

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

LESSON XIII, FOURTH QUARTER, INTERNATIONAL SERIES, DEC. 25.

Text of the Lesson, Isa. ix, 1-7—Memory Verses, 6-7—Golden Text, Isa. ix, 9—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

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The memory verses give us the heart of the lesson and of the whole Bible story. Not only at Christmas, but at all times, it is a most appropriate study, for we cannot understand our Bibles unless we keep before us the plan and purpose of God as revealed therein.

The seed of the woman of Gen. iii, 15, is the Son of Abraham, the Son of David of Matt. i, 1; the Son of Mary of Luke i, 30-33, who is to have the throne of His father, David, and reign over the house of Jacob forever and of whose kingdom there is to be no end.

At the so-called Christmas time the children and all who attend the Sunday school are apt to hear a good deal about the Babe in Bethlehem, but they are not apt to hear that the child Jesus was born and was crucified as the King of the Jews (Matt. ii, 2; xxvii, 57). Even though our lesson today is from the prophecy of Isaiah, whose message was primarily to Judah and Jerusalem (Chapters i, ii, iii, etc.), it is probable that very little may be said about Judah or Jerusalem, yet the throne of David at Jerusalem is the central place in the lesson.

Verses 1 and 2 take us on to their fulfillment, or partial fulfillment, recorded in Matt. iv, 14, 16, and as to a practical application of them to our own daily life I am reminded of a request that came to me from a missionary in Africa asking for prayer that while learning the language of the people a great light, even Christ made manifest in him. Would it not be a good prayer for each of us that Christ might so live in us that all about us who are still in darkness might see the light of His life in us and be drawn to Him.

Verses 3 to 5 tell of the joy of the people when their Great Deliverer shall have broken the yoke of every oppressor. The first part of verse 3 should be, "Thou hast multiplied the nation, and Thou hast increased the joy." See revised version. It will be by an overthrow of their enemies, for it will be the day of vengeance upon their enemies, but of redemption for Israel (Isa. xxxiv, 8; xxxv, 4; lxxiii, 4). There is no abiding joy that which only He can give. The Spirit loves to tell of Israel's future glory: "The ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away" (Isa. xxxv, 10; li, 11). "The Lord shall be their everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended" (Isa. lx, 19, 20).

"Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given," had its fulfillment, or at least the first clause had, when the angel said to the shepherds on Bethlehem's plains, "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke ii, 11). Let us not fail to notice the words "unto you" or in our lesson "unto us." It is Israel first and then all people. The sixty-seventh Psalm is almost without significance unless the oft repeated "us" of verses 1 and 7 is seen to refer to Israel.

"The government shall be upon His shoulder." "Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end upon the throne of David." "Unto us a child is born." There is no other honest way to treat it. All other interpretations are perversions and wrongs done to the word of God, from all which the Lord deliver us! Let the Lord's own message to David and the message of Gabriel to Mary stand in all their sublime simplicity and grandeur (II Sam. vii, 12-16; Luke i, 30-33), and do not hesitate to believe that it shall be just as God says. Rejoice to say, "I believe God that it shall be even as it was told me" (Isa. li, 25).

"A king shall reign in righteousness" and the work of righteousness shall be peace and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever" (Isa. xxxiii, 1, 17). He shall be seen to be "wonderful in counsel and excellent in working." "Great in counsel and mighty in work" (Isa. xlviii, 29; Jer. xxxiii, 19). He is the mighty God and the everlasting Father, and He is saying to us even now, "Call unto Me, and I will answer thee and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not" (Jer. xxxiii, 3), and it becomes us to say, "Ah, Lord God, behold Thou hast made the heaven and the earth by Thy great power, as stretchest out Thy arm, He is the Prince of Peace, the God of Peace, the Peace of God. Happy those who can truly say, 'He is our peace,' 'He is my peace' (Eph. ii, 14), and happier still all who have learned to 'let the peace of God rule in their hearts' (Col. iii, 15). Whether men may accept God's purpose for Israel or not, the zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform it (verse 7). Let us dwell between His shoulders (Deut. xxxiii, 12) and allow Him to carry us and all our burdens, sure that when He gets the lost sheep on His shoulders He will not fail to bring it home with rejoicing (Luke xv, 5, 6) and tell the children that He carries the lambs in His bosom (Isa. xl, 11) and that He is just the same as when on earth He took little children up in His arms and blessed them.

