

Sunday-school Lesson.

PREPARED BY REV. CHAS. O. JONES, A. M.

FIRST QUARTER, LESSON II.—JANUARY 10.

SCRIPTURES IN ISAAH, JEREMIAH, EZEKIEL.

A SONG OF SALVATION.—LRS. 26:1-10.

GOLDEN TEXT: Trust ye in the Lord forever, for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength.—LRS. 26:4.

TIME: Uncertain; Probably 701 B. C.

OUTLINE.

I. A Song of Praise.—Verses 1-4. II. Destruction of the Proud.—Verses 5, 6. Result of God's Dealings.—Verses 7-10.

INTRODUCTION.

The time of the lesson is unknown. The prophet sees some great deliverance of his people, perhaps that from Sennacherib or from the exile in Babylon, and then looks forward to the final triumph of God's kingdom. His joy expresses itself in an outburst of song, which might appropriately be sung by the triumphant church.

I. A SONG OF PRAISE.—VERSES 1-4.

1. In that day of deliverance and victory. Shall this song be sung in the land of Judah—the exiles returned from Babylon to Judah, which was a type of Christ's kingdom. We have a strong city—Jerusalem was naturally a strong city, easily made impregnable; against the church the gates of hell shall not prevail. Salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwark—salvation is the gift of God, and if he be for us who can be against us?

2. Open ye the gates—none are excluded, all are welcome to come to Christ. That the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in—there is no room in the church or in heaven for the wicked; Christ saves not in but from sin.

3. Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace—most beautiful description of that tranquillity of soul which results from faith in Christ. Whose mind is stayed on thee—not a transitory, but an abiding faith, a lesson for life-long fidelity.

4. Trust ye in the Lord forever—if perfect peace comes from trusting, the prophet is justified in this ringing exhortation, "trust forever." In the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength—Rev. ver. reads, "is an everlasting rock," and the margin "the rock of ages"; God is a sure defense, as Luther sang, "A mighty fortress is our God."

DESTRUCTION OF THE PROUD.—VERSES 5, 6.

5. He bringeth down them that dwell on high—Nineveh and Babylon illustrated this; all the enemies of the church shall be brought low.

6. The foot shall tread it down—the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong; the meek shall inherit the earth; the poor and needy shall come off more than conquerors.

III. RESULT OF GOD'S DEALINGS.—VERSES 7-10.

7. The way of the just is uprightness—a right way; it may be strait and narrow but it is plain; the wayfarer man, though a fool, need not err therein. Thou most upright, dost weigh the path of the just—God makes plain the path of the just, removing obstacles or helping to surmount them.

8. In the way of thy judgments, O Lord, have we waited for thee—have waited to see God put forth his power in judgment against his enemies. The desire of our soul is to thy name—his name stands for his character—himself; an earnest desire after God underlies all faith and love. David said, "one thing have I desired." To the remembrance of thee—we should often meditate in grateful remembrance on what God has done for us.

9. With my soul have I desired thee in the night—in the night of affliction, persecution, and sin, the righteous soul desires God. When thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness—the Jews learned the sin of idolatry during the Babylonian captivity; sin never appears so hideous as when we are suffering for it.

10. Let favor be showed to the wicked, yet will he not learn righteousness—the wicked will spurn his goodness, and continue in sin, thinking that he can not or will not punish them; his long suffering is wilfully misunderstood and abused. In the land of righteousness will he deal unjustly—surroundings do not regenerate character; even in heaven the unjust man would be unjust. Will not behold the majesty of the Lord—close their eyes to God's goodness and greatness.

PRACTICAL.

1. God's kingdom, represented on earth by the visible church, is like Jerusalem or Gibraltar. The Omnipotent is pledged to its defense. It has stood the shocks of time; it will stand forever. Therefore its citizens, the members of the church, should be at peace—with themselves, among themselves, and with God, for they are safe.

