Plotters Perish in Their Own Pit

The International Sunday School Lesson For September 23 Is "Daniel in the Lions' Den."

By WILLIAM T. ELLIS.

This is one of the dear old stories, hich children love, and cultivated n and women must know if they e to understand countless literary lusions. Now is a good time to get e event fixed in its setting; espe- lly since its scene is now newly a nter of world interest. Great anges have taken place since the st lesson. The haughty Nebuchad- zzar, king of kings, who threw the ree young Hebrews into the fiery rnace, has become insane, his suc- ssors have had their little day, and s throne itself has been overturned. e great Babylon has become a vas- l kingdom. The first step of Dan- 's interpretation of the image of buchadnezzar's dream has been ful- led.

A new king rules, a new nation evails. Cyrus, the Persian, has con- ered Media, and, at the head of the do-Persian Empire, has overthrown abylon. Cyrus himself reigns at ushan, in Persia, and Darius is his eroy in Babylon. With regal pow- s, Daviurs plans the government, icing one hundred and twenty sa- ps (a familiar word to all who ve studied Xenophon) over the ter- orial divisions, and three presi- nts over these. Daniel, the sage d statesman, was one of the presi- nts, though now an old man.

An Exile and Some Monarchs

A bit of Latin was often in my nd as I roamed over the ruins of syria and Babylonia and succeeding pires: "Sic transit gloria mundi" So passes the glory of earth." For gs and even dynasties and empires were only as strata in the accumulated layers of dirt ruins. The kings of some of the stele that I saw amid the ruins along the Tigris could not be identified, though they were full of most boastful biographical statements. The average person does well who can keep in mind the names of the greater empires and their order, along with the names of the foremost rulers.

But there is no difficulty about remembering Daniel. And amid all this mutation and transformation of the centuries in this Tigris-Euphrates region, the people of Daniel have stood fast, worshiping the one true God. Myriads of them are still to be found in the territory which was once the Mede-Persian; and now they seem to be coming to their own again. For this war may be the final deliverer of the Jew. History is more wonderful than prophecy. The vindication of God's word and of God's people is written large in the records of time.

Plotters and Their Plan

Quite as the Hindus in a government office in India scheme against the Mohammedans, so the Chaldeans under Darius plotted against this Jew Daniel, who was set over them all. He excited their jealousy; and all men familiar with "office politics know what th's means; and also their fear, for his principles stood as a barrier against graffing. One honest man in a corrupt organization can spoil the schemes of the most prominent and skilfull predatory plotters, if he has the courage of a Daniel. This has frequently been illustrated in our own national life.

Orientals are adepts at subtlety and intrigue; and the plot of the satrips against Daniel was based on their knowledge of the vanity of the king. It was not a hard thing for Darius, any more than for the present emperor of Japan, to believe himself a god. He gulped down the alluring bait thrown to him by the courtiers, never suspecting the hook it held. If we did not understand something of human nature and the grossness of the flattery which men will accept, this part of the story might seem incredible. Yet we have the example of the late Roman emperors; and, recently, of a European monarch who seems to look upon himself as the important member of a "Me und Gott" partnership. Darius readily, and thoughtlessly, assented to the proposition that no god but himself should be worshiped for the space of thirty days, under peril of the lions.

Trapped!

Never trap was sprung with greater certainty of catching its quarry. A fine compliment was paid to Darius by his enemies, for they knew that he would never "crook the pregnant hinges of the knee" to any other God than Jehovah. They also knew that he was too much of a man to dodge saying his prayers as before. Being "without fear and without reproach, he could be counted on to be true to his highest allegiance; and this maneuver of his enemies made that higher fidelity seem like a breach of his worldly loyalty. Daniel's character, like his heart, was fixed; he was now an old man, and he could be counted upon not to play false to his God

All honor to the stalwart men who do "as aforetime" in the face of Satan himself. Christian history has as its brightest pages the record of the Daniels who have stood fast; who have dared to defy councils, courts, kings and churches, in obedience to their convictions. These are the kingmen. They follow in the train of the great and steadfast Christ, who knew how to die, but did not know how to save his life at the expense of his honor. The "stonewall" sort of man, as faithful at praying as it fighting, is the sort upon whom man and God rely. Even the enemies of right know where to find him always.

Everybody must meet trouble some day. He is a foolish sailor who builds his boat only for fair weather. Now trouble should be prepared for, but not worried about. Daniel was not upset by this plot of his enemies. He went about his work as usual, and prayed with his windows open toward Jerusalem, even as he did every day. He was not vauntingly ostentatious in the defiance of the king's edict; nor was he cravenly cautious. He simply did as usual. Blessed be noble routine.

