

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

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LESSON FOR AUGUST 8

THE KINGDOM TORN ASUNDER.

LESSON TEXT—1 Kings 12:1-16. GOLDEN TEXT—Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Prov. 16:18.

Solomon's kingdom though outwardly magnificent contained within it those germs of oppression, formal religious observances and the lax example of an indulgent monarch which speedily led to its disruption after his death. Forty years Solomon reigned, but the latter end of his life was none too peaceful. "He loved many strange women" and "his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God" (11:1, 4). Rehoabom was his "adversary" (11:25) and Jeroboam whom he at first sought to conciliate (11:26-28) was finally driven from the land (v. 40). Chapter eleven contains the prophecy of which this lesson is the fulfillment. "And Jeroboam, his son, reigned in his stead" (11:42).

I. The Convention at Shechem, vv. 1-5. This place has an important history beginning in the days of Abraham and Jacob. It was a city of the Levites and the place where Joshua gave his final charge (Josh. 24:1, 25). Abimelech destroyed it though it was soon rebuilt. Here Israel gathered to confirm Solomon's son upon the throne. Jeroboam and Rehoabom were both present and Rehoabom was the one who was chosen king, but the ten tribes refused to go with him, and according to one tradition there was a year's delay during which time Jeroboam was sent for and certain reforms were formulated (v. 2). Their charges were entirely selfish and made no reference to the rights of Jehovah nor offered any protest against the increasing idolatry. Before allegiance was sworn Jeroboam as spokesman presented these reforms (v. 4) and Rehoabom wisely asked for time to consider the request (v. 5).

II. Good Counsel Neglected, vv. 6-11. Rehoabom came of bad stock (14:21), yet his first step was a wise one. His name means "Enlarger of the people," but he sadly belied the name. Too long had he lived in the atmosphere of luxury and enervation. The northern tribes suffered greatly through taxation and shared none of the prosperity of Jerusalem. Solomon's "yoke," like that of every earthly monarch, had been heavy (Matt. 11:29, 30). The counsel of the old men was good (v. 7), it was wisely, manly.

Jesus tells us that the greatest must be the servant of all and sets us the example himself (Matt. 20:28). Rehoabom next consulted those of his own circle who "were grown up with him," men of like position and passions, youths as inexperienced as himself who had no sympathy but were wild, uncontrolled, overbearing, selfish. Rehoabom asked "advice" (v. 6) of the old men, but asked for "counsel" (v. 9) of the young men, but in neither case is there any suggestion that God was consulted (James 1:5). These young men counseled a boasting and burdensome course, which brought Rehoabom to grief. Oppression always results in rebellion, a fact that those who govern or employ others should ponder well. Rehoabom's choice of counselors and his consequent course of action was the height of foolishness (Prov. 12:20).

III. Bad Counsel Confirmed, vv. 12-14. Jeroboam's subsequent career affirms us in believing that he more than all others encouraged and fostered the division of the kingdom. But he and the proud, foolish princeling were both only carrying out the word and will of Jehovah (v. 15; Ps. 76:10). This does not, however, lessen his guilt or folly (Acts 2:23). Not content with declaring his acceptance of the old counsel he spoke "roughly" (v. 13) and this verse suggests to us that the old men's counsel was known to the people, thereby aggravating his offense. "Whom God wishes to destroy the first makes mad." Rough words wound or madden and, "by using soft words you may lead an elephant by a tail." Not content to refuse Rehoabom threats added burdens (v. 14). Jeroboam says that the people were struck by his words as by an iron rod, and they at once exclaimed, "What portion have we" (in the northern tribes) in David" (v. 16), repudiating David's son and David's tribe. Their cry, "To your tents, O Israel!" meant "back to your home and let Jehovah look out for itself."

IV. Conclusion. God turned away the kingdom from Solomon's house because Solomon had turned away from God (ch. 11:9-11, 31, 33). A true prophet foretold what would happen, the "cause was from the Lord that he might perform his saying" (v. 15, cf. 11:31, 32). God is constantly and literally fulfilling prophecy. Those which have been so fully and so minutely fulfilled are a warrant that in due time he will likewise "come to pass." Rehoabom is a lesson to the young men of today. (a) He was imperial and the character of his choice lay in his own hands (Prov. 16:18). (b) His great sin was the sum of his wisdom in small affairs. Our companions indicate our character. (c) He was not entirely ruined. David's faithfulness saved one tribe of Rehoabom. God's grace is unto generations without number and his ear ready to hear the penitent's cry. As long as life remains it is our privilege to serve God and our fellowmen.

