

### A NATION THAT "GOT RELIGION."

The International Sunday School Lesson For July 15 Is "Hezekiah, The Faithful King," II Chronicles 30

By WILLIAM T. ELLIS

What is the power that most strongly binds a people, or even nations, together? Other countries frankly express their amazement at the close relations now being established between Canada and the United States, and between Great Britain and the United States. They seem unable to explain the phenomenon. Small wonder, for they look no deeper than the selfish concerns of statecraft, whereas the strongest cord in this new international tie is religion, just as religion is the greatest unifying factor in each of these nations itself. Our new fellowship is on the firmest foundation. It was never before that a man who is engrossed in concerns of high politics that such an inconspicuous factor as the International Sunday School Movement, or Christian Endeavor, or the Young Men's Christian Association, or the Laymen's Missionary Movement might be considered.

Such, none the less, is the case. The law that Hezekiah observed still holds good to-day. When the old Hebrew king wanted to see all his people together, and even the alienated northern kingdom also, he sounded the appeal to a common past in religious life. It was never before that a faith often dim and ignored or deserted, but still the one common heritage of the people, that made the Jews a nation. That note was still the deepest and strongest appeal. There are immense possibilities of human welfare in the truth that the two most powerful nations in the world are fundamentally Christian.

Stirring the Deep Springs Petty divisions and local abuses of many sorts tended to separate the Jews of Hezekiah's time into groups and mutually antagonistic communities. This was especially true with respect to the great division between the northern and southern kingdoms. The king might have taken up these one by one, and tried to patch them up. But he knew a better way. He realized that there was a deep, hidden sentiment in the hearts of all Jews, of loyalty to the God of their fathers. Likewise he understood that neglect of religion was the fundamental failure of the time.

All religious visions, and most personal and national calamities, are due to an inadequate loyalty to God. The cure for all the ills of the church is simply a deeper devotion to the church's Lord. The blight of denominational rivalry will disappear from North America as soon as Christians learn to love Christ more than they love their own way and their own past. All the little ponds and eddies along the shore are submerged when the tide, comes in. The floods of God will submerge the differences and disagreements between Christians.

There is a profound truth here, indicated by the lesson story, that needs close pondering. When the disciples of Christ find themselves engrossed in devotion to Him they will be in the realization of practical Christian unity. The greatest Christian union

meeting ever held did not have Christian union as its object. It was the World's Missionary Conference, at Edinburgh. In the face of a world service, all the divided branches of Christianity realized their unity. Only a very narrow-minded person can maintain sectarian prejudices on the mission field. Both church and nation rise to a higher unity and loyalty on the face of the call to return to the first love.

"Reform" For the Preachers "Reformation" is a great national asset, a powerful promoter of patriotism. As Hezekiah called to the City of David for a national revival, a Thanksgiving Day and a feast of remembrance, the national Passover, he urged appropriate preparation. Deep experiences call for earnest self-examination. The war has set millions to looking into their own hearts for the meaning of things. Holy communion before action is a solemn and profitable experience. As a first step in this great Jewish celebration, Hezekiah called for the purification of the Levites and the priests. Repentance must begin at the house of God. The world will never be purified by a spotted church. The wise king, when he had called the people together, pointed out that the purification of Jehovah had fallen upon the nation because of its religious declensions and the irreligion of those who were called to be faithful to Jehovah. So the first step in the preparation of the Passover was the sanctification of the Levites.

One cannot resist the temptation to speculate upon what would be the result if the ministers of religion in our own land were to have squarely put up to them the responsibility for moral and political conditions in the nation. Suppose our spiritual preparedness for war were even equal to our military preparedness. Imagine all preachers off in a "retreat" for the purpose of searching their own hearts with respect to the state of the country. Would one man see that his failure to preach clearly the ethical teachings of the gospel had been responsible for the gradual decay of the moral fiber of that churchmember who is now a condemned traitor? Would the vote-buying in certain communities rise up to condemn the ministers who had either winked at it, or failed to blister with the condemnation of Jehovah the traitors who had shared in it? The lust for vanities and fashion, the weakening of sacred home ties, the neglect of the family altar, decline of church-going—would these appear at the door of the ministers of the Most High who had failed to make religion attractive, or to satisfy the soul-needs of their people? Delicate and dangerous as is this subject, it is only an obvious and logical deduction from the inspired story of how Hezekiah began to prepare for his great Passover by calling the priestly class to self-examination and repentance.