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Robert Ward, Moxey's, Ga. says: "I suffered from blood poison, my head, face and shoulders were one mass of corruption, aches in bones and joints, burning, itching, scabby skin, was all run down and discouraged, but Botanic Blood Balm cured me perfectly. I feel like a new man and give my best praise of health. Blood Balm put new life into my blood and new ambition into my brain." Geo. A. Williams, Roxbury, face covered with pimples, chronic sores on back of head, suppurating swelling on neck, entire upper part of face, itching, itching skin cured perfectly by Botanic Blood Balm. Sores all healed. Botanic Blood Balm cures all malignant blood troubles, such as eczema, scabs and scales, pimples, running sores, carbuncles, etc. Especially adapted for children. It cures all cases that have reached the second or third stage. Improves the digestion, strengthens the bowels, cures colic, cures all urinary troubles, sample of Blood Balm sent free and prepaid by writing Blood Balm Co., Atlanta, Ga. Describe trouble and free trial will be sent in sealed letter. For sale by The R. B. Loryea Drug Store.

Find the Rainbow. I have seldom seen a sky without some bit of rainbow in it. Sometimes I can make others see it. Sometimes not, but I always like to try, and if I fail I harbor no worse thought of them than that they have not had their eyes examined and fitted with glasses which would at least have helped their vision. —W. D. Howells.

Mothers Be Careful of the health of your children. Look out for coughs, colds, croup and whoop. Buy Minute Cough Cure in time—One Minute Cough Cure is the best remedy. Harmless and pleasant. Sold by The R. B. Loryea Drug Store.

Too Much. Judge—Have you anything to say, prisoner? The Prisoner—No, your honor, I expect what you say'll be plenty.

Deep Sea Measuring. Great Britain and America do more deep sea measuring than all the other nations put together. More than one-half of the sea floor lies at a depth of a little less than three miles. At the deepest places are holes in the ocean bed. One of these in the south Atlantic covers 7,000,000 square miles, or 7 per cent of the surface of the globe. The Indian ocean is a great place for deep waters, twenty-four out of the known forty-two holes lying at the bottom of that body of water.

What He Was Up To. "Do you know of the only Irishman who ever committed suicide?" asked the story teller. "You know it is said that Irishmen never commit suicide, and you know the argument was advanced in a crowd of that nationality he was so unstrung that he decided to show his opponents that Irishmen do sometimes commit a rash act. He accordingly disappeared, and the man who employed him started a search. When he got to the barn he looked up toward the rafters and saw his man hanging with a rope around his waist. "What are you up to, Pat?" he asked. "O'm hanging meself, begobs" the Irishman replied. "Why don't you put it around your neck?" "Faith, Oi did, but Oi couldn't brythe, was the unsmiling reply of the man from the Emerald Isle."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Didn't Know It All. "Oh," sneered the self important lawyer who was cross examining, "you think you know it all, don't you?" "Not quite," replied the witness. "For instance, I don't know how you manage to secure an occasional client."—Chicago News.

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Some nice, new and attractive goods which we are sure will interest our patrons.

In Sporting Goods We Have as follows: Leggings at 60c and 81c per pair. Shotguns—double barrels—\$10 to \$20 each. Single Barrels at \$4.75—a good gun—to \$8, while we have a splendid stock of the best AMMUNITION.

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QUEER MONEY BOXES

CURIOUS PLACES SELECTED FOR HIDING AWAY TREASURE.

