

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

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

LESSON FOR MAY 30

BRINGS ARK TO JERUSALEM.

LESSON TEXT—II Samuel 6:12-19 and Psalm 24. (Study all of chapter 6.)
GOLDEN TEXT—I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go unto the house of the Lord.—Psalm 122:1.

This event probably occurred B. C. 1042, in the twenty-second year of David's reign. It would be a good plan to assign to various pupils such subjects as: (a) What the ark was and how it came to be lost; (b) Where it had been since the days of Joshua; (c) What occurred to it while in possession of the Philistines; (d) Who was Obed-edom? (e) Uzziah? (f) Michal? (g) How Jerusalem came to be the seat of government.

I. The Ark Recovered, vv. 1-5. David realized that while God was the God of all the tribes, still there was no visible religious center; there was the consequent danger of confounding the local place of worship with that of some local Baal (god) and the possible breaking up of the national reliance upon Jehovah. Where Kirjath-jearim was is not definitely known, but perhaps it was eight or ten miles west of Jerusalem. The ark had lodged here for perhaps seventy years. David and they that were with him followed the example of the Philistines (I Sam. 6:1-18) in their mode of transferring the ark rather than to have it carried upon the shoulders of the priests (Josh. 3:3). Preceded by "David and the house of Israel," i. e., leaders of the people and all others present, they began the return journey from the house of Abinadab.

II. The Ark Retarded, vv. 6-11. They had reached one of the open places used as a threshing floor when the oxen slipped and the cart was shaken. Uzziah, one of the two into whose charge it had been placed, laid hold of the ark to keep it from falling. Why was he slain therefore? We have already suggested the reason. How to carry the ark was plainly written (Num. 4:5-12; 7:9). Neglect of God's word gets many well-meaning people into trouble, along with their friends, also. The ark was the symbol of God's presence, and men had to be taught to revere his holy name and his glorious presence (see last clause v. 2). Uzziah's sin was the sin of irreverence. He seems not to have sensed the invisible God in his visible abode. The result struck terror into the heart of David and the people, and the ark was left in the house of Obed of Edom for a period of three months. David's "improved plan" was a proved failure.

III. The Ark Restored, vv. 9-19. David, by thus abandoning the ark, seems to have rendered the judgment of God, yet he must have realized that God had sufficient cause for his acts. The ark is a type of Christ, who is Immanuel, God with us. The ark contained the law of God, as Christ enshrined the will of his Father. Over the law was the blood-sprinkled mercy seat where God met his people (Ex. 25:18-22). In Christ we find our mercy seat where we meet God. Through this ark brought judgment to Uzziah it brought blessing to Obed-edom (v. 12). Even so Christ brings judgment or joy according to our treatment of him. Obed-edom so piously cared for the ark that both he and his household were richly blessed. If Christ is really in our hearts we will be blessed, and Christ abideth forever.

IV. The Psalm of Praise, Ps. 24. In the Jewish synagogue this psalm is recited at the carrying back of the book of the law to its shrine, and in the Greek church at the consecration of the church. The twenty-second psalm presents the suffering Savior; the twenty-third presents the risen Savior as the shepherd caring for and leading his sheep, and the twenty-fourth tells of the reigning, glorified Lord. The whole earth is Jehovah's (v. 1) and no incident better teaches the converse, viz., that he is God of the earth and not a mere tribal deity. He "founded" and "established" it, and all "the fullness," and "they that dwell therein" are his by creative and redemptive right. Since we belong to him we owe him worship and service—and a servant is one who "stands" v. 3. The conditions of fellowship with Jehovah are "clean hands and a pure heart" (v. 4), those who deal with honesty and reverence. "Vanity" and "idolatry" are frequently synonymous terms.

The first and the fourth condition relate to others, the second and the third to one's inner life (see I John 1:6, 7).

The reward of acceptable worship and service is "blessing from the Lord" (v. 5). In verse eight we find Israel's great name for God first used in the Psalms.

He is gloriously strong, this Lord of the hosts of heaven.

In I Cor. 2:8, Jesus who was crucified is called the "Lord of Glory." Even so our coming King is "strong and Mighty" and will prove himself "mighty in battle" (see Rev. 19:21).

When he, the King of Glory, leads captivity captive all of his followers will have a part in that triumphal entry.

FACTS ABOUT SUDAN GRASS

One Remarkable Thing is That Nobody is Knocking It—Excels As Drought-Resisting Crop.

There is one remarkable thing about Sudan grass; nobody is knocking it. When feterita appeared the hammer were immediately taken up, and that really splendid grain crop for this soil and dry years had to battle its way to the front, which it did in magnificent shape. Sudan grass and feterita are really companion crops; the one for hay and the other for grain. They are both easily more drought-resistant than any of the previously known sorghums.