Rallying to Jerusalem Despite all their defects, there was something sublime about the Crusades of the Middle Ages. They were a magnificent conception. The rock-bottom fact was a concern for the city and tomb of the Crucified. Some think akin to this medieval passion for the places associated with the earthly life of our Lord has swept across Christendom since Turkey entered the world struggle. The garrisoning of the City of David by the army which has been hounding the Jews and slaying the Christians has stirred the hearts of the West. As the British troops have moved upward from Suez through lower Palestine, the interest of people has manifestly quickened. We do care for the city over which Christ wept and where He was crucified. The Holy City is still the home of sacred memories.

In Jerusalem is still, as in Hezekiah's time, a city of prayer and aspiration. I cannot escape the conviction, after having traveled all over the Bible lands and the ancient world, that this strangely-persistent city is to have a new place in the plan of God. The city which He loved is still to be the rallying point of His people everywhere. In the reunion of Christendom after war's fever is over there will be a peculiar place for the City of Zion. Hezekiah was observing the divine order when he summoned all Jews up to Jerusalem.

Touching a People's Hearts From North and South came the Jews to the great Passover. They brought offerings so lavishly that the force of priests was inadequate to handle them; real religion always expresses itself in giving. There cannot be a revival of religion in a nation by church, or, if there is, it will be driving out the spirit of meanness. Christianity costs a man nothing to give. He must be ready to give. Closed purses, closed hearts. It is the open hand that God fills with blessing. In this national revival there was a revival of generosity. Small wonder the people were glad; there is no gladness in life for stingy souls. It is when we give that we get. Several days were not long enough for the keeping of his feast, so another seven days was added. It was like a great family reunion—a reunion with the heavenly Father first, and then with the brethren. Old agreements were forgotten; at the house of God the hearts of the people were touched. So we read that "The Lord harkened to Hezekiah, and healed the people."

Of course reform followed the revival. Any religious stir in a community that does not eventuate in new righteousness, may be put down as mere hysteria. The whole nation turned to idol-smashing. The former fitness was put away. The best cure for all national ills is a revival of religion.

and to furnish transportation to the scene of their labors. The Highway Department must compensate the various counties or sheriffs for all additional expense occasioned through the employment of prisoners, but no official or his representative may receive more than \$1,000 for his services. There is no limit to the amount that may be paid counties for additional expense incurred.

### PRISON LABOR IS TO BE SOLUTION

Will Improve the Highway Conditions in Pennsylvania in Behalf of Officials

Men who study highways believe that part of the labor problem has been solved through the signing by the Governor of the Sprout bill providing that prison labor may be used by the department in the construction of roads. The bill also provides that the money paid prisoners for their services shall be retained for them till the end of their terms or paid when due to their dependent families. Only a few Pennsylvania counties have ever used prison labor on roads. Cambria county was one of the first, the men being used on a county road. Berks county intended using its prisoners this year, but the Solicitor found no enabling act. Under the terms of the Sprout law all able-bodied inmates of penitentiaries, jails and reformatories may be employed on the Highway Department and the number of men thus rendered available will total several thousand. The William Penn Highway Association to-day notified the Highway Department that in several counties along that thoroughfare prison boards were ready to co-operate with the State at once. The Sprout bill provides that within fifteen days after requested to do so by the Highway Department the wardens of jails or penitentiaries, or the sheriffs, where the sheriffs are in charge of jails, must furnish the names of all prisoners under sentence who have more than thirty days of their sentences to serve. The Highway Department may then, with the approval of the Governor, requisition not less than five prisoners from any institution. The department may erect camps or barracks, but the prisoners will remain under the authority of the wardens, sheriffs or their representatives. It is the duty of the wardens or sheriffs to see that the prisoners are well housed, fed and guarded.