Statues That Have Served the Purposes of a Bank—A Beggar's Hump That Yielded a Fortune—Mme. Balach's Richly Lined Petticoats.

It is only a comparatively short time since M. Boussigne, a Parisian, discovered a nice little treasure concealed in one of the very last places where he would have expected to find it. He had inherited from an aunt a small statuette to which he attached little value, but which nevertheless he placed as an ornament in one of his rooms. As luck would have it, his maid in dusting the statuette one day dropped it on the floor and presto! out rolled from its hollow interior a package which on examination proved to contain notes of the value of 11,000 francs as well as a costly diamond ring.

This is by no means the only occasion on which a statue has been made to serve the purposes of a bank. A few years ago an art collector of Kharkov, Russia, purchased a statue of the Apollo Belvedere, of which he was very proud. One day his children when playing upset the statue and broke it beyond all possibility of repair. The father when he saw his prized statue in fragments was furious, but consolation came to him in a most unexpected form, for on examining the fragments he found concealed in a hollow limb a roll of Russian bank notes of the value of 3,000 rubles. With the notes was a memorandum by a Chevalier Prokhoroff, dated 1848, to the effect that the concealed money was his intention to use it in the building of a church.

A still more curious hiding place for treasure was that chosen by Pere Antoine, a hunchback beggar who used to hang about the church doors of Paris soliciting alms. When the hunchback died his nephew applied to the authorities demanding that a postmortem examination should be made. The request was granted, with the result that it was found the hunch was false and that in its fraudulent interior were stored the beggar's savings, amounting to 96,000 francs. Pere Antoine, it was also discovered, was an ex-convict, who owed his freedom to the influence of a well known deputy.

An inquest held at St. Pancras coroner's court some time ago on Walter Samuel Mott revealed another treasure—a small one, it is true—concealed in a most remarkable place. Mott had a wooden leg, and an examination of this limb revealed ten sovereigns concealed in it. The precaution was a very wise one, for it came out in evidence that for some weeks the deceased had been rarely sober, and it would have fared ill with his treasure if it had not been so artfully and effectually concealed.

There was considerable method in the parsimony of an old lady who, wherever she went, carried with her an old box, apparently full of odd pieces of jest and ridicule among her neighbors, but the old lady could afford to smile at their jokes, for it was, in fact, the most valuable box anywhere in the district. When she died the box was found in an outthouse, open to any one who cared to inspect it, and under the surface layer of old iron were found 3,000 golden sovereigns, the savings of a lifetime.

In another case known to the writer, after the death of an old woman in the north of England who had for years been in receipt of outer relief from the parish, a sum of £800 was found in a number of pinushons scattered about her one room. When Miss J., a notorious Devonshire miser, died, it was found that her pillow contained securities and bank notes of the value of over £18,000, while at an auction sale of the effects of a Lewisham lady of miserly instincts the purchaser of her piano stool found a small mine of gold in the horsehair stuffing, and a gentleman who bought her bedstead discovered £900 hidden away in one of its hollow legs.

A sensation was caused at Jassy, in Roumania, some time ago by the death of a Mme. Balach, whose eccentricities had for years been the gossip of the town. Although it was more than suspected that she was a rich woman, she had lived in the most sordid and miserable manner and was generally regarded as a miser. When her few belongings were examined after her death not a trace could be found of her supposed wealth, until, on going through her articles of clothing, it was discovered that one of her petticoats seemed stiff, as if heavily lined. The petticoat was ripped open and revealed notes of the value of 200,000 francs sewed under the lining.

This discovery naturally stimulated the zeal of the searchers. Further petticoats were examined, and in all large sums in notes were found concealed. The total amount of the treasure which had served as lining for Mme. Balach's petticoats was no less than 3,000,000 francs.—London Tit-Bits.

Not Eptecures. A city woman who had decided that she would keep some hens as a profitable amusement during her long summer in the country asked the farmer of whom she bought them what they could eat.

