

Sunday School Lesson

APRIL 6—THE DIVISION OF THE KINGDOM

Scripture Lesson.—1 Kings 12. 1-20, 28 (1 Kings 12, 12-20 printed.) Golden Text.—

Pride cometh before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.—Prov. 16:32.

Devotional Reading.—Mark 4:26-32. THE LESSON NEXT 1 Kings 12, 12-20

THE TEXT EXPLAINED

Light from the Commentaries

12. The revolt of the northern tribes.—The narrative opens abruptly with the mention of Rehoboam's visit to Shechem, where a national assembly had been convened, under circumstances which are not related, for the purpose of confirming his accession. A deputa-

tion waits on the new monarch, and tenderly him the allegiance of the people, but only on condition that the oppressive yoke of Solomon's government be lightened; and Rehoboam promises an answer at the end of three days.

"Having meanwhile taken counsel, first with the experienced statesmen who had stood round the throne of his father, and then with his own juvenile and foolish companions, he decides to follow the reckless advice of the latter; he accordingly meets the people on the third day with an arrogant and contemptuous refusal of their demands.

"The insolent bearing of the king arouses the spirit of the tribesmen, who renounce allegiance to the house of David; and give an earnest of the temper they are in by stoning to death the hated minister of the corvee. Rehoboam flees in hot haste to Jerusalem; and the assembly proceeds to the election of a king; his choice naturally falling on Jeroboam, who has just returned from Egypt.

"At this point, however, the tribe of Judah remains faithful to the Davidic dynasty, while Jeroboam establishes his dominion over the more independent and vigorous tribes of the north."—The New Century Bible.

Jeroboam—Early in his reign, King Solomon recognized the abilities of Jeroboam and appointed him commissioner for the house of Joseph. He, however, plotted against his master, and when discovered, was obliged to seek refuge in Egypt, where he remained until the death of Solomon. He gave expression to the free democratic spirit of the north, where lay the real strength of Israel, but he was a man who schemed for his own promotion and sought the gratification of personal ambition rather than the ultimate welfare of the people.

Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, had grown up at a polygamous oriental court, where he had little opportunity to cultivate the virtues and to acquire the sturdiness of character needed by one destined to rule the people of Israel. He is described by an ancient writer as being ample in foolishness and lacking in understanding. But what more could be expected of a youth who had grown up in the environment such as that in Solomon's court?

13. Answered the people roughly.—After the haughty manner of an oriental despot.

14.—My father made your yoke heavy.—Solomon had conscripted their labor for great building enterprises. Scorpions—Whips with many lashes, the instrument with which Jesus was scourged by the Roman soldiers.

15. Brought about of Jehovah.—Hebrew historians interpreted all events in the terms of Jehovah's will. Ahijah, the Shilonite.—A prophet from Shiloh, north of Bethel.

16. What portion have we in David?—What interest or part have we in the royal house of David, or in the kingdom that centers at Jerusalem? To your tents, O Israel.—Why tarry longer or participate further in festivities boding only ill for the people?

LESSON THEMES

The Spirit of Liberty. The beginning of democracy is far back of the historical appearance of republican forms of government. The rebellion of Israel under Jeroboam is an example. The pious Hebrew historian sees in the son of Nebat primarily "the man who made Israel to sin," but the unprejudiced reader of the record to-day recognizes in him a champion of popular rights against unrelenting

tyranny and oppression. History, even Bible history, must be read in the light of modern tendencies and current events. So read, our lesson narrative attains new meaning, and Jeroboam, son of Nebat, new interest, for in a profounder sense even than the writer could possibly realize was this episode in Hebrew history "a thing brought about of Jehovah." That the experiment in Israel failed is not surprising when we remember that this was centuries before Rome was founded or Athens became a city state.

The Dangers of Violent Revolt. It is a mistaken notion that the world is profited by wars and violent revolutions. Improved conditions may follow changes wrought by violence, but they result from other causes and in spite of the method of force. In improved conditions followed the French Revolution, but they were not due to the Commune and the Reign of Terror. Improved conditions may ultimately follow the Russian Revolution, but they will not be due to the red regime which has followed the administration of the humane Kerensky. Some general benefits came ultimately to Israel, but not because of the revolt of the northern tribes. The sum total of that resort to force was that "the kingdom was at hand asunder." No Lincoln was at hand "to preserve the Union." History shows that a new tyrant and group of oppressors lie in wait to spring upon the deposed monarch's throne. History shows that the sudden destruction of a government, however faulty, is usually followed by a period of oppression or of mob-rule such as put Adoniram to death. Revolutionary violence gives the unbalanced the opportunity and thereby the progress of freedom is hindered.

The Blessings of Orderly Change. It may be asked, if force is not to be used, then, how can necessary changes be made? There are other and more effective means and especially in our land which has appointed and our orderly method for making changes in our national life and government. Chief of these, besides the legal process, is the education of the people in the existing need and the desirability of the new and better plan. Let this need and the advantage be known and the necessary changes can be made in an orderly fashion and without the waste of war and the disorder and disruption of violent revolution. Development, not revolution, is the method of true and permanent progress.

FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION

What was the condition of the kingdom at the close of Solomon's reign? Who were Jeroboam and Rehoboam and how were they related to each other and the kingdom? What conditions led to the revolt of the northern tribes? Of whom did Rehoboam take counsel and what was his attitude toward the people? Was he able to stifle the spirit of liberty? Show the dangers of violent revolt. Describe the benefits of orderly change. What is the method of truth, permanent progress? How may we, how may our country contribute toward the orderly progress of the world?