A conservative estimate of Sudan grass is that it is decidedly higher in feeding value to cane hay, while at the same time possessing the advantage of being finer and easier handled. At least two crops can be cut in an average year. It stools more prolifically than any other crop, and consequently less feed is required. Its feeding value is superior to prairie hay, timothy or any of the known sorghums, but not equal to alfalfa. It can be made to serve as a pasture crop, with good results. Its ability to make a good crop under conditions which no other crop except possibly feterita can withstand should not be overlooked. Apparently there is only one caution to be exercised in taking hold of Sudan grass, and that is to look out for Johnson grass, which is very similar in appearance, and which is a pest except where it freezes out.

DRY FARMING HERE TO STAY

Many Farmers Have Proved That It is a Success—Thousands of Acres of Land Still Available.

Dry farming has come to stay. Many farmers have proved that it is a success. Some have failed. It is true, but their failure has been due to one of two causes—either the land was poorly adapted to dry farming, or improper methods of farming were practiced.

There is considerable land in the semiarid regions that is not good dry farm land, and probably never can be successfully dry farmed. But on the other hand, there are thousands of acres of splendid land yet available which are capable of producing profitable crops under scientific dry farm methods.

It is of the utmost importance, however, to follow out these methods most carefully. Often a fence, or only a division line, separates the man who is dry farming at a profit from the man who is losing money. If you will study the difference carefully you will find that one is more thorough than the other in his operations. He plows deep and at the right time, he keeps down weeds, maintains a mulch to conserve moisture and selects good, clean seed of the right kind.

DEEP PLOWING IS ESSENTIAL

Many Farmers Do Not Understand Necessity of Preparing Good Seed Bed—Packer is Needed.

Deep plowing is essential in all dry-farming countries. The use of the subsurface packer or some other implement that will pack the furrow slice firmly down against the subsoil again, also is necessary. Too many farmers do not understand the necessity of preparing a perfect seed bed. They are inclined to plow and harrow the ground with the single purpose in view of getting loose dirt to cover the seed. This is a mistake, for loose dirt is only an incident in the preparation of a seed bed and may have but little relation to moisture conservation which is, after all, the essential thing in all semiarid countries.

PIT SILO MOST ECONOMICAL

Any Man Can Build One, as It Requires Little Skill—Saves Crop During Droughty Year.

The pit silo is the cheapest and best silo you can build. A good pit silo may be built for an actual outlay of cash for material not to exceed thirty dollars. Any man can build one, as it requires little skill; no high priced machinery is necessary for filling; it can't fall down; there is no upkeep and the ensilage can't freeze. The silo will save your crop during a droughty year and give a feed carrying all the value of the green fodder. If you build a silo and feed one winter from it, you will wonder how you ever farmed without one.

EXCELLENT DRY FARM CROP

Kafir is Essentially Drought-Resisting Plant—Corn Silage is Superior for Milk.

Kafir is essentially a drought-resisting crop and it is not proper to compare it with corn in those sections in which corn does best. Where the rainfall is sufficient to grow good crops of corn it probably will not prove profitable to raise kafir for silage. Under proper conditions of moisture corn will yield more fodder to the acre, and corn silage is somewhat superior to kafir silage for milk production.

Treatment for Ailing Hen. If a hen lays many small eggs she has inflammation of the oviduct; if many double ones, she is more than likely to have been fed too heavily on corn or some food twice as stimulating. Give both plenty of green stuff and a drop of aconite, evening and morning.

An All-Season Street Suit



Admirers of the shepherd's check in cloths for tailored suits—and these are many—were given a very great variety in models this spring to choose from. Those suits for which small checks were chosen, cut on simple, but carefully thought out lines, proved to be the most successful. A great many of them were made with short-waisted box coats. A less number had short jackets, and some of the smartest were designs in which semifitting coats figured. Skirts were nearly always plain, moderately wide and somewhat flaring. The advance of the season proved that the suits of shepherd's check received a merited appreciation. The pretty spring suit becomes the crisp midsummer suit by a variation of the shoes and hats worn with it, and is a paying investment for street wear.

One of them is illustrated here. The perfectly tailored skirt is plain with moderate flare and cut instep length.

The jacket is among the modest number made with normal waist line, which rises a little at the back, where plaits are depended from the belt. It is cut in points at the front, is longer than at the back and is shaped by small plaits laid in at each side. The belt terminates at these plaits.

The shoulders are somewhat long and so are the plain coat sleeves. The flaring turnover collar is cut in three pieces and unusually well adjusted. Half buttons in three sizes are used for fastening and trimming.

The suit is worn with low shoes and black cloth gaiters, to be changed to white for midsummer wear. The sailor hat, of black taffeta, with collar and border in black and white stripe, is trimmed with small pompons of black feathers with long curving ribs extending from them. White neck ruffs of malines or combinations of white and black look well with these check suits.