"The man looked at her in silent amazement for a moment before he replied.

"It would take me the rest of my days to tell ye what they can eat," he said at last, "but it won't take long to tell ye what they can't. You avoid feeding of 'em with salt fish and cabbages, and I guess you won't have any trouble."

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MURDER IN THE AIR.

In the neighborhood of Buen Ayres, in South America, there is a north wind which sweeps over plain covered with marshes and become overcharged with moisture. The effects produced in the human body are in general lassitude and relaxation. The pores of the skin are opened, including great liability to colds, sore throat and all consequences of chert of perspiration. The damp wind of La Plata seems to affect the temper and disposition of the inhabitants. The irritability and ill humor it excites in them amount to little less than a temporary arrangement of their faculties.

It is a common thing for men among the better classes to shut themselves up in their houses during its continuation and lay aside all business till it has passed, while among the lower classes it is always remarked that cases of quarrelling and bloodshed are more frequent during the north winds than at any other time. Even murderers are said to lay to it the blame of their foul deeds. No sooner, however, does the southwest wind, blowing from the dry and snowy summits of the Andes, set in than health and comfort and peace are restored.

The Prairie Dog. There is no burrowing animal which works with more intelligence than the prairie dog. He never commits the error of making his mound in a place which may be submerged by water. In a western Kansas town a small boy caught a young dog and fixed a home for it in the cellar of his father's house. The dog went to work almost at once to dig a tunnel to the open air. It went down under the stone wall of the cellar and up to the surface at a point about 100 feet from the house. But it found that its point of exit was in the middle of a well traveled road. It went back and dug another gallery in an oblique direction from the first, emerging in a plot of grass. The earth carried back into the cellar in this digging would more than fill a wagon box. For several years the dog lived on the premises, making the cellar its base of operations, but going to the open air at will through its gallery.—Kansas City Journal.

MONSTER SPIDERS. The bird eating spiders of South America, Africa and Australia are beasts of prey worthy of their tropical jungles. Their appearance is repulsive. They are of immense size. Some which have been caught have been nearly as big as a rat. They are of a dark, dingy color, either black or brown verging upon black, and the hair with which they are covered is mixed with short, coarse bristles.

Like other beasts of prey of tropical forests, they are essentially creatures of the night. During the day many of them hide in some natural crevice in the ground. The more indolent or ambitious pick out a promising hole in a fallen trunk or in a living tree and line it with a soft, delicate web. Others elaborately spin for themselves a long tube in which they lie concealed throughout the day.

Curiously enough, they reserve their spinning powers for their nest building, entirely disdaining the use of webs for the trapping of their prey. Their feeding time is at night. They go out to seek their food, prepared to leap upon and devour any living creature that they come across. Their name comes from the fact that they have been found in the act of devouring small newly killed birds clutched closely between their hairy claws.

Books. Of the things that make for happiness the love of books comes first. A book, unlike any other friend, will wait not only upon the hour, but upon the mood. It asks nothing and gives much when one comes in the right way. \* \* \* Is your world a small one, made unendurable by a thousand petty cares? Are the heart and soul of you cast down by bitter disappointment? Would you leave it all, if only for an hour, and come back with a new point of view? Then open the covers of a book.—From the "Master's Violin."

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Like other beasts of prey of tropical forests, they are essentially creatures of the night. During the day many of them hide in some natural crevice in the ground. The more indolent or ambitious pick out a promising hole in a fallen trunk or in a living tree and line it with a soft, delicate web. Others elaborately spin for themselves a long tube in which they lie concealed throughout the day.

Curiously enough, they reserve their spinning powers for their nest building, entirely disdaining the use of webs for the trapping of their prey. Their feeding time is at night. They go out to seek their food, prepared to leap upon and devour any living creature that they come across. Their name comes from the fact that they have been found in the act of devouring small newly killed birds clutched closely between their hairy claws.

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