Child Welfare And Public Health

Articles on Child Welfare and Public Health will appear weekly in this column, furnished by the Local Red Cross Branch.

CHILD WELFARE ASSOCIATION MONTREAL

BENDING TWINGS

We know that simple education means. Day after day Johnny does his sums, adds, subtracts, multiplies, till the process becomes part of his own nature. Mary spends hours learning the spelling and writes out each correction twenty times she is able to write a letter with the words flowing from her pen. Very easy to understand—all that. But what is health education? Is it some abstract thing to learn out of a book? Far from it. The same old methods of doing, and doing, and doing again, will establish a habit that from covey reality will grow strong as the cable to hold one to the chosen standard of living. From habits of health steadily enforced in childhood will develop a bodily machinery that runs smoothly and allows the real man or woman who dwells in it to go about the business of life unhampered by aches and pains and indigestion.

Here is a man of forty with rheumatic knees and an impaired heat. He has just had ten teeth pulled out because of abscesses at the roots poisoning his whole system. He does not connect these troubles with his failure to acquire in childhood the habit of scrupulous care of the teeth, but his scruples know better.

Here is a woman with muddy complexion, a martyr to dyspepsia. As a child she was allowed to form the bad habit of bolting her food and of eating unlimited sweets between meals. During all those formative years she had been putting building material of the wrong kind and in the wrong way into the house in which she would spend her life.

Look at this poor soul who suffers from "nervous" headaches. As a child she was allowed to stay up late at night, to indulge in excitement unsuited for a growing child, and the demands of later life found her bankrupt of reserve strength. Pity this youth of twenty who has just discovered that he had tuberculosis. Poor fellow! As a small boy he was allowed to pick his own diet. No effort was made to give him the proper food for a growing child. He grew thin and overactive, but no restriction was placed upon his exercise, or special rest each day. Stoop shouldered, hollow chested, he grew up inviting disaster and now it has come.

All the recognized "health habits" are preventive and protective in their effect. Established in early childhood they are a safeguard against the diseases of adult life, which are often—only the jarring and scarping of machinery damaged by careless use. The simple habits that should be made a part of every child's daily life are these: 1. A full bath oftener than once a week. 2. Brushing the teeth at least once a day. 3. Sleeping long hours with the windows open. 4. Drinking milk at meals, but not tea or coffee. 5. Eating some vegetables or fruit daily. 6. Drinking at least four glasses of water daily. 7. Playing part of every day out of doors.

It requires very little reflection to realize what types of breakdown in later years will be prevented by the constant practice of these habits. William Jones wrote with profound insight that if the young child could but realize what bundles of habits they would become, they would order their daily lives with great care. Let us not forget the old maxim, "As the twig is bent, the bough is inclined."

GROCER: The fashionable color for the Spring is going to be called Delivery Boy Blue. BOY: How's that, boss? GROCER: Because it's guaranteed not to run.

REECHAM'S PILLS For Sick Headaches

Bible Thoughts For Today

APRIL 6

MASTER, THIS WOMAN was taken in adultery. Moses commanded us that such should be stoned; but what sayest thou? He said unto him, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.—John 8:4, 5, 7.

APRIL 7

TRUST IN THE LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths.—Prov. 3:5, 6.

APRIL 8

CAST AWAY from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: wherefore turn yourself and live.—Ezekiel 18:31, 32.

APRIL 9

FINALLY, BRETHREN, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any praiseworthy, if there be anything which ye have learned and which ye have accepted—Philippians 4:8.

APRIL 10

THOU HAST A MIGHTY ARM; strong is thy hand, and high is thy right hand. Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face.—Psalm 89:13, 14.

APRIL 11

THOU SHALT LOVE THE LORD thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself.—Luke 10:27.

APRIL 12

OF A TRUTH I perceive that God is no respecter of persons; but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.—Acts 10:34, 35.

PURITY FLOUR More Bread and Better Bread and Better Pastry too USE IT IN ALL YOUR BAKING

It Has Healed Many of Eczema Why Not You?

If you are afflicted with skin disease, the kind that seems to baffle medical treatment, investigate this discovery. Many skin specialists are recommending it in preference to their own prescriptions.

The formula is being published and physicians note that it contains the rare imido—T. D. D. M. H. C. How long have you had to endure disfigurements—lunulations—itching—pain? How many times have you looked into the mirror and wished you had an unblemished skin? How many times have you followed hopeful advice in vain? You will not be disappointed in the action of this remedy. It works instantly on the inflamed and tortured skin. The rough unsightly surfaces assume that healthy look you have perhaps not known for years.

A soft though powerful agent, beautiful in color, pleasant in odor, cooling, soothing, moist, D. D. D. is the ideal treatment for the most sensitive skin.

D. D. D. E. A. FOSTER, Druggist.

Escalloped Corn And Macaroni

Here is a good Lenten recipe: "Boil macaroni until done, drain, and rinse in cold water. Butter a baking dish or casserole and put in a layer of canned corn seasoned to taste. Over this put a layer of macaroni, a small amount of grated onion, one canned pimento cut in small pieces, and bits of butter, paprika, pepper and salt. Continue in this way until the dish is full, with the corn on top. Sprinkle with fine cracker crumbs and bit of butter. Pour over the whole one cup of Borden's St. Charles Milk and one-half cup hot water. Bake one-half hour and until browned nicely on top. "With a vegetable salad and a light dessert, this makes a good wholesome meal. A grating of cheese on top may be added."

Manager To Applicant: You can have the place if you show us references from your last employer. Applicant: That's impossible; he's been dead ten years.

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