

SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON XIII. December 30, 1917. God's Redeeming Love—Review.—Psalms 123, 124. (A reading lesson only.) SUMMARY.—Lesson I. Topic: Restoration. Place: Jerusalem. The writer of the psalms which constitute the lesson sounds notes of joy and gives utterance to pleas for mercy. There is thanksgiving for deliverance and there is petition for a revival among his people. Jehovah is recognized as the help of his people. There is a promise of success to those who labor earnestly for him. As surely as there is a faithful sowing of effort for the salvation of men, there will be a joyful harvest. II. Topic: Release from captivity. Places: Babylon; Jerusalem. The seventy years of Judah's captivity in Babylon had passed and the Lord moved the heart of King Cyrus to issue a proclamation to the Jews to return to Jerusalem and build up the house of the Lord. The king gave the Jews great assistance in their undertaking and many improved the opportunity of returning. This is a remarkable instance of God's faithfulness in keeping his promises to his people, even employing a heathen king as an agent in their fulfillment. III. Topic: The temple rebuilt. Place: Jerusalem. The task of the exiles, after providing homes for themselves, was to undertake the restoration of the system of worship. They did not wait to build the temple, but they built an altar on the site of the ancient one and then set about the building of the temple under the leadership of Zerubbabel. In spite of hindrances and opposition, the temple was finished and dedicated amid the shouts and weeping of the people. IV. Topic: Armed faith. Places: Babylon; Jerusalem. Seventy-eight years after the return of Jewish exiles under the leadership of Zerubbabel another company returned under the leadership of Ezra. After a period of fasting and prayer, and after special precautions were taken for the security of the large amount of treasure which was being taken, the company set out on their long journey to Jerusalem, where they arrived in safety. The Lord's hand is seen in their success. V. Topic: The God of battles. Place: Samaria. The temperance lesson is taken from the history of Israel in the town of Ahab. Although the nation was corrupt, the Lord had compassion on the people and drove back the great army of Syria. Ben-hadad, the king of Syria, and his chief officers gave themselves up to strong drink, and the army of Israel easily defeated the Syrian army. The use of intoxicants resulted in a great defeat then, and their use is no less disastrous now. VI. Topic: True patriotism. Place: Shushan, in Persia. Nehemiah was a Jewish captive and was a trusted officer of the king. He heard of the desolation of Jerusalem and was sad. He prayed earnestly for his people and prayed that the Lord would give him favor with the king and open the way for him to go to Jerusalem to build up the walls of the city. He was sure that the Lord was able to afford just the help that was needed. VII. Topic: Qualified leadership. Places: Shushan, in Persia; Jerusalem. When King Artaxerxes saw Nehemiah's sad countenance, he inquired the cause. Nehemiah told him the condition of Jerusalem, and lifting his heart to God in prayer, sought permission from the king to go to his own land and try to improve conditions there. His request was granted and the king gave him much assistance in every way. Nehemiah received signs and wonders on his prayer. VIII. Topic: Spiritual meditation. Place: Probably Jerusalem. Psalm 103 is full of expressions of praise to God. The writer dwells much on the goodness of God. He is merciful, is just and is faithful in keeping his promises. He removes our transgressions from us as far as the east is from the west. God is upon the throne of the universe. All the world is called upon to praise the Lord. IX. Topic: Opposition. Place: Jerusalem. Nehemiah saw the extent of the ruins of the city and set about building up the walls and certain structures in the city. The enemies of the Jews tried by derision and conspiracy to hinder the work. Nehemiah took precautions and the workers labored under the protection of guards. X. Topic: Spiritual progress. Place: Jerusalem. The walls of Jerusalem were completed. The law of the Lord had been broken by the people. Ezra and Nehemiah undertook to teach the Jews the word of God. There was a great assembly called and the book of the law was read to the people, who were deeply impressed by it. The feast of Tabernacles was observed with great enthusiasm, and there was much joy among the people. XI. Topic: Law enforcement. Place: Jerusalem. Nehemiah found that there was much desecration of the Sabbath. Many were carrying on ordinary work on the Sabbath, both in the city and in the country. He had the gates of the city closed during the day and threatened to arrest those who persisted in desecrating the day. He succeeded in breaking up the evil practice. The Sabbath-breakers came to know that Nehemiah was determined to put an end to their evil, even if he had to arrest those who were guilty of violating the law of the Sabbath. XIII. Topic: A message for the times. Place: Jerusalem. Malachi was the last of the Old Testament prophets. He uttered a clear prophecy of the coming of the forerunner of the Messiah and of the coming of the Messiah Himself. He showed the people their sins and exhorted them to return to the Lord. They should bring in all the tithes and offerings. Great blessings would be bestowed upon them.

