

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By E. O. SELLERS, Acting Director of Sunday School Course, Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.

LESSON FOR MARCH 14

SAUL GAINS HIS KINGDOM.

LESSON TEXT—I Samuel, chapter II. **GOLDEN TEXT**—He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit, than he that taketh a city.—Prov. 16:32.

In order to repay Israel's victory under Jephthah, Nahash the Ammonite demanded the right eye of those besieged in Jabesh in Gilead, knowing that the left eye would be hid by their shields and they would thus be incapable of warfare. For Israel to make any covenant with the Ammonites was contrary to God's commands (Ex. 23:32; Deut. 23:3).

1. The Cry of Jabesh, vv. 1-3. This event probably occurred about a month after the previous lesson. It was a proud, haughty demand made of these Israelites. Exhausted and hopeless, they had offered to become servants in order to live. So today we frequently find men willing to compromise with the world and the devil, who only hold them in derision and contempt (v. 2). Compromising Christians are always blind leaders of the blind (Matt. 18:14; 23:16). The demand of Nahash would also bring reproach upon Israel, yet this same king afterwards showed kindness to David (II Samuel 10:2). History records that Emperor Basil II actually sent an army of 14,850 sightless men back to the king of Bulgaria, who died of grief and horror.

2. The Conquest of Ammon, vv. 4-11. Nahash granted the request for a seven days' respite. Here was Saul's opportunity—wrongs to be righted and people to be saved. Saul had held his peace since being anointed by Samuel, employing his time in everyday toil and duties (v. 5), for the messengers did not find Saul at home idle. The tidings of this insult were told to the people who lifted up their voices and wept (v. 4). The news of this threatened calamity reached Saul's ears and his conduct effectually put to silence those "worthless fellows" who despised him and had brought no presents at his anointing (16:27). Instead of tears Saul is moved to deeds. Like Cincinnatus and Israel Putnam, he left the plow to take up the sword. Saul did not, in his own strength, undertake to relieve Jabesh, for "the Spirit of God came upon him" (v. 6; see also Judges 3:10; 11:29; 13:25; Luke 24:49; Acts 10:38). This moved Saul to anger, not alone at such an evidence of cruelty, but more at the contempt Nahash had for God and his people. Saul associated himself with Samuel, the man of God, and summoned the nation of Israel to his side.

The Holy Spirit gave Saul clear assurance of a call from God, and he responded with unquestioned faith (Rom. 8:31). The people responded with great rapidity, for the fear of God came upon them also. We have the good news of a better deliverance from a more subtle foe to proclaim in the present age. They all resorted to Bezek, west of the Jordan. The messengers returned bearing a message having two meanings (v. 10), and that helped to keep Nahash ignorant of Saul's actions on the other side of the river. Dividing his army into companies Saul attacked the enemy "in the morning watch," and completely overwhelmed them and put them to rout. As the Ammonites had refused to show any mercy, they in turn were judged unworthy of mercy (v. 11, see also James 2:13; Matt. 7:2).

3. The Crowning of Saul, vv. 12-15. Saul's victory so impressed the people that they demanded to know of Samuel who it was that had refused him as king, desiring to put them to death. Saul showed his wisdom by not permitting such a course of action. Many today refuse God's divinely appointed king who will yet be glad to acknowledge him (Luke 19:27; Phil. 2:10). In the next place Saul did not claim credit for the victory for, said he, "The Lord hath wrought deliverance in Israel" (v. 13 R. V.). All real victories come from God (Ps. 44:4-8; I Cor. 15:10). Saul reaped the reward of his humility, his forbearance, courage and activity in the loyalty and pride of the people. Samuel gladly shared in the success of Saul and led the people to Gilgal for the crowning ceremony. This was the place where Israel had first encamped under the leadership of Joshua and where the twelve stones from the river had been set up as a testimony to God's real presence and deliverance.

Saul had natural and physical characteristics calculated to make him a great and useful king—self-restraint, modesty, military invention and a capacity for leadership.

He was shrewd, patient and generous. He thus stood on the threshold of his kingdom with the possibilities of untold usefulness and blessing.

We are "kings and priests unto God." He has ushered us into his kingdom. Power, usefulness, influence, helpfulness, victory over sin are before us. "Napoleon said that his nobility dated from Arcole and Marengo. May ours date from the victories of love over the evil within us and in the world." "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" (I John 5:4).