and to furnish transportation to the scene of their labors. The Highway Department must compensate the various counties or sheriffs for all additional expense occasioned through the employment of prisoners, but no official or his representative may receive more than \$1,000 for his services. There is no limit to the amount that may be paid counties for additional expense incurred. Prisoners will be paid not less than forty cents nor more than sixty cents a day for their service, the amount to go either to dependent families of the prisoners, or to the prisoners themselves when their terms expire. Jail prisoners may not be employed outside of the counties in which they are serving their sentences. Prisoners from one institution may not mingle with those from another. No prisoners shall be employed in the open air in inclement weather. The State Board of Health and Department of State Police are instructed to co-operate with the highway department in enforcing the new law.

The State Highway Department will have in the neighborhood of \$16,000,000 for new road construction in 1917 and 1918. In some sections of the State day labor demands and gets \$3 a day. This is prohibitory, so far as the department is concerned. But the Sprout law, releasing as it does several thousand able-bodied men who are now kept in idleness, will partially solve one of the department's problems.

### Nine Fishermen Blown to Bits by German Mine

Towed in From Sea Galway, Ireland, July 13.—Nine Galway fishermen were blown to pieces a few days ago while examining a German "barrel mine," which they had found at sea and towed ashore. Irish fishermen have made lately a great many lucky hauls of barrels

containing petrol, tallow, oils and similar treasures, supposedly from torpedoed ships. This time they saw a promising looking barrel about some distance from land, with a convenient handle on each side, and they promptly towed it ashore, rolling it up on the beach for examination. Four men were in the boat, and six more gathered around while the prize was on the beach. One man, Joseph O'Flaherty, had a suspicion of danger, and warned the others, but they paid no attention to him, and he hid himself behind a rock. One of the fishermen removed a couple of screws from the head of the barrel, and then began to pull out a piece of cord. The explosion which followed was four miles distant, and shook houses four miles distant. After a time O'Flaherty, who had been wounded in the head with a piece of stone, stood up, but not a trace of the men or the mine was to be seen. There was only a great hole in the beach. Searchers found a portion of the fishermen's boat nearly a mile away. A small boy, whose attention was attracted to the group of men on the shore, was running toward them just as the mine exploded. One of his arms was afterwards found near his home, but there was no other trace of him.

English population whose motherland is now engaged in a life and death struggle. It is not surprising that they regard this movement as treasonable and disloyal. It is unjust and dishonorable to make such an attempt at this moment, and the dishonor is all the greater as the proposal is only intended to catch votes for a particular party. "My warning is intended very earnestly, because I foresee in this movement nothing but ruin for South Africa and disastrous consequences for the South African people. I appeal above all to our pioneers and the fathers of our people to follow the safe way of honor, along which a great future awaits us."

### Warns South Africa Against New Propaganda

Capetown, South Africa, July 14.—A grave warning against propaganda aiming at the political independence of South Africa was just issued broadcast by General Botha. His statement follows: "Members of the South African party must not allow themselves to be misled by false and misleading propaganda for independence. The proposal is now being made merely to win votes at the provincial council elections by an appeal to sentiment, and not to the sound sense of the people."

"The proposal is wholly impracticable, and is moreover very dangerous for in the present war conditions it can only lead to bitterness, division, race hatred and civil war. "There is in South Africa a strong

English population whose motherland is now engaged in a life and death struggle. It is not surprising that they regard this movement as treasonable and disloyal. It is unjust and dishonorable to make such an attempt at this moment, and the dishonor is all the greater as the proposal is only intended to catch votes for a particular party. "My warning is intended very earnestly, because I foresee in this movement nothing but ruin for South Africa and disastrous consequences for the South African people. I appeal above all to our pioneers and the fathers of our people to follow the safe way of honor, along which a great future awaits us."