PRACTICAL SURVEY. Topic.—National restoration. I. Reviewed with gratitude and praise. II. Promoted under strong leadership. III. Divinely prospered through prayer. IV. Established on piety and patriotism. I. Reviewed with gratitude and praise. The lessons of this quarter present a turning-point in the history of the Jewish nation. From the melancholy history of a decadent nation, which found its chastisement in a long period of captivity, we began this quarter with psalms of deliverance, the details of which are worked out through the quarter's study. The bitterness of exile brought to pass God's sovereign will in the complete recovery of His people from their inclination to idolatry. The humiliation of slavery, the deprivation of all religious independence, the memory of their ruined city with all the temple services, the ever-present scenes of open idolatry, all served to complete their humiliation and turn their desire toward pure worship and freedom in its exercise. In a retrospect of the wonderful event of release from captivity and the manner in which it was brought about the psalmist endeavored to describe the feelings and conduct of the delivered people. In an expression of personal experience for the mercy of God with every added blessing, the psalmist views all humanity as indebted to God for the same great deliverance from sin and its consequences. II. Promoted under strong leadership. While the captives were being purified through chastisement, God was causing such changes in the formation of nations as to bring about the fulfillment of His promises to His people. Contrary to the customs of conquering nations, the generous proposal was made by Cyrus to liberate a whole nation of slaves, not to transport them for his own advancement, but to send them forth to re-establish their national religion. He impressed strongly the object of his proclamation, and confessed his conviction that such a plan had been given him from the God of those people to whom he offered liberty. That there existed among the exiled people some devoted souls in whom the Spirit of God dwelt, was clearly evident in the heroic effort made by a representative company in their response to the opportunity to take definite steps toward rebuilding God's sanctuary where they might again worship God according to His word. Conditions at Jerusalem reminded the feeble company of the great evil which sin had brought upon them and the long, weary toil that was involved in an effort to recover their ruined city. They could never attain to former excellence in the construction of a temple. III. Divinely prospered through prayer. Nehemiah could not pray for the prosperity of his people without himself being willing to sacrifice his own comfort to become their leader. It was a tremendous situation. He could not discern the best way to proceed. He knew that God had a way to enable him to go. He knew that God could influence the king to provide for the undertaking. He made it his habit to pray every situation into success, not only in the matter of securing authority, but throughout his whole stay he was a man of prayer. IV. Established on piety and patriotism. Jerusalem was the strongly-contested stronghold of Jewish possessions. It was the city of their prayers, the centre of their religious worship. Piety and patriotism mingled inseparably in their efforts to rebuild Jerusalem and the temple. It must be held as a place where every tribe could engage in the temple services. It must be kept for national festivals where the unity of the nation could be maintained. At great cost they struggled to fortify it against other nations. They were greatly prospered as they adhered closely to the fundamental basis of their restoration. Any laxity in the obedience of God's law or their covenant with him brought distress and complications from intruding nations. A glimpse into Israel's history during Ahab's idolatrous reign reveals the bitterness of forsaking the God of all nations. The ever-radiant light of the star of Bethlehem shines through the closing lesson of the quarter. In Christ Jesus "the desire of all nations" was manifested. T. R. A.

FUTURE PRICES FOR LIVE STOCK Indicated by \$2.00 Per Bushel for Wheat Next Year Guaranteed by the U. S. Government—Feed Relatively Cheaper Than Live Stock.

