

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By HAROLD L. LINDQUIST, D. D. Of The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. Released by Western Newspaper Union.

WHY NATIONS PERISH

LESSON TEXT—II Kings 17:1-13, 18:1-14. **MEMORY SELECTION**—For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous; but the way of the ungodly shall perish. Psalm 1:4.

Nations as well as people come to crossroads in their history, and taking the wrong road then means future disaster. Solomon had built up great national prosperity, but at the expense of heavy taxes. He had forgotten God, and was succeeded by a son who followed in his footsteps. Offered an opportunity to ease the burden of the people (I Kings 12:14), Rehoboam in his folly made it greater, and the nation was divided. The ten northern tribes, which were henceforth to be known as Israel, followed Jeroboam, and the two southern tribes under Rehoboam became the kingdom of Judah.

Jeroboam started with God's favor, and might have led his people right, but instead he became the king whose name stood for wickedness (see II Kings 15:18). The story of that downfall is a sad picture of unbelief and failure. Through varied experiences and under different kings, Israel had gone down, down, down in its history of sin and departure from God.

I. Doomed by Sin (II Kings 17: 5-12, 23). The hour had struck when God's heavy hand of judgment had to fall on them. Verse 6 relates their carrying away into captivity to Assyria, and verses 7-9 tell us the reason for that judgment.

Ingratitude for God's blessing (v. 7) led to the worship of other gods (v. 8). They knew God's hatred for the sin of idolatry, and his judgment upon those who walked in that way, but they went right on. Note in verse 9 that these things were done "secretly." "The same thing is true today of many who profess to be the people of God. The line of demarcation between the church and the world is not clearly drawn. We do well to note carefully the outcome of this course of procedure on Israel's part (vv. 6, 18). The fact that Israel did these things secretly did not hide them from the eyes of Jehovah (Ps. 139:1, 2; Heb. 4:13)" (John W. Bradbury).

The statement in verse 23 is a striking one. The prophets had repeatedly spoken of the impending destruction of the nation. Now the time had come that the Lord could no longer stand to look upon their sin, and in a sense put them "out of his sight." That does not mean that they had been forgotten or that God was not watching over them in mercy and love, but that he had to judge them for their sins, and for a time bring them into judgment leading to repentance. There is always a reason for a nation's deterioration, and with Israel there were many reasons. Outstanding among them is the one for which they were rebuked by Isaiah in the verses of our lesson, namely, drunkenness.

II. Deceived by Drink (Isa. 28: 1-4). The picture here is a graphic one. The leaders of Israel there called Ephraim) lingered long over their bowls of wine, and in their drunken stupor gloried in the fact that Samaria, their capital city, was so situated at the head of a valley that it was not only beautiful but practically safe from attack by the enemy. The drunkards spoke with pride of their nation and of Samaria its "crown." The description was apt, for it was beautifully situated on a hill surrounded by a fertile terraced hillside. But their boasting was vain, for after a bitter three years' siege, the city eventually fell to Sargon II of Assyria.

All this has a familiar sound. We think of the nations that have gone down to oblivion even while the people engaged in foolish levity, and in the awful stupefying and degrading use of alcohol. Remember the fall of France in the recent World War when its own leaders said that the defeat could be largely attributed to the tremendous increase in the use of alcoholic liquor.

What about our own United States? With an annual liquor bill of about eight billion dollars, saloons on almost every corner, liquor flowing freely in hotels and restaurants, bottles and cases of it being brought into the home, booze the common medium of not only social but business relations, our insane asylums so crowded with alcoholics that the poor inmates have no real care—but why go on? It is a picture so appalling and so utterly distressing that every sensible person is shocked by it. Do we think that God can long withhold his judgment upon a people blessed by all his many bounties, and yet using them for destruction of body and soul? Can a people continue to be strong which is determined to undermine itself by the use of alcohol?

Meat Packing Industry The start of commercial meat packing in North America can be traced to 1841 when a square-rigged ship sailed from Boston harbor with a cargo which a handful of New England colonists hoped could be sold to West Indies plantation owners. Capt. John Pynchon, Springfield, Mass., and a few farmer neighbors had consigned hogsheads of beef and pork, packed in salt, to England's colonies.