Song and Story.....

Chickens Come Home to Roost.

You may take this world as you come and go,
And you will be sure to find
That fate will square the account she owes,
Whoever comes out behind.
And all things bad that a man has done,
By whatsoever induced;
Comes back to meet him one by one,
As the chickens come home to roost.

Who may starve your soul and stint your heart,
With the husks of a barren creed;
But Christ will know if you played your part,
Will know in your hour of need,
And then as you wait for death to come
What hope can there be deduced;
From a creed alone you will lie there dumb,
While your chickens come home to roost.

Sow as you will there's a time to reap
For the good and bad as well;
And conscience whether awake or asleep
Is either a Heaven or hell,
And all things bad must take its place
By whatsoever induced;
Comes back to meet you face to face,
As your chickens come home to roost.

Whether you are over or under the sod
The result will be the same,
You cannot escape the had of God,
You must bear your sin and shame,
No matter what's carved on a marble slab,
When the items are all produced;
You will find St Peter was keeping tab
And chickens come home to roost.

"What is your name?" a Kentuckian asked a negro boy.
"Well, boss," he answered, "everywhere I goes they gives me a new one but my maiden name is Moses."
Schmidt sued Jones for slander, alleging that Jones had called him a hippopotamus some six months before. Of this time item, Jones' attorney made capital, saying scornfully:
"Why, you haven't got any case, Mr. Schmidt. If your feelings were so badly hurt, why didn't you take action six months ago?"
"Yes, I know," answered Schmidt easily, "but I never saw a hippopotamus until two weeks past already."

During the last G. A. R. encampment there was one woman amid the crowd of spectators on the day of the parade who made herself conspicuous by her noisy hurrahs and excited waving of a flag as the old veterans marched past. One of the bystanders told her sharply to shut up.
"Shut up yourself!" she retorted. "If you had buried two husbands who served in the war, you would be hurraing too."

WHAT BABY SAID
The good grocer calls at their house every day to get orders. He is good because he brings candy to the children.
A morning or two ago he passed a few dainty bits to the baby, who is just learning to talk.
"What do you say to the man, dear?" mother said to the recipient, her heart bent on teaching her children politeness. The baby didn't get it for a moment, then blurted:
"Has you dot any more?" Ind. News

A party of physicians were on their way to a medical convention and they had gathered in the buffet car to discuss professional matters. The talk had begun with proper cleanliness in bandaging. It had progressed to that point where sneezing was condemned for the germs it disseminated, when the engine whistled to announce an approaching station. The porter entered. He waved his whiskbroom.
"Bresh you off, sah?" he asked of one of the doctors. The doctor turned on him.
"Just exactly what I've been contending," he said, heatedly. "There's one of the finest little systems of spreading germs that ever was invented. The porter comes in here and he brushes me off; then he brushes you, and you, and everyone else, and starts a lot of germs flying round in the air to be breathed in and start disease. I say that germs ought not to be disturbed in public. It's dangerous. They ought to be let alone—not thrown up into the air by all this brushing!"
There was a moment of silence. The porter grinned foolishly. He first stood on one foot, then on the other. He grinned again, then waved his brush.
"Come on, Doctah!" he begged; "come on and let me bresh you off! Pshaw! Don't let that idea about microbes bother you any! What little breshin' I'm going to do aint going to disturb no germs. No, Suhr!"

NEW YORK FASHION TIPS.

New York, March 9—Lenten days are busy days for everyone interested in things Sartorial since Easter weddings and gaieties will demand the smartest possible attire, and women have learned by trying experiences that it's only the early order that brings the dress home on time.

Flowing Skirts and Fussy Styles.
Fashionable lines have changed so completely that it is difficult to bring last year's costume up to date, especially if it is a tallmade, but here and there one sees smart new models that are helpful in this direction. Long jackets can be made into short ones, and panel pleatings widen a narrow skirt into modish fullness. Even in the best imported models one still sees the narrow petticoat topped by a long all round tunic, and on fussy frocks lacey petticoats that display their flounces for several inches, below the dress skirt, are rather more used than at their introduction last year. A dress of black charmeuse worn in a popular play here, has the bodice built largely of fine net, above the tightly drawn girde which defines the figure sharply from the waist up. The skirt of the charmeuse falls over an undertrimming of net flounces edged with elaborate jet embroideries which form the popular scallops at the foot.