Practically ever since the war started farmers have been urged by the government to produce more food, and as a whole they have responded nobly. At the present time live stock men are being asked to help increase production by conserving their breeding animals so that as many animals may be raised as possible. This suggests the interesting question: "Which is producing the most food, the man who raises live stock or the man who grows grain exclusively?" One of the best ways of estimating the value of a food is by the amount of energy giving nutrients it contains. The Calorie is the unit of heat, which is one form of energy. And the rations of our soldiers at the front are made up so that each man receives the equivalent of so many Calories a day. It is estimated that a crop of 35 bushels of oats to the acre is equivalent to 1,254,400 Calories. It is also estimated that, on the average, 350 pounds of pork is produced from an acre. This amount of pork contains 672,945 Calories. That is, about twice as much food, reckoned as calories, is produced from an acre where oats are grown as would be produced from an acre where pigs are raised. Even less calories are produced per acre where cattle or sheep are raised. Where milk is produced 711,750 calories are produced per acre. The figures show very clearly that acre for acre the grain farmer is producing more actual food than the live stock man. There are many reasons, however, why it would not be wise for the individual, or even in the national interests, for men who have been raising live stock to change their methods of farming and grow nothing but grain crops. The most important reason probably is that raising live stock and returning all the manure to the land is one of the best and cheapest ways of maintaining the fertility of the soil. A cow or a steer will produce from 6 to 8 tons of manure during a six months' feeding period. This manure will be worth anywhere from \$10 to \$20 per ton as measured by increase in crop yield. This should be considered when one is considering the advantages and disadvantages and disadvantages of keeping live stock. Even though prices for feeding stuffs appear exorbitant the prices being obtained for cattle, sheep and pigs are very high, and with the world food shortage it appears that prices will remain high for some time to come. During the month of November the price of cattle increased about 38 per cent., the price of sheep advanced 44 per cent., and the price of hogs advanced 58 per cent. over the price obtained during the same month last year. Although the price of feeding stuffs has advanced it has not advanced in nearly the same proportion. Thus oats during November were 8 per cent. higher, and oil cake 20 per cent. higher. That is, while the price of cattle, sheep and hogs have increased on the average of 45 per cent. the average price of the feeds mentioned has only increased 13 per cent. Prices so far as the dairyman is concerned are not quite so favorable. The price of cheese at the cheese boards during the summer was about 25 per cent. higher than last year, the price of butter during November only increased 5 per cent. over that of last year. There is a big surplus of corn in the United States, and it is estimated that the production of oats in Ontario will amount to 103,450,000 bushels this year as compared with only 50,771,000 bushels last year, although the total yield for the whole of Canada, it is estimated, will be somewhat less than last year. On the whole, the yields of fodder crops, such as roots, corn silage, hay, etc., have been good, so that the breeder of live stock is in a much more favorable position this year than he was last year. When one attempts to prophesy what future price of live stock will be he is on dangerous ground. If the amount of food produced in the world is greatly increased, even though there is a shortage of live stock, prices for live stock will tend to go down because hogs, sheep or cattle after all only represent so many calories and if the total number of calories in farm produce produced by the world is greatly increased the price of food must go down whether that food be live stock or grain. There is a shortage of some 33,000,000 hogs in Europe. With about 3,500,000 hogs in Canada and somewhat less than 70,000,000 hogs in the States, this shortage could be made good in less than six months. The possible increase from one sow is 1,002 pigs in four years, on the supposition that all litters consist of six pigs, that all live, that half are females, and that each gilt should farrow at one year and every six months thereafter. Prices for hogs during the coming year will probably be good, not because there is a shortage of hogs, but because there is a world shortage of Calories, as represented by farm produce. The United States Government has guaranteed farmers a price of \$2 per bushel next year for their wheat, and this is a pretty good indication of what the prices for live stock will be. —The Canadian Countryman.

MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS FARMERS' MARKET. Dairy Produce—Butter, choice dairy... \$9.45 \$0.47 Eggs, new-laid, doz... 0.09 0.37 Cheese, lb... 0.00 0.15 Do, fancy, lb... 0.00 0.20 Dressed Poultry—Turkeys, lb... 0.00 0.32 Poultry, lb... 0.15 0.22 Spring chickens... 0.25 0.27 Ducks, Spring, lb... 0.22 0.23 Geese, lb... 0.00 0.22 Fruits—Apples, hkt... 0.50 0.60 Potatoes, hkt... 1.00 0.79 MEATS—WHOLESALE. Beef, forequarters, cwt... \$15.00 \$17.00 Do, hindquarters... 15.00 17.00 Carcasses, choice... 13.00 14.50 Do, common... 13.00 14.50 Veal, common, cwt... 12.00 14.00 Do, medium... 12.00 14.00 Do, prime... 20.00 23.00 Heavy hogs... 17.50 19.50 Sheep, heavy... 12.00 15.00 Mutton, heavy... 15.00 17.00 Do, light... 15.00 17.00 Abattoir hogs... 22.00 24.00 Lambs, Spring, lb... 0.21 0.25 OTHER MARKETS. MINNEAPOLIS GRAIN MARKET. Minneapolis—Corn—No. 2 white... \$1.70 to \$1.75 Oats—No. 3 white... 73 to 74c Flour unchanged; in carload lots, fancy patents, \$9.90; wood; first clear, \$9.20; extra second clears, \$8.00. Bran, \$10.00 to \$10.50. DULUTH LINED. Duluth—Lined, on track... \$3.35 to \$3.50; arrive... \$3.25 to \$3.28; arrive December, \$3.41; December, \$3.38 asked; May, \$3.23 to \$3.27. CHICAGO LIVE STOCK. Hogs—No. 1... 7.25 14.50 Weaners... 6.35 12.75 Stockers-feeders... 6.25 10.25 Cows-helpers... 5.00 11.10 Calves... 9.00 16.00 Hog receipts, 60,000. Market slow. Light... 15.00 15.95 Mixed... 15.45 16.25 Heavy... 15.50 16.25 Rough... 15.50 15.65 Pigs... 10.75 14.00 Bulk sales... 15.60 16.10 Sheep receipts, 18,000. Market weak. Wethers... 9.00 10.20 Lambs, Na... 12.65 15.85 THE EVIL EYE. (By the Late Rev. H. T. Miller.) One of the most appalling and widespread terrors that brood over the mind of British India to-day is the Evil Eye. This is only another name for witchcraft, or sorcery. The darkest blot on the colonies of North America was part of the inheritance of the old country. Let us hope we may safely prophesy that no more witches will be burnt under the British flag, or Stars and Stripes. What a terror two hundred years ago; a deep-seated and far-reaching superstition which had penetrated into the holiest relationships of domestic and social life. Neither rank, nor religion, nor learning was exempt from its influence. John Wesley said, "The giving up witchcraft is in effect giving up the Bible." Blackstone said, "To deny the possibility, nay, actual existence, of witchcraft and sorcery, is at once flatly to deny the revealed word of God." These two names will live in English literature. But we simply stand amazed at the words of these great, good men. What are we to understand by the Word of God, the Bible. It is a book printed in Paradise, and then sent down for the guidance of sinful man? Next it is a human book, a good, honest book; it puts on record facts of human life, biographies as well as beautiful. Let us clear the ground and see where we stand, and then ask these great men what they mean by the Bible. Do they mean that because these facts, or assumed facts, are recorded in the Bible, that therefore, these terrible marks of mental bondage have the sanction of the God of the Bible? "Shall there be evil in the city and the Lord hath not done it?" Does He do it? Is God the author of evil? Let us pause before we answer. Scripture precedents are not precedents for us. Apostolic precedent has no enforcement force. Paul said, "Circumcision is nothing, the law is a shadow. Christ sent me not to baptize, I thank God I only baptised a couple, a mere trifling fragment in my calling: as an apostle. Clear the ground, I am free, ye are called unto liberty." It is truly lumbering to think of these two great Englishmen. One an authority in religion, the other in the law of the land, to put themselves on record, as being in bondage to enslaving, and degrading, and most objectionable care-fretted devastation. Is there a fresh need to write again the plain man's pathway to heaven. Will learned men-bell down their learning and give us a few rules, how to find our way through conflicting currents, through muddy waters, tell us what we are to throw overboard as no longer fit for use. More especially, and here is a stupendous task; not to read the Old Testament into the New. We have read war out of the old into the new, with unparalleled disaster. We have loaded up baggage wagons with old furniture, we have hinged the very stones, crumbling in their ruins, when the Master, in His dignity and authority has said, "there shall not be left one stone upon another." Have we duly considered the perils of eminent men? They risk their reputation by putting skeletons in the cupboard, and keeping them there. Was it not a trait in the character of the great Dr. Chalmers to divide his life into decades, to review, revise and enlarge? Did not John Milton do the same? Did he not revise himself out of the machinery of the church? That was a severe mark of growth, but it was growth. Father Hyacinth, the famous French preacher, was no mean factor in the life of the nation. He had long discontinued the use of any sacraments, and desired none on his death-bed. His last words were, "I can appear before God; I am at peace." "Unless above himself he can erect himself, how poor a thing is man." H. T. MILLER The man who is killed with kindness would probably have been a dead one, anyway.