ST. JOHN'S A. M. E. CHURCH

22nd and Willis Ave., Rev. E. B. Childress, Masoa Devereaux Jr. Reporter

"For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from Heaven," 2nd verse of Corinthian 5 chapter was the text of our minister's inspiring message, "We are ambassadors of Christ." His congregation was held enthralled by his remarkable thoughts of the day. "Any right thinking person should admire a man that is not ashamed to be what he is. A follower of Jesus Christ, a man can't Jesus; and when a man comes in to the house of God, he should come with the purpose of receiving the ointment and the power of God. Convert: Martha Childs Visitors: Mr. and Mrs. I. B. Colley, Lincoln, Neb.; Miss Mabelle Warren, Phila., Pa.; Mrs. R. C. Cottrell, Okla. City; Mrs. Emma Campbell, New York City; Mrs. Sarah Miller, New York; Ruth Edna Seales, Dayton, Ohio; Robert Rodgers, 2621 Burdette st.; Mrs. Wm. Latimore, Cleveland, Ohio; Miss June Baker, Grand Island, Neb.; Mrs. J. Williams, 332 Bronson st., Medina, Ohio; Mrs. Lena Bates, Okla. City, Okla.; Mrs. J. B. Judkins, Shiloh Baptist Church, Plainfield, N. J.; Mrs. Rose Gordon, Wallace Chapel, Summit, N. J.

Let us not forget the Annual Women's Day at St. John's on Sunday, August 3, 1947. Mrs. R. C. Price, General Chairman and Mrs. Pearl Gibson, Musical Director, are looking forward to a capacity turnout as support from the membership of St. John's. The Minute M. and Auxiliary's regular monthly meeting August 3, 1947 has been postponed until Sunday, August 17. Mr. President, Mr. A. R. Goodlett desires that all members take note and govern themselves accordingly. The Watchmen will rehearse on Friday, August 1st at 8 p. m. All men are urged to attend. Let us pray for the sick wherever they may be and wherever they may be. The Choir and its director, Mrs. Pearl Gibson, is to be congratulated for the splendid program given on Sunday evening, July 27, 1947. Though it was quite warm, the rendition of the numbers were in no way dampened by the heat. We of St. John's can truly be proud of the outstanding work of this choir and its director.

Let us plan early to attend the Nebraska Annual Missionary Conference August 28-29 at Bethel A. M. E. Church. Mothers, send your children to Sunday school every Sunday morning at 9:30 a. m. attend our 11 a. m. services and our 7:30 p. m. services. Visitors and friends are always welcome at St. John's the friendly church at 22nd and Willis ave. Come and Worship with us, won't you? St. John's Church Continued Women's Day, Sun. Aug. 3rd at St. John's Sunday, August 3, 1947, is Women's Day at St. John's. The women of the church under direction of their General Chairman, Mrs. R. C. Price, will have charge of the day's activities. They have planned a very lively and interesting Christian program for the day, consisting of an all women's chorus and two interesting speakers of the day. Rev. Mrs. C. M. Farmer will deliver the 11 a. m. message to the expected capacity congregation. Rev. Martin Jones will bring the message at the 7:30 p. m. services, closing for these ladies of our church. At 3:30 p. m. the women will serve tea downstairs in the church. The women of St. John's, Mrs. R. C. Price, general chairman, and Mrs. Pearl Gibson, chorus director, cordially invite members and friends of St. John's to come out on this Sunday.

Land of Quakers Africa is the land of quarters. One quarter of its area is forest and bushland, one quarter is grass land, one quarter is desert and the remaining quarter is cultivated. World Bank encyclopaedia Africa

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HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH 30th & Corby H. H. Schauland, Pastor Sunday School 10 A. M. Worship 11 A. M.

CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD 2412 Parker Street C. W. F. F. Rev. S. K. Nichols, Pastor Rose M. Oliver, Reporter

We were glad to receive our pastor safe, after attending the Sunday School and Young People Progressive Union Convention at Louisville, Ky. After leaving there, he came to Indianapolis, Indiana, where he conducted a week's Tent Meeting for Rev. T. R. Murff, where there was a great attendance each night from 1200 to 1500 people, several came to the Lord and each day from 2 to 5 came to be healed and to receive consolation. Hundreds were helped. Our pastor is expecting his three children, Luk C. Nichols, Joseph J. Nichols, and Dorothy Nichols of Chicago, Ill., to visit him in August. Rev. stopped in Chicago and visited his children and his nephew and wife, Capt. and Mrs. Richard D. Watson of Co. C. 366th Engr. Rev. Thomas is expecting our pastor in Toledo, Ohio to run a ten night meeting, and he is planning to visit his niece, Mrs. Carolyne Hams in New York the last part of August.

IMMANUEL COMMUNITY CHURCH 2320 N. 28th ave., Rev. E. F. Ridley, Pastor The Pastor, Officers and members of Immanuel Community Church wishes to herby thank all who so kindly assisted in helping us make the Celebration of our First Anniversary the huge success that it was along all lines. Upon each of you we pray the blessings of him who shall give unto every man according as his works shall be.

