### In the School That History Keeps

International Sunday School Lesson For September 30, 1917.

A Quarterly Review, "The Goodness and Severity of God."—Daniel 9: 3-19

By WILLIAM T. ELLIS

God's character is Jesus Christ. His characteristic voice is one of gracious invitation. "How everyone that thirsteth, come to the waters, and he that hath no money, buy wine and milk without money and without price." They do not know God at all who do not know that He is love.



### Two Splendid Things

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BY WILLIAM T. ELLIS

To review a former study is like eager to lavish of His best upon all who will receive Him.

So like a seesaw goe's Judah's his-

To review a former study is like visiting a familiar city with the larger vision of the traveler whose horizon has widened. The vaster reaches of the themes studied are perceived in a review, and what relation each bears to all. There is not subject that so well repays repeated study as the Bible; like Solomon's storehouse, it produces treasures new and old. Of necessity, the uniform series of Sunday school lessons, which are studied around the world, cover whole ranges of history and moral teaching by a few selected incidents and passages. The past quarter's work is a survey of the history of Israel and Judah, with brief glimpses into the prophecies which made the period's immortal contribution to literature.

The book-taught man must always sit at the feet of him who has made a first-hand study of life. The wises men are they who know what is in man from personal observation in the fact that eighteen million persons have for three months past it is written in history. There is distinct educational value, apart from all religious considerations, in the fact that eighteen million persons have for three months past been studying chapters in the history of the ancient nation of Judah.

Moving the Arm That Moves the World

These studies in house a passage was a first-hand study file.

Who will receive Him.

So like a seesaw goes Judah's history, that taking it section by section it is defined to whoth the is effelt by moving up or down. Herein comes the benefit of such a review as this; the nation's life is viewed as a whole, and we see that its progress is downward, desthat its p

sons have for three months past been studying chapters in the history of the ancient nation of Judah. Moving the Arm That Moves the World

These studies in human nature, despite all that is dreary and disappointing in them, have pointed out the one phase of universal and eternal truth, which is man's hope, the mercy of the Lord. The pitifulness and long-suffering of Jehovah toward Judah, are wonderfully appealing and revealing. "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear them." God's love for man surpasses man's power to grasp. Incidents without number in Judah's history make this plain. When Sennacherib came down "like a wolf on the fold," the hosts of heaven were promptly ensisted for the Jews. Eternally God fights with His own.

And He is easily entreated. Hezekiah's plisht and prayer drive home the teaching, which is as new as if freshly discovered by every human life that puts it to the test, that "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." This great and infinite Jehovah, who stands as the background of all history, is yet so personal that He may be affected by the deeds and pleadings of faithful hearts.

This truth was the light of Judah's dark times. The old seer leasiah beheld the highest revelation of Jehovah in "The Suffering Saviour." The ultimate expression of God's character is Jesus Christ. His characteristic voice is one of gracious invitation. "How everyone that thirsteth, come to the waters, and he that hat no money, buy whe and the lath of money, buy whe and that he not money to we were the prove of the and money of history of the lord is a plumb-line to the prews tice.

A Peculiar Nation

Nobody can study closely the world of to-day, and especially the 'older that the place and mission of America, or there is no essential difference in the ideals of Canada and of the United States—is a sabsolute. Judah's the old ealism of this magnificent geographical isolation, in order to work out unique destiny. A veritable teacher and prophet among the

hundred and fifty years seem but episodal in the long sweep of history—the power of the man born to high place was greater than now. The king's divine right was accepted by all—except the few rivals who would overthrow him. There was no great reverse of outspoken public opinion, such as is the strength of our modern democracies. The king was far above the people. A modern nation can get along fairly well, even though its king be a rake or fool. Not so in Judah's day. Thus we find three outstanding factors in the life of that kingdom to be the good kings, the bad kings and the prophets. There were a number of colorless kings, who may be passed by without comment.

That the nation lived so long as it did was due primarily to the good kings—Hezekiah, Asa, Jehoshaphat, Josiah. The history of Judah was like a mountainous sky-line, with the good kings as the mountain peaks. They made their people to turn to God. Forever they stand as illustrations of the truth that one man has power to lead many men to do good. Now that people choose their own rulers, it may reasonably be said to be incumbent upon them to see that these rulers are men with that first qualification for good citizenship, the fear of the Lord.

The power of one small boy in the neighborhood for mischief is the wonder and despair of parents. It seems as if one such is able to offset the influence of half a dozen good boys, plus all the anxious parents concerned. It was so with the mischief-making kings of Judah. They made the people to sin. The warnings of the prophets, the strong gull of the nation's providential history, the example of their plous predecessors, all seemed to be nullified, when kings like Rehoboam, Joash, Ahaz, Manasseh and Jeholass in a public official are triffing m came to the throne. The peo-who condone or suffer wicked-in a public official are triffing their own and their children's

ness in a public official are trifling with their own and their children's welfare.

Like beacons, beckoning a bewildered traveler on a dark night, were the prophets of Judah — Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekial and Daniel. The man with a word of truth is the divine corrective in the life of society. A nation is never in the worst state so long as it has fearless, disinterested men, who will proclaim the wise word of true counsel. The underlying evil of the nation was its neglect of God's clear word, and failure to follow the path He had clearly marked out. Written over all those troublous generations we may clearly read, "Right-cousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."

Taking Civilization to Task

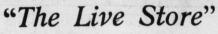
It has chanced to be my lot to traverse practically all the ruins of antiquity. I have trodden the fallen grandeur of all the ancient and imperial civilization. In these ruins one reads a story of a retributive power who overrules all of man's vaultings and ambitious plans. One cannot visit Nineveh for instance, and behold the Children of Israel who have still survived while the glory of Sennacherib has perished without awesome thoughts of the God of Abraham and the children of the promise.

A long look back over the mil-

Abraham and the children of the promise.

A long look back over the millenniums makes it clear that society has an obligation to God. He has held accountable the nations of the earth. God deals with peoples as well as with individuals, and that is the lesson for to-day. We are engaged, on this western continent, in creating a new civilization. If we are not ignorant of the teachings of time we will keep God's program in mind and hold out nation true to its obligation to the King of kings.

"Hold ye the faith, the faith our fathers sealed us.
Whoring not with visions over wise and over stale.
Except ye pay the Lord, Single heart and single sword, of your children in their bondage Shall He ask them treble tale."





"Always Reliable"

# Recognition!

Doutrichs a Wonderful Store. Recognition is worth a lot these days--and when you are playing in a "big game" you must be a heavy hitter to put it over—time was when small things were big-but the clothing business today requires the Know How as well as the where-with, it takes both to be successful. You can't make a home run with a hole in your bat — neither can you fool the public long and get away with it - We've played the game with square-dealing, good merchandise and honest representation from the day we opened our doors in Harrisburg and through this method we have attained permanent and lasting results.

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