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## INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

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

LESSON FOR AUGUST 8

THE KINGDOM TORN ASUNDER.

LESSON TEXT—1 Kings 12:6-16. GOLDEN TEXT—Fido 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). Rezon 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 Rehoboam, his son, reigned in his stead" (11:43).

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. Jerusalem and Judea readily accepted Rehoboam as king, but the ten tribes hesitated and, according to one translation 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 Rehoboam wisely asked for time to consider the request (v. 5).

II. Good Counsel Neglected, vv. 6-12. Rehoboam came of bad stock (ch. 14:21), yet his first step was a wise one. His name means "Enlarger of the people," but he sadly belied the same. 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 kindly, manly.

Jesus tells us that the greatest must be the servant of all and sets us the example himself (Matt. 20:28). Rehoboam 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, conceited, overbearing, selfish. Rehoboam 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 Rehoboam to grief. Oppression always results in rebellion, a fact that those who govern or employ others should ponder well. Rehoboam's choice of counselors and his consequent course of action was the height of foolishness (Prov. 13:20).

III. Bad Counsel Confirmed, vv. 12-14. Jeroboam's subsequent career confirms 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; Pa. 76:10). This does not, however, lessen his guilt or folly (Acts 2:23). Not content with declaring his acceptance of the evil 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 he first makes mad." Rough words wound or madden and, "by using soft words you may lead an elephant by a hair." Not content to refuse Rehoboam threatens added burdens (v. 14).

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 "cassid" 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 all will likewise "come to pass." Rehoboam is a lesson to the young men of today.

Rehoboam is also a lesson for present day fathers. Finally Rehoboam is a lesson to all who are set in authority. To close our ears 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.

The coming king of kings who in fulfillment of prophecy did come, and will come again, has a yoke for his subjects "which is easy." His finger (v. 10) and hands were used in loving ministries and the only chastisement (v. 11) he ever permits is that which proves us to be "sons," not slaves (Heb. 12:6-11).

# Sunday

Services in the Churches of Anderson Tomorrow.

### CHURCH DIRECTORY

First Baptist, Corner East Church and Manning Streets.  
St. John's Methodist, Corner River and McDuffie Streets.  
First Presbyterian, Corner West Whitner and Towers Streets.  
Central Presbyterian, Corner North Main and Orr Streets.  
A. R. P., Corner North McDuffie and Society Streets.  
Grace Episcopal, Corner South McDuffie and Morris Streets.  
Christian, Corner Greenville and Fant Streets.  
St. Joseph's Catholic, Corner McDuffie and Earle Streets.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
9:45—Teachers prayer service.  
10:00—Sabbath school—A. L. Smethers, superintendent. Dr. Potat will teach the Baraca class and it is hoped that every member will be present.  
11:30—Public worship—sermon by E. M. Potat, president of Furman University.  
8:30—Public worship—sermon by Dr. Potat.

**WEDNESDAY**  
8:00—Teachers meeting—Led by Mr. Allen.  
8:30—Prayer and prayer service. The public is cordially invited to attend and worship with us all these services.

**The Farm Mortgage.**  
The credit of the railroads, their ability to earn a return of the money invested in them, depends upon the success of agriculture and yet, while railroad securities have, under normal conditions, found a ready market on a four per cent basis, and the same is true of municipal and, to a great extent, of industrial securities, the farmer, who has furnished the real basis for the credit, and the prosperity of all, has been compelled to pay double the rate of interest for money with which to purchase and improve his farm. The reason for this, or at least one great reason, is the fact that the railroads, the municipalities, and the great industrial concerns have at their command the machinery or organization which enables them to offer the public a security more readily negotiable or liquid than the farm mortgage.

There is no good reason why the farmers of the country should not secure the money they require to bring their farms up to the highest possible state of fertility at as low a rate of interest as that enjoyed by any of the great business enterprises of the nation. On the other hand, there is every reason why, in the interest of all, this should be accomplished. "Far mCredits," by W. C. Brown, in National Magazine for June.

**Grateful San Francisco.**  
The exposition is more than a mere array of exhibits and a perfected architectural picture, for to see the exposition includes a trip across the continent, and "seeing America" is an education in itself. Even visiting a city that has overcome obstacles and pushed forward with substantial progress, so typifying the hope and confidence of the nation, that is thoroughly tested by fire and flame. It has a lesson undiminished through all the rigid test of adversity, is an inspiration as a patriotic impersonation. San Francisco, backed by California, and the American people of all the Union, has builded a monument to Paek, not in boastfulness, but as an offering presented in prayerful gratitude for the kind Providence that carried them through the Valley of the Shadow. In the magic of the moonlight and the glittering mirrors of illuminated lagoons and superb sculpture, the story is heralded to the world by San Francisco, which in turn offers the exposition as a tribute of gratitude to sister nations and sister commonwealths who showered their wealth and confidence upon her in the hours of distress. "A Trip Overland"—The Exposition, by Joe Mitchell Chapple, in National Magazine for June.