CLEAVES TEMPLE C. M. E. CHURCH 25th & Decatur st. C. P. Rain's, Minister Mrs. Jeanie English, Reporter Rev. Raines spoke to us from the Book of Daniel 1:8. "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the King's meat, nor with the wine which he drank; thereafter he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself." Theme: He would no bow. In using the word Bow, our minister means stoop or sell out. There are people in the world who will sell themselves, their pride and you for the price of a dollar. We are thankful that there are some people in the world who are for sale. People seeked to find the faults of Daniel, but they were unable to find any that were unbecoming to a Christian. It is a good thing to be in the habit of praying. If we pray and pray sincerely, God will hear and answer our prayer. Don't allow yourself to stoop; hold on to God's unchanging hand. Mr. Burrell Dillard and Mrs. Precious Smith were fellowshiped into our Church this morning. Mr. Dillard is from a Baptist Church in Tulsa, Okla. Mrs. Smith is from a Church in Okla., Okla. We were happy to have so many visitors in our service. You are visitors only once; we want you to feel at home. Mrs. Harris, one of the most outstanding women of our church was among our visitors this morning. She is the editor of the Missionary Messenger. Rev. R. E. Reid of Bowers Memorial in Kansas City was also among our visitors. Let us pray for and visit the shut-ins.

CLAIR METHODIST CHURCH

22nd and Miami st. Rev. C. C. Reynolds

Services at Clair for the past two Sundays have been in charge of Rev. G. H. Bundy who has ably filled the pulpit. His sermons have been inspiring, spiritual, informative and well delivered. They have given us much food for thought. Mrs. Bundy has also graced our services with her presence. Rev. C. C. Reynolds will be back in his pulpit Sunday, August 3, and will be expecting to meet the officers and members around the Holy Communion table. All are welcome to the Lord's Feast Table. Organizations and committees, please be ready to report on your claims for the District Conference which convenes in Coffeyville, Kansas, August 5-10. Dr. G. A. Green from our General Board of Education at Nashville, Tenn. was guest at the parsonage all day Sunday. He made remarks to the Church School and in the regular services. He was fortunate to have such a distinguished person in our midst. He was enroute to Lincoln, Neb. to the Rural Conference of the Methodist Church.

Rev. Reynolds wishes to say to the churches ministers, members and friends who were so very solicitous during the illness and passing of his mother, Mrs. M. B. Reynolds, that your many kindnesses, contributions, telegrams, cards and words of consolation are gratefully received and will never be forgotten. Your prayers have been strengthening. May God's choicest blessings be upon you.

EDUCATION HIGHER WASHINGTON, D. C.—According to President Truman's Commission on Higher Education, tuition fees in the U. S. colleges and universities have risen 28 per cent since 1939.

ALPHA OMEGA CLUB The Omega club will have a gay outing on Saturday evening August 2, 1947, at Riverview Park. A weiner roast has been planned and members are urged to bring anything else good that they may desire. Come out Kids and have a good time with all your fellow members and friends. The group is to meet at Mason Devereaux Jr. 2427 Ohio st. on Saturday August 2nd, at 7:15. Put on your outing duds and come along for glorious evening of fun and frolic with the Omegas. Say you saw it advertised in The Omaha Guide

Nothing Cooks Like FLAME* *That's Why 50,000 Omaha Women Prefer GAS Metropolitan Utilities District

Omaha Progressive Youth Meet at YW On the night of July 25, the Omaha Progressive Youth held its second meetings at the Northside YWCA with an attendance of approximately 150. The OPY is an organization composed of veterans, students, young workers who regardless of race, color, creed, national origin or political affiliation have joined in an organization which is independent of political parties and dedicated to the following objectives: world peace, nation free from discrimination, increased educational opportunities for all, lower costs of living costs, and adequate housing for all, especially veterans OPY educates and organizes so that young people can take leadership in solving their own problems and by doing so prepare themselves for the fullest responsibilities of democratic citizenship. Also the OPY works for progressive legislation and for the election of progressive candidates for national, state and city government. We lobby legislators, operate schools of political action techniques, organize rallies and canvass door to door. We seek out injustices to those in our own community and work to bring public attention and protest to such. OPY is now organized in more than 18 states (Nebraska makes 19) thru out the country from California to Mass., in cities and on campuses. All chapters work out their own special youth program. At the meeting a broad of temporary officers were appointed, Marcell Johnson was elected chairman, Pearl Summers and Evelyn Watson co-chairmen, Gene Jacobs secretary, Betty Wilburn treasurer; also the following committees are in temporary use; Research, Publicity, Action and Membership. Personally speaking, I'm quite sure that many things in Omaha will be changed because the OPY is one local organization that has a firm foundation which to stand on. The time will come when we shall have colored street-car operators, bank tellers, city government officials, etc. High School and college students, graduates, and young people are urged to attend the next meeting which will be held at the Northside YWCA, Friday August 1st, time, 8:00 p. m. If you have interest in the minority races please make your attendance at the next meeting of the OPY. Say you saw it advertised in The Omaha Guide

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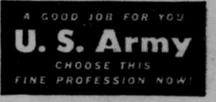
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