The king, who was as weak as most vain men, was troubled by the plot against Daniel when he perceive" it. How he must have cursed his own silly pride and gullibility. He spoke openly to the plotters; but when they rather menacingly intimated that not even the king was above the law, he quailed, and with the wailings of a weakling, surrendered his friend and counsellor, whom he knew to be a true man, standing "foursquare to every wind that blows."

Sleepless and worried, the king tossed on his royal couch that night. Vain were the allurements of food and music. He had a coward's conscience. As for Daniel—well, Mr. Moody, with his homely eloquence, used to picture him as drawing to himself the biggest of lions for a pillow and settling down for the untroubled sleep of a little child. It is not the lions about one that matter but the wild lions within one's own breast. Don't pity Daniel; pity Darius.

The Tables Turned

Lions have mostly disappeared from Asia, although one was seen near Jericho only a few years ago; and Shamu told me that he, and a boatload of passengers, had once seen a magnificent male lion standing boldly on the bank of the Tigris, a short distance below Ctesiphon. As with the Indian princes to-day, a den of lions was an adjunct to the king's court. Into one of these Daniel was thrown, and the door sealed with just such cylindrical seal as one may pick up thereabouts to-day. The result should have been swift and horible death.

There are many angels ready to do the bidding of Jehovah and one was sent to shut the mouths of the lions. This scene, Daniel in the lions' den, is a favorite one with the painters; but most of them err in painting the beasts with open mouths. They were shut, for God's honor was concerned in the salvation of his friend. Daniel's great allegiance deserved great support at the divine hands. "They who trust him wholly find him wholly true." Satan and his legions never yet have been able to circumvent Jehovah.

Early in the morning came hastening the king, in strained, worried tones inquiring if Daniel's God was able to deliver him. Little did Darius, any more than the world to-day, know how able is God. But Daniel of old, and all the Daniels since, realized the might of the Master he served; so, in cheerful tones that contrasted with those of the king, he answered with the conventional salutation. "So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he trusted in his God."

As for his plotting foes, they fell into the pit they had digged, as has been the fashion since the beginning of time. They and theirs came to a swift and dreadful end at the open jaws of the lions which had been closed against Daniel. It never pays to fight against God or God's people; it always pays to be loyal.

Constipation Makes Baby Uncomfortable

When its tender little organs are bound up with a congestion of stomach waste in the bowels, Baby is a mighty uncomfortable morsel of humanity, and reflects its discomfort in its disposition. If Mother will just give it a tiny dose of a mild laxative, such as Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin, the congestion will quickly loosen and be expelled, and her child be normal and happy once more.

Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin is especially desirable for children, because it contains no opiate or narcotic drug, being a combination of simple laxative herbs with pepsin, mild and gentle in action, positive in effect, and very palatable. Children like it and take it readily. Druggists sell Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin for fifty cents a bottle; a trial bottle, free of charge, can be obtained by writing to Dr. W. B. Caldwell, 456 Washington St., Monticello, Illinois.

Mrs. Vincent Astor Sees Work of Germans in France

MRS VINCENT ASTOR — French Official Photo

Mrs. Vincent Astor, wife of Ensign Vincent Astor, U. S. Naval Reserves photographed at French Army headquarters in a wrecked French city. Mr. Astor has been on duty with the American fleet in French and British waters for several weeks. Mrs. Astor left New York on June 25 with Miss Ethel M. B. Harriman, daughter of Mrs. J. Borden Harriman, to join her mother-in-law, Mrs. John Astor, in London, after having taken a course in training to qualify for nursing. Mrs. Astor hopes to become a nurse in the war zone.

FRANCE WEARS DARK CLOTHES

In a cable dispatch from Paris to the fashion editor of the Woman's Home Companion the writer says:

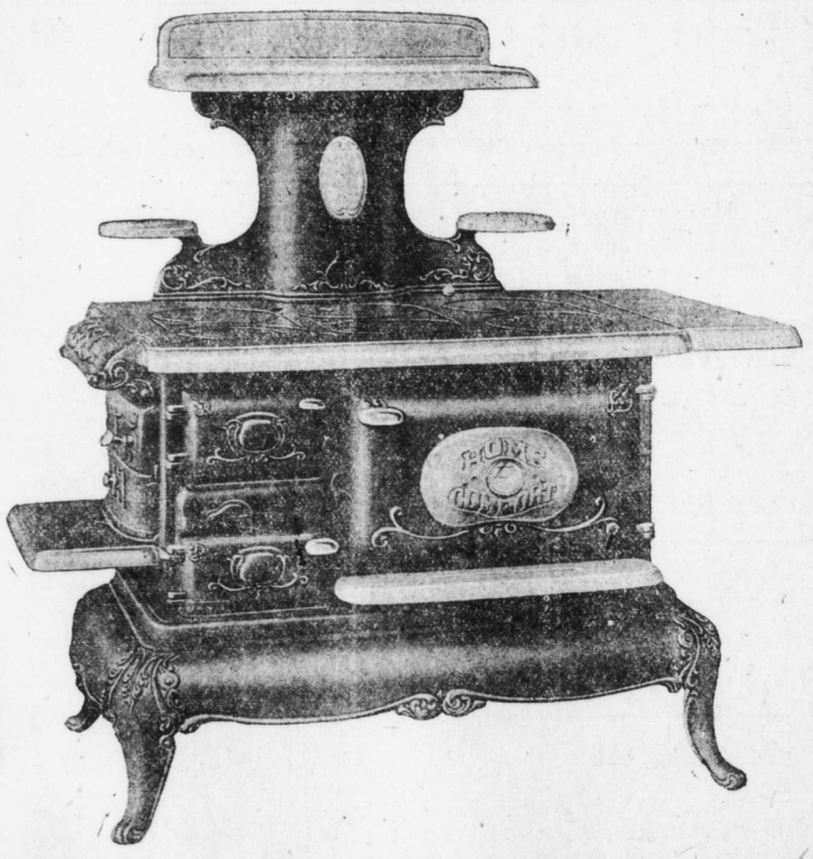
"This season particular attention was given by manufacturers to dark shades; but gay colors were not neglected, for still the big houses have a large clientile in countries not at war, nor does war prevent gay colors in the south, particularly Monte Carlo.

"These thick, rough stuffs call imperatively for simple lines, but because of the great variety of materials, diversity in results is easily gained. Worth, Paquin, Lanvin, Premet and Callot show partiality to Indian cashmere of heavy surface in neutral tints, also silk and woolen jersey cloths trimmed with terra-cotta pellusa.

"Poiret endorses chic black and white combinations with color, primitive embroideries and butter-colored jersey cloth bordered with dark blue. With Poiret, materials count for little compared to his use of them.

"Jenny uses heavy decorative stuffs, and produces tailored costumes of smooth-faced serge combined with plush trimmings. She cleverly handles long woolen fringes and makes charming dresses of fine crepe spattered with large embroidered dots.

"Doucet uses duvetyn in several shades of red and butter-yellow. He likes natural colors in thick woolens. Green and black and yellow and black are favorite combinations in big-checked sporting stuffs"



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$42.50---$1 Weekly Payments

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Next week will be **Neponset** week here. We are going to place a linoleum on the market which has not been equaled for wearing quality. The price per square yard will be **49¢.**

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Styles that are new—given formal introduction to women who are desirous of the best.

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New Fall Suits, Coats and Dresses Ready For Your Selection To-morrow

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The exhibit presents the utmost in exclusiveness---the utmost in newness---the utmost in quality---the utmost in value

Luxurious Autumn Suits

Presenting All That Paris and New York Are Wearing

Beautiful fitting garments in a bewildering assortment—unlimited in color and model—

Velours Silvertone Burella Cloth Velvet Bolivia Serge Poplin

A suit exposition complete in style, variety and distinctiveness.

Smart Autumn Coats

Meeting Every Requirement

The style features are voluminous fullness; the war fashion effect is reflected in the great variety of trench and belted models—as interesting a collection as you have ever seen.

Coats straight draped from the shoulders, falling in full graceful folds. Russian styles have also exerted their influence on many models, while there is still a strong tendency to high-waisted empire effects.

New Pom-Pom Cloths *New Bolivia Cloths*
New Burella Cloths *New Velours*
New Motor Mixtures

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This season's opening show is larger and more impressive than ever. The hats are designed in a host of distinctive and becoming creations, each one trimmed in an individualisticly striking manner that at once wins the approval of all correctly attired women.

Come and view this magnificent display of fashionable headwear. See the new "Bustle Hat"—shown here exclusivly and the very latest style-novelty presented this season.

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Prices moderate for hats of high quality and superior style.

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Every phase of the smart autumn embroidery in Oriental effects — bead embroidery and silk. Models and colors appropriate for the young woman or the woman of mature years and dignified bearing.

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High-cut boots of kidskin, gun metal and patent coltskin —high and low and medium heels. Perfect fitting.

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Extra high-cut boots — button and laced — brand new models of our own designing. Various good leathers. Excellent fitters.

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At $7.50
Fine kidskin high-cut laced Napoleon boots in black, Havana and gray with leather Louis XV heels.

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Extra high-cut boots of very finest imported kidskin and buckskin in the new shades of gray and brown. Newest models.

At $13.50
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BOWMAN'S—Main Floor.