English population whose motherland is now engaged in a life and death struggle. It is not surprising that they regard this movement as treasonable and disloyal. It is unjust and dishonorable to make such an attempt at this moment, and the dishonor is all the greater as the proposal is only intended to catch votes for a particular party. "My warning is intended very earnestly, because I foresee in this movement nothing but ruin for South Africa and disastrous consequences for the South African people. I appeal above all to our pioneers and the fathers of our people to follow the safe way of honor, along which a great future awaits us."

### How Long Must I Suffer From the Pangs of Rheumatism?

Is there no real relief in sight? Doubtless like other sufferers, you have often asked yourself this question, which continues to remain unanswered. Science has proven that your Rheumatism is caused by a germ in your blood, and the only way to reach it is by a remedy which eliminates and removes these little pain demons from your blood. This explains why liniments and lotions can

do no permanent good, for they cannot possibly reach these germs which infest your blood by the millions. S. S. S. has been successfully used for Rheumatism for more than fifty years. Try it to-day, and you will find yourself at last on the right track to get rid of your Rheumatism. You can get valuable advice about the treatment of your individual case by writing to the Chief Medical Adviser, Swift Specific Co., Dept. N214, Atlanta, Ga.

English population whose motherland is now engaged in a life and death struggle. It is not surprising that they regard this movement as treasonable and disloyal. It is unjust and dishonorable to make such an attempt at this moment, and the dishonor is all the greater as the proposal is only intended to catch votes for a particular party. "My warning is intended very earnestly, because I foresee in this movement nothing but ruin for South Africa and disastrous consequences for the South African people. I appeal above all to our pioneers and the fathers of our people to follow the safe way of honor, along which a great future awaits us."


English population whose motherland is now engaged in a life and death struggle. It is not surprising that they regard this movement as treasonable and disloyal. It is unjust and dishonorable to make such an attempt at this moment, and the dishonor is all the greater as the proposal is only intended to catch votes for a particular party. "My warning is intended very earnestly, because I foresee in this movement nothing but ruin for South Africa and disastrous consequences for the South African people. I appeal above all to our pioneers and the fathers of our people to follow the safe way of honor, along which a great future awaits us."

### King Oscar 5c Cigars

have long been famous for their high quality, regularity and mellowness. They have a reputation to sustain and they sustain their reputation.

John C. Herman & Co. Makers

**SAVE THE FRUIT CROP**



**FRANKLIN SUGAR**

Sold in convenient bags and cartons

Raspberry Jam—welcome on every occasion

A Franklin Sugar for every use

Granulated, Dairy Lumps, Powdered, Confectioners, Brown

**Absolutely No Pain**

My latest improved appliances, including an oxygenated air apparatus, makes extracting and all dental work positively painless and is perfectly harmless. (Are no objections.)

**Dr. Phillips, Dentist**

Full set of teeth... \$5.00  
Gold fillings \$1  
Fillings in silver alloy... \$5.00  
Gold crowns and bridges work \$3.50  
Dentures open daily 8:30  
215 E. 10th St. Harrisburg, Pa.  
Tel. 10 10 10

**EXAMINATION FREE**

Registered Graduate Assistant

**329 Market St. Harrisburg, Pa.**

It didn't hurt a bit

# THE BIG FIRE SALE CONTINUES

To-morrow we will offer greater sacrifices than ever in Men's Furnishings and Shoes for the entire family. But a slight impression has been made on our stupendous stock by the tremendous selling since this great sale started, and we are placing reserve stocks on sale daily.

