is placed lengthwise over the forehead with the corners turned back. The Dutch peasant wears a skirt of rough cloth with a long apron made with a square bib, a chemisette and sleeves similar to the French costume and a cap of stiff white linen shaped like a halo and worn with gold ear-rings. The Russian costume has a long skirt, over which is worn a heavily-embroidered long apron, the usual bodice, long sleeves and a cap, cone-shaped, with a veil hanging from the end.

A Courageous Widow.

Amos Storey was one of the early settlers of Vermont. He plunged into the wilderness and started to clear land to which he was entitled by being the first settler. One day he was killed by the falling of a tree. His wife, who was still in Connecticut, hearing of the disaster, resolved to take his place and clear the farm herself, though she had ten small children. Years of toil, danger and hardship followed, but she actually carried out this remarkable determination. Before the sharp edge of her ax, acre after acre of forest gave place to fertile field. With her own hand the logs and bushes were burned and fruits and crops planted and raised. Fish were lured from their retreats by her angling and game was supplied by her unerring rifle. In order to have a safe retreat from Indians and wild beasts she dug out an underground room with a small entrance in a thicket, where she nightly retreated with her children. Unassisted she thus supported herself and children until they were old enough to help, and found themselves the possessors of a large and valuable farm.

Trees That Are Trees.

George S. Courter, a well-known resident of North Yakima, returned to Tacoma last evening from a trip to Neah Bay and Clallam county, says Tacoma News. In speaking of the Neah Bay country Mr. Courter stated that the timber which he saw there is sure to make its owners wealthy. He measured several large spruce trees of unusual size. One of these measured thirty-six feet in circumference at its base and another which had fallen was 216 feet long to a point where it had been broken in two by a fall, and at this point it was fifteen feet in circumference.

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The river Rhine flows at three times the rate of the Thames.

Laugh and Grow Fat.
You shall do both, even if you are a slabsided, pallid, woe-begone dyspeptic. If you reinforce digestion, insure the conversion of food into rich and nourishing blood, and recover appetite and sleep by the systematic strength and flesh, Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, which also remedies malarial, kidney and rheumatic troubles, nervousness, constipation and biliousness.

A Crucial Test.

"You say you can select a set of chorus girls by mail? Get out!"
"Oh, it is easy enough. If she says her opinion on one subject, I know that it is improper to wear knickerbockers on the bicycle, I know that she is not intended by nature for chorus exhibition."—Indianapolis Journal.

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The best known combination to build up weak people. **PILL ANEMIC (Mercer's)** Sold by Richardson Drug Co. and E. E. Bruce & Co., Omaha, Neb., and all druggists.

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