Rehoabom is also a lesson for present-day fathers. Solomon's example did not measure up to his teaching, it had the chances after the son's history would have been different. Solomon's sin was primarily the cause of Israel's division (ch. 11:9, 13). Finally Rehoabom is a lesson to all who are set in authority. To close our eyes to the cry of the needy; to forget our obligations to God and to men (Matt. 25), and to fail to see God's purposes, prophecies and plans, inevitably courts disaster.

Summer Vogue of White Fur



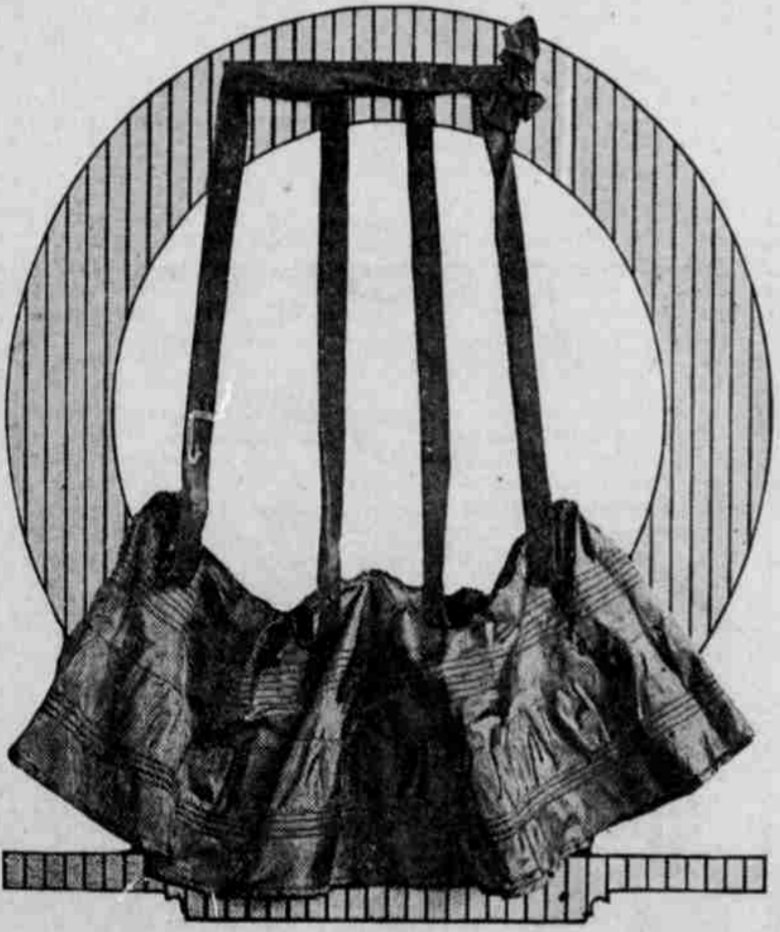
If there is one thing in the world more becoming than all others, it is the white fur neckpiece. In spite of the calendar and with or without the consent of the thermometer, this neckpiece has flourished through July and shows an undiminished head in August. Its vogue probably came about through the chilly weather in the early summer at San Francisco. All the gay world having journeyed thither, found a fur neckpiece comfortable. All the world recognized the becomingness of white fur and took heart at its appearance in the month of roses to make a vogue for summer furs.

Let us be thankful that the majority of the neckpieces with which the wayward devotees of fashion have chosen to bedeck themselves are not really of white fox. They are as far from the fox as the goat is, or the Belgian hare, or whatever else those clever manipulators of skins know how to fashion into things of beauty.

There would surely be few foxes left if every white neckpiece cost the life of one. These summer furs are worn with white turbans or small white hats, with best effect, although they appear with all other midsummer millinery. In the picture a turban of white satin suggests a frill about the crown which gives it the appearance of a Tam-o-Shanter. At the left it is decorated with a bead ornament. The hat, the neckpiece, and the dress of cross-bar taffeta, made up with plain taffeta, are all forerunners of fashion and reliable indications of the coming mode.