2. Yet the basis of this peace is faith. Not money, or talents, or works, or anything but a steadfast faith, can put peace in the heart or joy in the soul. If love is the greatest thing in the world, faith is the first, the foundation.

3. We need a change of heart more than a change of surroundings. In his Darkest England, Gen Booth says that those degraded because of evil surroundings will be helped by a change of surrounding, but only a change of heart can help those who are degraded by sin or evil hearts.

My Daughter's Life. Was saved by Hood's Sarsaparilla, says Mr. B. B. Jones, of Alma, Maine. "She had seven running sores in different places on her body, but on giving her Hood's Sarsaparilla there was marked improvement and now she is well, strong and healthy."

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FROM THE MEXICAN MISSION SCHOOL.

I desire to call the attention of the readers of our ADVOCATE to this new border work which was opened last January by Bro. Kilgore, with Miss Blanche Gilbert as principal. I came to her assistance in August, and have become very much interested in this work. There is no better place on the border for a school, Laredo not excepted. Notwithstanding the great opposition made by the priests, our work has been very successful. What is needed now are funds to carry on the work. The board has made no appropriation and indeed, under the present pressure, cannot possibly take up any new work. The Mexican Conference has just closed. Dr. John and Bishop Haygood were very much in sympathy with this work and anxious that it go on. Though their hearts were full their hands were empty—they were powerless. Both seemed burdened with the heavy debt hanging over the Parent Board, while the demand was so great, both in the home and foreign missions. I see now how the Parent Board has become so embarrassed—they had not the heart to refuse when the calls were made, and so have assumed obligations that they could not meet. This is not the case with our Women's Board. They have harder hearts when it comes to money matters. I do not see, though, how they could have the heart to refuse to loan the Parent Board money, when they have \$100,000 in the bank, and the Parent Board offering more interest than the Nashville bank. Sam Jones is right, after all, when he says women are stingy; that a widow with \$100,000 in the bank will say "I am a poor widow woman, but I'll give the widow's mite." I have been proud of the administrative ability of our Women's Board, but I do not admire their policy in collecting and hoarding up money when the demand is so great. I have worked enthusiastically for the Women's Board. I have given a year's service to Laredo Seminary. I realize the fact now that they no longer need my help. I want to give my support to the weakest side—the Parent Board does need all the assistance it can get. The child is getting so much stronger than the parent that it is now quite independent. The brothers of the Southern Methodist Church are very much afraid of the women having any more rights, and tell us that the only way that we can be deaconesses is for us to marry deacons. But do you know we have just as many rights now as our Northern sisters? Now, what I want to say is this: The Women's Board should hold up while I think, and give the Parent Board a chance. Let the thanksgiving and Christmas offerings, and all special outside of the regular dues of auxiliaries and juveniles, go towards raising the debt of the General Board. They already have large schools where the Parent Board only can get as far as a foundation for a church. This is the case both at Laredo and Saltillo, and I am told at Durango. This should not be; for it is putting school work before the preaching of the gospel. No one believes more in the mission schools than I do; for I am convinced that the best way to Christianize a nation is to educate the children. I believe that a consecrated teacher may often do more good than a native preacher; still there is danger of seeming to these people to place education before the gospel. Let both go side by side in our mission fields. Educate the girls for wives and mothers; the boys for preachers; for the greatest need of Mexico to-day is for homes and mothers. One of my large boys was talking to me and remarked on the progress and intelligence of America, said it was ahead of Mexico. I asked why this was so, and he replied: "On account of their mothers." I feel that this boys' school must be given up, for this is the only opportunity that the Catholic boys have of being taught the Bible, and they seem interested. Miss Gilbert says it is the same with her girls. Christian friends, are you interested in the souls of these children? If so, help to keep up the work by your prayers and your money. It is needed here, I assure you.