Prices are no object. This is your opportunity--- grasp it

- Men's Furnishings**
- 39c 2-Piece Underwear, all colors ..... 23c
  - 64c 2-Piece Underwear, all colors ..... 39c
  - 75c Union Suits ..... 49c
  - 79c Underwear, all colors ..... 59c
  - \$1.25 Union Suits, all colors, ..... 79c
  - Up to \$1.50 Dress Shirts (soiled) ..... 39c
  - 75c Dress Shirts ..... 49c
  - Up to \$1.50 Dress Shirts ..... 79c
  - Work Shirts at ..... 39c, 49c and 59c
  - Collars ..... 5c
  - Up to 50c Suspenders ..... 9c
  - 10c Work Hose ..... 7c
  - 15c Dress Hose ..... 8c
  - 25c Dress Hose, (silk and Lisle), ..... 18c
  - 25c Belts ..... 17c
  - 25c Neckwear ..... 17c
  - 50c Neckwear ..... 35c
  - Men's Trousers ..... 79c to \$1.79
  - Up to \$1.00 Caps ..... 5c
  - Up to \$2.50 Straw Hats ..... 29c

- Men's Shoes**
- Up to \$3.00 Stiff Hats ..... 9c
  - Up to \$3.00 Soft Hats ..... 19c
  - Men's Overalls, up to \$1.50, at ..... 69c
  - Up to \$3.00 Scout and Work Shoes ..... \$1.79
  - Up to \$3.50 Scout and Work Shoes ..... \$1.98
  - Up to \$4.50 Scout and Work Shoes ..... \$2.49
  - Up to \$3.00 Dress Shoes ..... \$1.79
  - Up to \$3.50 Dress Shoes ..... \$1.99
  - Up to \$4.50 Dress Shoes ..... \$2.49
  - Up to \$6.00 Dress Shoes ..... \$2.99
  - Up to \$7.00 Men's Oxfords ..... \$2.49
  - \$3.00 Ball Band Canvas Rubber Sole Shoes ..... \$1.99
  - Up to \$1.50 Little Gents' Dress Shoes ..... 93c
  - Up to \$2.50 Youths' Dress and Scout Shoes ..... \$1.49
  - Up to \$3.00 Youths' Dress and Scout Shoes ..... \$1.79
  - Up to \$3.00 Boys' Dress and Scout Shoes ..... \$1.49
  - Up to \$3.50 Boys' Dress and Scout Shoes ..... \$1.98
  - Up to \$5.00 Boys' Dress and Scout Shoes ..... \$2.49

- Misses' and Children's Shoes**
- One lot of Misses' and Children's Shoes ..... 39c
  - One lot of Misses' and Children's Shoes ..... 69c
  - Up to \$1.50 Misses' and Children's Shoes ..... 79c
  - Up to \$1.75 Misses' and Children's Shoes ..... 98c
  - Up to \$2.25 Misses' and Children's Shoes ..... \$1.24
  - Up to \$3.00 Misses' and Children's Shoes ..... \$1.49
  - One lot of Ladies' Shoes and Oxfords ..... 39c
  - One lot of Ladies' Pumps and Oxfords ..... 69c
  - One lot of Ladies' Pumps and Oxfords ..... 89c
  - One lot of Ladies' Pumps and Oxfords ..... 98c
  - One lot of Ladies' Pumps and Oxfords ..... \$1.24
  - Up to \$2.00 Ladies' Shoes ..... 98c
  - Up to \$2.50 Ladies' Shoes ..... \$1.24
  - Up to \$3.00 Ladies' Shoes ..... \$1.49
  - Up to \$3.50 Ladies' Shoes ..... \$1.98
  - Up to \$7.00 Ladies' Shoes ..... \$2.49
  - 500 Pairs Shoes to be Sacrificed at ..... \$1.69
  - 1,000 Pairs Oxfords and Pumps to be Sacrificed at ..... 98c

**EVERYTHING OFFERED IN THIS SALE IS OF THE ORIGINAL STOCK. NOTHING HAS BEEN ADDED FOR SALE PURPOSES.**

**ELI GOLDSTEIN, 323 BROAD STREET**

FORMERLY AT BROAD ST.---17 Years. Opposite Broad Street Market

**EVERYTHING MUST BE SOLD AS WE WANT TO OPEN WITH AN ENTIRE NEW STOCK.**