However unwearable it may appear for the fair wearer of fur to cling to it where no keen wind blows, she may be excused. A white fur neckpiece is really a good investment. The opportunities for wearing it stretch through this summer to the coming winter and to other winters beyond. White furs, especially for youth, will be good style, at least as long as any furs continue to be good style.

The Skeleton Petticoat



A founce suspended by ribbons, to be worn in place of a silk petticoat, is the very latest device for comfort and style. Everyone wants the fashionable flare at the bottom of skirts, and everyone likes the elegance of silk in petticoats. But no one wants added warmth about the body, or bulk about the hips, and here is the solution to the flare without anything else to hamper its wearer.

The skeleton petticoat is merely a more or less fancy and fluffy founce of silk suspended by ribbons from a ribbon belt. The very practical one shown in the picture is made of bright green taffeta silk. Eight lengths of green taffeta ribbon suspend it from a belt of the same ribbon which ties in a small bow about the waist. This is a good color to wear with almost any street gown.

A petticoat of this kind to be worn with lingerie gowns is made of white taffeta in a founce having decorations of figured taffeta. The figured taffeta—usually a flowered pattern on a white ground—is cut in strips two inches wide and "plinked" along each edge. These strips are sewed together and plaited into very full box platts to form a narrow ruffling. This is sewed in fteostoms to the white founce. The belt is made by covering a flat

piece of tape two inches long and one-quarter inch wide. Loop tape through two eyes of buttonhole, so that the ends hang even on the back of button. Pass the ends through the hole left by the fastener, spread them out flat in opposite directions and overcast both edges finely. This method is useful in sewing buttons on a child's undershirt.

Optimistic Thought. No victory is obtained without suffering.

Temperance

(Conducted by the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union.)

THE DEED OF GIFT.

Archbishop Ireland tells the following story of a total abstinence pledge that had a fixed economic value: "I was strolling on a summer evening along one of the streets in the upper town of St. Paul, Minnesota. The figure of a friend of mine was seen hammering a piece of wood in front of a newly built cottage. I approached with the salute: 'Well, Patrick, what are you doing here?' 'Industrying,' answered he, 'putting some last touches to this house of mine.' 'This house of yours?' I replied. 'Have you had the money to pay for this fine building?' 'Yes, indeed, this house is paid for and so is the next house, mine also; one to live in, the other to be rented to some neighbor. My wonder grew. 'Why, how is this, Patrick? I remember well when you had very little money. So do I remember, replied Patrick, 'but I have found the money. You, Father Ireland, gave it to me.' Still more did my wonder grow. 'Come inside,' continued Patrick and in an instant, following his quick pace, I was upstairs in Patrick's bedroom. 'Look here,' he said, 'this is the deed of gift.' I looked. On the wall above the bed, nicely framed, was the document, 'I promise to abstain during my lifetime from all intoxicating drinks. Signed, Patrick. Witnessed, John Ireland. The mystery of the two houses, the property of Patrick, was explained. With gladsome hand I saluted him; with warm heart I prayed for further success to the cause of total abstinence.'

OF INTEREST TO MASONS.

The attention of the Masonic order has been called to the fact that the sale of liquor in hotels and saloons on Sunday is a Masonic crime. Following is the text of a letter sent by Attorney Joe Beatty Burt, chairman of the crime prevention committee of the Fraternal Education association to the various Masonic bodies in Chicago: "Dear Friends and Brothers: Doubtless you have noticed in the daily press that the Chicago loop hotels (except the Blackstone and Great Northern) have formed a combination to violate the law of Illinois. The managers of some of these hotels are thirty-second degree Masons and belong to Oriental Consistory. Since the violation of state laws by a member of the Masonic fraternity is a Masonic crime, I am calling your attention to this open, brazen, and notorious offense of some of our ignorant and less informed brethren with the hope that they will overcome their own selfish blindness and correct an error of their ways. I am also informed that some of the Masonic lodges in Chicago are deriving profit from the lawlessness that prevails in our city. No doubt you will agree with me that the time is ripe, in Chicago at any rate, when the canning process should be applied to commercialized fraternity."