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church, and many things applicable to the Mexicans. Dr. John preached a stirring sermon on "Missions." When he spoke of the call from Venezuela for a Mexican preacher and asked who would be willing to go, Acosta, the converted criminal and the most earnest preacher of them all, sprang up with the thrilling words, "Yo, hermano! (I'll go, brother). Then every man of them sprang to their feet. Bro. Sutherland preached a splendid sermon on "Perfect Love." It was an hour and a half long; but they were all attention. He remarked afterwards that it spoiled a preacher to preach to Mexicans; it made a fellow think he was preaching a good sermon. Bro. Corbin's wife was present and Bro. Elliott was also here, and about twenty native preachers, Miss McFerran, of Durango. I trust that what I have written will have its influence and be received in all kindness. ELLIE E. HUNTER.

ORPHAN'S HOME.

To the Friends of the Orphan: As the hours of 1891 are bidding us good-bye forever, the Christian mind becomes thoughtful and lifts itself in praise and gratitude to the Giver of the world's greatest gift, Jesus Christ: What a good time to remember our subscriptions to the Orphan's Home, or the importance of our subscribing to this fund. As you will see in this issue of the ADVOCATE my postoffice for 1892 is Belton, Texas. Let all the subscribers send the amounts due for 1891. Please send at once their annual offering. Others are invited to take part in this work. Write me at Belton, Texas, and may the God of the orphan put his blessing upon all who try to bless the orphans of Texas. W. H. VAUGHAN, Business Manager, Belton, Texas.

DEPARTMENT OF... North Texas Female College AND Conservatory of Music. SHERMAN, TEXAS. CONCERT BY THE MUSIC FACULTY OF N. T. F. COLLEGE. COLLEGE CHAPEL, Dec. 19. The concert of the music teachers of this school last night was a great success in every respect. It opened with a sonata by Greig, for violin and piano, by Prof. Botefuhr and Douillet. Both did justice to the composer. Mr Botefuhr, who has recently been engaged as violin teacher in this college, is a musician of great talent, and handles his instrument with ease and elegance. Mr. Douillet, as usual, played his part as an artist would. The second number in the program was a Recitative et Aria, from Orpheus, by Gluck, beautifully interpreted by our contralto singer, Miss Mary Kern, who has a rich, powerful voice, full of feeling and with very true tones. The third number was a Polonaise for two pianos by Saint Saens, which was rendered very creditably by Misses Crutcher and Gardner. The composition itself is a masterpiece and requires two artists to give the credit it deserves. As we heard it last evening by the above-mentioned young ladies, there was nothing to be desired. The fourth number was Scene de Ballet, by Beriot, which is a very difficult work, in which an artist has a good opportunity to show his technique and fine bowing. This was executed by Mr. Botefuhr. Rhapsodie Hongroise No. 2, by Liszt, played by Mr. Douillet of whom so much has been said abroad and in New York City, that it would be almost impossible for us to say any more. His rendering was simply exquisite. His great power and delicate touch are two great qualities very seldom found combined in a pianist of his grade. The sixth number was an Italian melody entitled Caro Mio Ben, by Pappini, and The Springtime Song, by Becker, in both of which compositions Miss Kern showed to great advantage her fine, round, low notes, and the ease with which she brings them out without using untraces to the key in which she is singing. The seventh and last piece was a beautiful Intermezzo for violin, piano and organ, played and interpreted in the most elegant manner by Messrs. Botefuhr, Douillet and Aquabella. The last named gentleman, who is very well known in New York city as a first-class teacher and fine accompanist, was the accompanist last evening, doing his work with great satisfaction to all.

AN APPEAL TO THE CHILDREN.