PRONOUNCING WORDS.

A Test and Flippant Fling at the Critic and His Theory. Comes now another to trouble us in these days when the wayfarer has already enough bothers to keep him from lingering overlong in his humble repose. It is a man who has discovered that there are 25,000 English words more or less commonly mispronounced and who would show us how to rescue ourselves from the disgrace. By way of illustration he challenges all comers to try to pronounce out-hand such words as antinism, archimandrite, batman, beaufin, bourgeois, brevier, buoy, demy, flegman, fusil, oboe, rowlock, tasse, vase and velvety. He intimates that anybody who can give them all correctly can qualify as a 300 hitter in the pronunciation league, but still has a long way to go before he reaches perfection. But what of it. An oboe sounds as sweet whether one calls it an oh-bow or an oh-boy. If the writer of this article told his printer to set it in longswath type the printer probably would call a meeting of the chapel and insist on a strike vote. You can call it a vase or vawze, but it takes a dime to get it filled, where it used to cost only 5 cents. As to deny and velvety, most of us have got along very well for a good many years without writing or speaking either of them and hope to struggle along the same way at least until we have a little rest from worry over the high cost of potatoes. The hardest thing about it is to determine which of several schools of pronunciation is most desirable. The London, the Melbourne, the Canadian, the Texas, the Massachusetts, the Alabama, the Georgia or the Missouri. Moreover, if 25,000 words are mispronounced most of us are democratic.

enough to let the majority rule and be willing to make it unanimous. — St. Louis Post-Dispatch.



TRUE RICHES. It is the mind that maketh good or ill. That maketh wretch or happy, rich or poor; For some that hath abundance at his will, Hath not enough, but wants in greatest store; And other, that hath little, asks no more. But in that little is both rich and wise; For wisdom is most riches; fools therefore They are which fortune do by vows deceive. Since each unto himself his life may fortuneize. —E. Spenser.

ENDURE HARDNESS.

I have given him for a witness to the people, a leader and commander to the people. It became him, for who more all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation to perfect through sufferings. We must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God. We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil; for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds.

CONSIDER PEDIGREES IN YOUR HERD Study Both Individuality and Pedigree.

In buying an animal for breeding purposes I am very particular to see that it has a good pedigree. I have heard men say that they did not care anything about getting a pedigree, but they did want an animal that was good individually. Considering pedigree of minor importance is one of the worst mistakes a buyer of a breeding animal can make. How often have some of us visited a neighbor who is recognized as a good feeder of any kind of live stock, and in looking over his bunch of pigs or calves found that they are not up to the standard usually kept on his farm. We ask him why it is that his stock are not up to the standard. He will reply, "I don't know. I have taken every care I could of them and even given them special attention, but somehow or other they do not grow as they should." In nine cases out of ten the fault lies in the pedigree of the sire of such animals. It is possible that the sire may have been a pedigree of good individuality, yet if the pedigree were not very far back would probably be revealed. MUST HAVE GOOD PEDIGREES. Often we have come across the reverse condition. We visit a neighbor who is not a good feeder and scarcely has his animals up to the standard. In his herd we find good individuality, the animals looking good and thrifty and evidently making good money for him. He is asked how it is that he has a bunch so much better this year than usual. His reply will be, "I don't know. I have not taken them any extra care, but they just come along fine." It is a good guess that the sire of these animals had a first class pedigree, showing strong breeding character, backed up with easy feeding quality. It is as much the business of a stock grower to carefully study the pedigree of his animals as it is to study feeds and how best to feed them. We must have a good foundation before we can get the most out of the animals. To be sure of a good foundation we must have animals of good breeding, which are nothing more or less than animals having good pedigrees. It is a well known fact among experienced breeders that sometimes there are genuine freaks. By this I mean that there may be an animal of splendid individuality, but having a pedigree that is recognized as practically worthless. In the great majority of cases this animal will prove a dismal failure as a breeder. Sometimes we have the other kind of a freak, an animal of poor individuality but having a good pedigree. If I were compelled to make a choice between the two I would prefer the poor individual with a good pedigree rather than the good individual with the poor pedigree. It is not, however, necessary for us to use either for breeding purposes and the use of either one is certainly to be discouraged. By giving the matter our careful attention we can easily buy and use an animal of good individuality with an equally good pedigree. What we want is the animal that will produce the greatest amount of meat, milk or wool for the feed consumed. To get this we must not only study the individual, but we must study the pedigree as well. If one's breeding and feeding operations are now satisfactory, let him keep them so by going along the same line, only selecting if possible better sires each year. The best and surest way to do this is to study the pedigree. —Canadian Countryman.