Transparent Hats and Others for Midsummer



Early in the season hats having transparent brims made their appearance. These brims were flat and mounted on broad crowns. They were made of malines, net, chiffon or thin crepe. Nearly always, embedded between layers of such airy materials, flowers, with petals spread flat, added touches of lovely color. The effect is very pretty—and gave the hats their distinguishing name—that of "halo" hats—the embedded wreaths encircling the head like a halo.

So good an item of art in millinery was destined to outlast the early season and to introduce many transparent hats for midsummer. The latter are made, crown and all, of the thin fabrics, and brims have grown wider. Flower and feather trimmings—but mostly flowers—are mounted on the outside or underbrim instead of being embedded in the material.

A beautiful hat of this character is shown in the picture. It is of black malines made over a frame of fine silk wire. The edge wire and one other are outlined on the underbrim by flitter jet. There is an immense pompon of malines at the front with two long jet ornaments thrust in it. Nothing could be prettier for midsummer wear than this exquisite piece of millinery.

Hemp and leghorn hats, with facings of crepe on the upper or under brims are among the loveliest offerings in dress hats. Light pink crepe is the favorite color and hats of this character are among the best designed for bridesmaids at June weddings. One of them is shown in the illustration. It has a crown of hemp and its upper brim covered with crepe stretched smoothly over it, leaving the hemp as a facing. It is trimmed

with a wreath of rose foliage against a background of ribbon with a narrow border in black. Little June roses are set in the wreath. The ribbon band is extended into sash ends at the back. Near the brim a little cluster of roses is tied into the sash with a bow. The coloring is pale pink with the narrow black border of the ribbon and dark, natural green of the foliage adding depth and character. The roses are shaded and deeper in tone than the body of the hat.

JULIA BOTTOMLEY.

Smart Costume.

One of the smartest costumes for young women, exhibited on a living model at a recent opening, was of very pale tan worsted and mohair mixture, made with short, flare skirt, revealing the new slim black leather pump, guiltless of buckle or bow, and stockings of natural silk. A little coat, buttoning high to the throat, was surmounted by a very tall choker collar of white organdie with points reaching up over the cheeks and a broad stock of black satin holding it in place. The coat had a belt and a plaited coattail at the back. This knowing spring costume was completed by a tiny black satin hat with slashed sailor brim and a floating veil of black mesh with an all-over violet pattern.

Dotted Chiffon Gown.

Chiffon figured in large polka dots of contrasting color is used for some very smart looking frocks, but models of such pronounced material must be very graceful and conservative of line, and utterly without elaboration. A good example of such treatment is a frock of sand color chiffon polka dotted largely in dark blue.

WESTERN CANADA SEEDING FINISHED

Wheat and Other Grains Have Had an Excellent Start.

The seeding of spring wheat was pretty general this spring about 7th of April or about as early as in Illinois and Iowa. Oats and barley followed. Information is to hand that on first of May all seeding was practically finished. Farmers will now be busy at their breaking, and the land for summer fallow will be entered upon. Some who did not get their land prepared last fall, will be later than the others, but as the spring in Western Canada has been very open they will be only a few days later. At the time of writing rain would be welcome, but at seeding time, the ground contained a splendid lot of moisture and the lack of rain at the present time will not be serious. The number of farmers who have gone into the raising of cattle has been considerably increased, and the preparation for extensive cultivated grass pastures is in evidence everywhere. The cultivation of fodder corn is being largely entered upon in Manitoba there being upwards of 25,000 acres in corn. In Saskatchewan there will be a large increase in the area planted, and in Alberta many of the more progressive farmers are taking hold of it. The yield varies according to the cultivation it receives, and runs from five to nine tons per acre. In some portions of Manitoba where it has been poor for some years, success has been achieved in ripening and it is expected that a variety will soon be developed that will provide seed for the entire West, that will at an early date give to Western Canada a fame for the growing of a marketable corn equal to that it has now for the growth of smaller cereals.

A trip through Western Canada reveals field after field of alfalfa, the growth of which in any portion of the country is now absolutely assured. When these facts are made known to the farmers of the corn and alfalfa growing states, where their value as wealth makers is so well known, there will be no hesitancy in taking advantage of the splendid gift of 160 acres of land made by the Government of the Dominion of Canada, where equal opportunities are offered. Besides these free grant lands, there are the lands of some of the railway companies and large land companies, that may be had at low prices and on reasonable terms. During the month of February a large number of inquiries were received, asking for farm lands.

An encouraging feature of the farm land situation in Canada is the large percentage of sales made to settlers in the country who desire to increase their holdings or to others who will take up farming in place of different occupations previously followed.—Advertisement.

Essential Elements.

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Quite So.

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"Sir, I was reared to be a lady."

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