**Asylum Built for Them.**  
A few months ago, at a council meeting in a certain small town, a well known alderman astonished the members by saying: "Gentlemen, we have been sending our lunatics to an asylum for a long time, now and it has cost us a great deal of money; but I am glad to be able to tell you that we have now built an asylum for ourselves."—Kansas City Star.

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**NOTICE.**  
The parties buying the property of the Bank of Starr which will be sold on August 4th will have to pay all back State and county taxes on this property. By order of Anderson county.

Winston Smith, Auditor.

### Followed Friend's Advice

After trying Fruitola and Traxo, Mrs. L. C. Clark, 810 Melba St., Dallas, Texas, wrote to the Pinnau laboratories as follows:

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Here's my guarantee—Go to any drug store and get a 50 cent bottle of Dodson's Liver Tone. Take a spoonful and if it doesn't straighten you right up and make you feel fine and vigorous I want you to go back to the store and get your money. Dodson's Liver Tone is destroying the sale of galomel because it is real liver medicine; entirely vegetable, therefore it can not salivate or make you sick. I guarantee that one spoonful of Dodson's Liver Tone will put your sluggish liver to work and clean your bowels of that sour bile and constipated waste which is clogging your system and making you feel miserable. I guarantee that a bottle of Dodson's Liver Tone will keep your entire family feeling fine for months. Give it to your children. It is harmless; doesn't gripe and they like it's pleasant taste.

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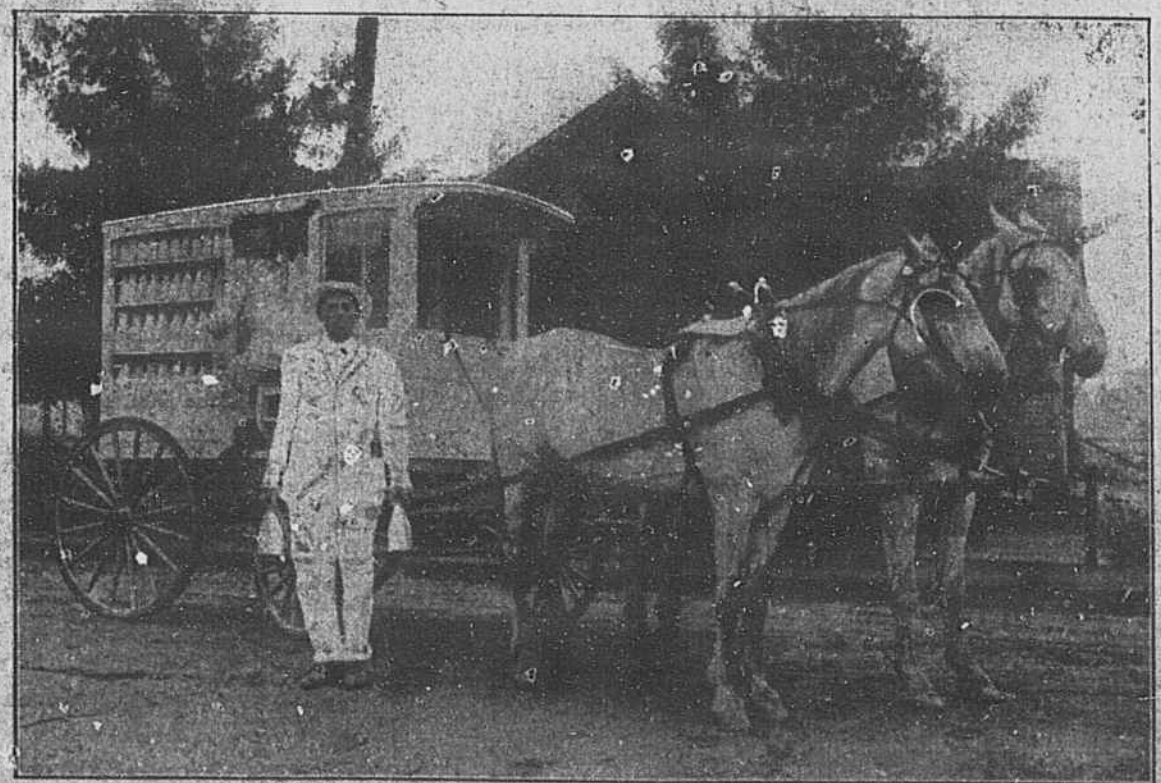
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