ON NARROW GAUGE TRACKS. Railroads Used for Warfare in Europe Have Equipment That is Especially Built. Among the adaptations of devices of domestic convenience to the requirements of modern warfare is the employment of narrow gauge railways in the supply of trenches on the battle lines at the front in Europe. More than 100 such trains, it is reported, are now in construction at works in Pennsylvania. These trains, as described, will run upon a track two feet in width, in tunnels so small that they can reach the firing line, right into the trenches, unseen by the enemy, carrying ammunition, shrapnel, hand grenades and arms. By so much, it is expected the resources of the trench fighters will be supplied. The use of such miniature trains is an incident of the evolution of the system of underground close-to-hand fighting adopted in this war.—Boston Post.

HAIR OR NO HAIR? It is Certainly Up to You and Cuticura, Trial Free. Hot shampoos with Cuticura Soap, followed by light dressings of Cuticura Ointment rubbed into the scalp skin tend to clear the scalp of dandruff, soothe itching and irritation and promote healthy hair-growing conditions. Nothing better, cleaner, purer. Sample each free by mail with Book. Address postcard, Cuticura, Dept. XY, Boston. Sold everywhere.—Adv.

THE RED FLAG. An engineer gave his little girl a small red flag to play with and explained that on the road the red flag signifies danger. "Would you stop your train if you saw a red flag on the track?" she asked. "Yes," he said, "or there might be an accident." After her papa had left, the little girl thought of what she might do to help, and at last she thought of the red flag, and what her papa had told her it stands for. Going to the sideboard, she firmly fastened the flag to the decanter, and then went to bed satisfied. The father came home, went to the sideboard for the usual nightcap, but saw the flag and understood and heeded the warning.

NOT LIQUID BREAD. In a pamphlet entitled, "Alcohol and the Power of Resistance," distributed among the recruits of the German army, the following statement concerning beer is made: "There is no justification for calling beer 'liquid bread'; a glass of heavy beer costing 25 pennings, has no more nourishment than a piece of cheese costing one penny. Almost all excesses and disturbances in the army are traced to drink. It is mostly beer that causes the mischief. Beer is not the harmless drink that it is supposed to be."

ENEMY IS RECOGNIZED. Trying times have searched out the weaknesses caused by the demon rum and the evil that it does stands apparent. From the ignorant Villa in Mexico to the king of England, from the president of the French republic to the czar of all the Russias, men of intelligence and concern for their fellow man have recognized the enemy of a sound body and a good mind.—Chicago Tribune.

BEFORE AND AFTER. The public officials of Clarksburg, W. Va., are quoted by the Clarksburg Telegram as saying that but one-seventh as many arrests were made in the city during July, August, September and October under prohibition as were made during the corresponding months of last year. Three members of the police force have been cut off as a result of prohibition.

HOMES WITHER. Where the saloons flourish the homes wither.—The Pioneer.

CURB ON DRINKING. The Cambria Steel company of Johnstown, Pa., has taken official steps to curb all drinking by its employees on the principle that any man has a right to drink if he wants to, but no man has a right to drink and expect to sell his lessened efficiency to the Cambria Steel company at full price.

WHY HARBOR IT? "Whisky," says Federal Judge Killitts, "is the inveterate enemy of the union labor man."

Advertisement for Castoria, 900 Drops, Infant's Children, promoting digestion and relief of constipation.

Advertisement for Fletcher's Castoria, featuring the signature of Charles H. Fletcher and the text 'In Use For Over 30 Years'.

Advertisement for Ladies Who Wear Undergarments, featuring Gilber's Jewel Talcum Powder.

Advertisement for Tut's Pills, describing their benefits for constipation and general health.

Advertisement for Elixir Habek, a medicinal product for various ailments.

Advertisement for Landlord Likes Chess Players, a humorous piece about a landlord and a tenant.

Advertisement for A Germ Crank, a humorous piece about a man who is overly concerned with germs.

Advertisement for Restricted Sport, a humorous piece about a man who is overly concerned with physical fitness.

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Advertisement for Partine, a soluble antiseptic powder for douches.

Advertisement for W. N. U., Baltimore, No. 32-1915, featuring a list of names and addresses.

Advertisement for Individuality as a Factor, discussing the importance of individuality in life.

Advertisement for Safety First, discussing the importance of safety in all aspects of life.

Advertisement for Marriage is the worst kind of a failure, a humorous piece about marriage.

Advertisement for Libby's Hot Weather Meats, featuring a list of products and a thermometer graphic.