Here and There.

Most army cooks prefer the kerosene stoves to those burning wood. Dining room employees of some of the big hotels must be manured every day for the sake of sanitation. A number of leading American railroads are at present conducting a publicity campaign which has for its object the warning of the public not to trespass on railroad tracks. The latest idea for speeding up the automobile calls for propellers in addition to the usual gear to help it over the ground. The report of a gun a mile away takes a full five seconds to reach the ear. A Knoxville, Tenn., girl makes clever character dolls with heads carved of dried apples. Africa is three times larger than Europe. Frock Features. Draped skirts. Turkish hems. Belt buckles. Simplicity of cut. Combined materials. Rich, colorful embroideries. Straight and semi-straight lines. Sporting Editor—At a lot of those swell affairs you are assigned to, I don't see how you can tell the guests from the waiters. Society Editor—Oh, the waiters generally stay sober.

The best marksmen are generally those with blue or gray eyes. Costa Rica now manufactures and exports Portland cement, a quarry of suitable stone for the purpose having been recently discovered. Under perfect conditions waterpress may be made to lower and seed within eight days of planting. Since 1891, 30,000 miles of fencing have been erected in the State of South Australia for the purpose of controlling the rabbit pest. There are 15 technical colleges in Queensland with 8,000 students in attendance. The world's production of whale oil during 1916 amounted to 64,500 barrels. Compared with the world's production the Norwegian production during 1916 was about 5 per cent., during 1915 about 75 per cent., during 1914 about 78 per cent., and during 1913 77 per cent. Of the quantity of coal and coke produced in England in 1915 over 155,000,000 tons were carried on the railways, compared with 7,155,000 tons by canal. German silver is an alloy of copper, nickel and zinc. There is no silver in it. Each year the American people lose more than \$1,600,000,000 because of sickness and accidents which might have been prevented by the exercise of a few precautions. "Orokerit" is a natural mineral wax, found originally oozing in small quantities from rocks of the coal formation. It has been discovered in Moldavia and Galicia, and is used chiefly in candle-making. In a new gun the propelling agent is compressed carbon dioxide. The carbon dioxide is contained in a small case that fits into the gunstock, and that holds enough gas for from 100 to 800 shots. Telling the trigger releases the requisite amount of the gas to propel the shot from the barrel. With small shot the gun has a range of about 30 feet, with bullets a range of about 120 feet. It is expected that the bees will very materially contribute to the war by the war activities by helping down the sugar shortage. A conservative estimate of the loss caused by the rodents is \$200,000,000. Most of this could be prevented by the extermination of the pests. The cattle tick alone is said to cause more than \$200,000,000 loss each year. More than 3,000,000 persons are ill on any day in the year, and of these 500,000 are suffering from consumption, a preventable disease. Of all the numerous pests that have been allowed to gain a foothold in the United States, the insect class has been the cause of the greatest damage. The production of copper in Michigan in 1916, as reported by the United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, was 273,622,575 pounds, valued at \$67,228,361. The average price of copper per pound for 1916 was \$0.246, compared with \$0.175 in 1915. He (with cold feet)—Why now? She—The cook talks of leaving because our family is too large. Paul de anything to induce her to stay.—Hesperia Transcript.