McCall Designs
A Walking Rig.

A smart dress of green and blue plaid in a rich low toned mixture has the stylish skirt of the plaid and a short loose jacket of navy serge, with cuffs and a veritable shawl collar of the plaid. The shawl point in the back extending nearly to the edge of the coat, and completely concealing its lines at this point.

Smartness and Economy.
The woman who secures the utmost smartness of effect in her dress, yet keeps her expenditures within well defined bounds, never fails to study the outlines that mark the general trend of fashion from season to season.

Unless the right silhouette is secured the handsomest dress appears dowdy while the correct lines make an inexpensive frock smart.
With the complete revolution of the outlines of this season, it is most important to secure a correctly built corset. The new Warner's rust-proof models show all the latest, most desirable points, and these can now be seen at any department where such goods are carried. They are, if anything, more comfortable than the former low bust styles, since the new boning gives a pleasing support to the natural figure, shaping the lines in accord with to-day's requirements.

Blouses.
Almost all the latest blouses are designed to wear over the skirt, and finish their own girdles and waist trimmings rather than with the extra belts especially in the dressy type of waist. A blouse of white silk with black cross lines, producing a wide check more, white than black, is made on regular Jersey lines. A small rolling collar of black velvet in tallor finish, matching small cuffs at the wrist. The front closing with large jet buttons to the waist line where the material is cut off and finished like an Eton coat on the left side while on the right the material is prolonged into two straps that end in cravat bows on the left hip. The high white Dickey worn with is of washable crepe. A smart top of serge that could be worn with a skirt of the same material or with an odd skirt of satin or wool check suggests a middle blouse with a wide girde of the same material. The long sleeves end in regular shirt sleeve cuffs trimmed with fancy braid. The same braid trims the rather low cut neck and finishes the bottom of the girde. A high flaring collar of black satin ends about two inches from the front while a tie of satin smartens the

IN THE ORPHAN'S COURT OF SOMERSET COUNTY PA.

In the Estate of Louisa Clark, Deceased, Late of Rockwood Borough, Somerset County, Pa.
Letters of Administration having been granted the undersigned administrator for the Estate of Louisa Clark, deceased, late of Rockwood, of the County of Somerset, State of Pennsylvania, notifies all persons having claims against the said estate to present the same and those being indebted are requested to make settlement on or before Saturday, March, 13th at one o'clock in the Borough of Somerset, Pennsylvania.

ERNEST O. KOOSER,
Administrator.

TO OUR CORRESPONDENTS

As a rule our correspondents are very faithful, regularly sending in the news of their locality, and those are the only ones who can expect pay for their services. There are a number of names from the previous editor's list marked as correspondents to this paper, but who since we have taken charge, have never sent any letter. If you do not intend to send in matter so inform us or the cost of the paper will have to be entered against your account. Try to have your correspondence in by Tuesday of each week, as otherwise we may be compelled to hold it over, in the hurry of going to press.

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neck and a sash of the same appears through a square slit in the girde at the left side where two buttons add to the breezy effect.

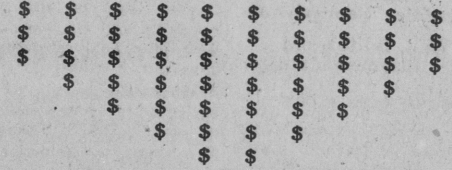
Crystals and Jet.

Crystalbeads either in combination with jet or by themselves are very smartly used both for dresses and hat trimmings. A novel trimming consists of good sized beads of crystal strung on the edge of a flounce of white net or satin that finishes the bottom of the skirt. One would think the contact of the instep with these would be rather unpleasant but the effect is novel, and modish which no doubt makes amends. The long ropes of beads introduced over a year ago in pearls are now more employed for cut jets and cry crystal and add greatly to the effect of many simple net toilets.

Printed Nets and Bridge Jackets.

Printed nets are back in favor on the tide which has brought back all Dolly Vardinish styles. These nets combine prettily with plain satins or taffetas and offer an excellent opportunity to freshen up a passe frock. They also make charming little bridge and dinner coats. Some of the prettiest are laid in side plaits hung from a yoke top and belted and edged at the bottom of the pleated peplum with a band of satin ribbon. A coat of this type of all over printed chiffon in a foliage and floral design, the colors, green and blue, was trimmed with bandings of red satin ribbon.

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