DEAR CHILDREN: It has been quite awhile since you had a letter from me. I come to you now through the ADVOCATE with an earnest and emphatic message, which I hope you will both hear and heed very soon. Rev. W. E. Rutledge, the pastor at Eagle Pass, is working hard to build a parsonage and needs help. He gets a small salary and has to pay out 40 per cent of that for house rent for his family. You see that a parsonage at Eagle Pass is a necessity. We must have one, and that right speedily. Our "Coral Builders" sent up a small amount of money to Eagle Pass last year for the church building fund, which enterprise is still under headway, but the pressing need now is the parsonage, and I make an earnest appeal to the Methodist children of Texas to rally to the assistance of Bro. Rutledge, and let's all put our shoulders to the wheel and the work will soon be done. I want \$100 for that parsonage. Please don't disappoint me. Who will be the first missionary boy or girl who will send me \$5, \$10, or more if possible? Don't send 5 or 10 cents, but

get up a big purse—give all you can yourself, and then press your friends into liberality. "The Lord loveth a cheerful giver."

Of course we will be glad to get 50 cents, or \$1, where we can't do any better; but those small amounts count up so slowly, and we haven't time to wait. How thankful will I be, and how I will rejoice the heart of Bro. Rutledge, if we "Coral Builders" can put \$100 into that parsonage! Hurry up, dear children; I am so impatient to get that money. May God help us all to do our full duty in all things. MRS. A. M. IRELAND, SEGIN, TEXAS.

TEXAS PERSONALS.

The postoffice address of Rev. W. A. Sampay is Ennis, Ellis county, Texas.

The following from Rev. W. H. Vaughan explains itself: "Please say in this week's ADVOCATE that my postoffice for 1892 is Belton, Texas, and in your usual way say that Mailey Memorial Church, Fort Worth, gives me \$376 for the Orphan's Home."

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MORE LIGHT AND GREATER RESPONSIBILITY.

That is an erroneous doctrine of heredity which teaches that there is a gradual development and progress among men as individuals, from bad to good and from good to better, from ignorance to knowledge, from superstition to reason, from the savage ruffian to the civilized gentleman, age after age. The child is born unto the world to-day with about the same mental and moral qualifications with which the child was born in the age of Demosthenes or Cicero. He may grow up to be an ignoramus or he may be a philosopher, he may be a ruffian or a gentleman. The child of the wisest and best parents brought up from infancy among savages would beyond all reasonable doubt be a savage.

There is, however, a progress of society and of the race in its solidarity. The world is wiser now than in the age of the Caesars. Discoveries have been made of which the ages of the past never dreamed. Knowledge has accumulated from age to age and each succeeding generation inherits the knowledge and civilization of the preceding age. A fourteen year-old school girl may know things now which Demosthenes and Cicero never thought of. But this does not mean the school girl has stronger intellectual powers than they. She is a mere baby when compared to them in intellectual strength—in the power to know or to think. She was simply born in a more enlightened age than they. Things may be understood now by children which could not be known then by the tallest intellectual giants. If they could be put into the world now the babes that they were when born they could learn as much and know as much as the men of this day and time.

The logic of this is that those who live now have greater advantages and better opportunities than the men of any previous generation. The environments now are better than they were then. But it is for each individual to use his advantage and opportunity. By application, or the want of it, he may be great or small, wise or ignorant, good or bad. Let every one know, therefore, that responsibility increases with opportunity. A willful failure to use the opportunity does not diminish the responsibility. The barbarians of former times will rise up in the judgment and condemn many of this enlightened age, for if they had had the same opportunity they would have made better use of it.

Each hour, day and year increases opportunity and therefore responsibility. The knowledge of last year adds to the responsibility of this. With this thought in mind, therefore, let each one begin this new year with the determination that it shall be better than any which preceded it.

H. A. Shepherd.

Houston, Texas, Dec. 24.—Surrounded by members of his family, B. A. Shepherd, president of the First National Bank of Houston, breathed his last from the effects of a severe cold, contracted only a short time ago. The deceased was born in F. Evans, Va., May 14, 1814, and came to Texas in 1839.

Vertical text on the far right edge of the page, containing various small notices and advertisements.

