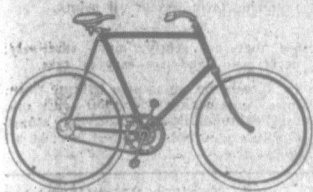


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Who Were the Samaritans?

In our Sunday school, recently, we have had two lessons in which mention is made of Samaria and the Samaritans. In discussing one of these, that of February 28th, the MESSENGER AND VISITOR'S "Bible Lesson" (condensed from Dr. Hurlbut's note) opens with the following words: "The Samaritans were a mixed race of Jews and Gentiles, who accepted the Pentateuch only as their Bible. Can this statement be verified? The Bible record seems to be quite explicit, but it is impossible to reconcile it with the statement I have quoted. 2 Kings, 17, 18-41 is brief, and, apparently very much to the point. It would seem from the narrative here given that the Assyrian captivity made a clean sweep of the kingdom of Israel, so to speak. "The Lord was very angry "with Israel and removed them out of His sight, "there was none left but the tribe of Judah only. "The Lord rejected all the seed of Israel, and afflicted them, and delivered them into the hands of the Spoilers. "So was Israel carried away out of their own land to Assyria unto this day. "Then, we are told that the King of Assyria put some of his own people in Samaria "instead of the children of Israel, and they possessed Samaria, and dwelt in the cities thereof. "Lest anyone should suppose that these heathen people found Jews in Samaria from whom they got the knowledge of the true God, it is explained in verses 25-28, 41, just-how they were taught to know the true God, and the bad use made by them of such knowledge. Apparently these "Samaritans" had made little progress Godward, when one hundred years later Zerubbabel and his followers returned from the Babylonish captivity; for at that early day the Jews absolutely refused to have any dealings with them. They seem, fairly, to have earned the name by which they were best known. They seemed to be stern "adversaries of Judah and Benjamin," as is shown by the record in the 4th chapter of Ezra. Josephus calls them "Cutheans," and will not admit that there is any Hebrew blood about them; and Dr. Smith, in his Bible Dictionary, after discussing the subject at some length, comes to much the same conclusion. He says they are of Assyrian origin, and he calls attention to the fact that our Saviour contrasted the Samaritans with the Jews, and always referred to them as an entirely different people. There seems to be no good reason for disagreeing with these eminent authorities, learned men to the contrary notwithstanding. The "mixed race" theory is plausible; but the evidence in support of it is signally wanting. The Samaritans, a scattered remnant of whom still exists, had, however, a very interesting history. Their growth as a religious community, worshipping the God of the Hebrews, as revealed in the New Testament records; and in Josephus, must have commenced after Judah's return from the captivity, for Ezra and Nehemiah give us no hint of it. Indeed, their possession of the Pentateuch and Temple on Mount Gerizim, date subsequent to Ezra's reforms. Dr. W. Robertson Smith, in the Enc. Brit. explains their possession of the Pentateuch by reference to the incident recorded in Nehemiah, chapter 13, when Manasseh had been expelled from Jeru-

salem for the sin of marrying the daughter of Sanballat, he carried into Samaria with him a copy of the Sacred Writings, and with the aid of his father-in-law successfully imposed its teachings upon the Samaritans. Subsequently, they had their synagogues like the Jews, and, as we know from the record in Acts, were even more ready than these to accept Jesus as the Messiah. Nevertheless, were they not Gentiles, and was not Philip's mission to Samaria a mission to the Gentiles? March, 1897. E. D. K.

R. G. Dunn & Co. report 61 failures the past week in Canada, against 60 in the corresponding week last year.

MARRIAGES.

MCMACKEN-THORNE.—At Havelock, Kings Co., N. B., by Pastor Estabrook, of Peticodiac on March 10th, S. L. Tilley McMacken, to Mary D. Thorne, both of Havelock, N. B.

MCKAY-RAY.—At the residence of the bride's father, Capt. John Ray, on the 21st of Jan. Nelson McKay and Annie Ray, both of Bear River, Rev. B. N. Nobles officiating.

CARTER-MORGAN.—At the Baptist parsonage, Bear River, on Jan. 10th, by Rev. B. N. Nobles, William Carter and Edith Morgan of Bear River.

WEIR-RAYMOND.—At the Baptist parsonage, Digby, N. S., on March 6th, by Pastor B. H. Thomas, Mr. George D. Weir and Ida M. Raymond, both of Digby.

BARBOUR-BARBOUR.—Married Feb. 24th by Rev. Trueman Bishop, at the residence of the bride's father, Thomas Barbour Esq., Little Roches, Albert County, N. B., John Barbour and Jennie Barbour.

SMITH-DALEMAN.—At the home of the bride's father, Dea. Herbert Daleman, of Brighton, Feb. 27th, by Pastor N. B. Dunn, Ella Porter Daleman to Mitchell Smith of Newton, Cape Island, Shelburne Co.

SHAW-SHAW.—At Rockland, Carleton Co., March 11th, at the Baptist parsonage, by Rev. H. D. Worden, Wilbert Shaw, of Presque Isle, Maine, to Blanch Shaw of Smyrna, Maine.

Telegraph please copy.

DEATHS.

BARNSTAD.—At 127 Spring Garden Road, Halifax, Feb. 26th, Charles Barnstead, aged 85 years.

MARGESON.—At 49 Victoria Road, Halifax, on Wednesday, March 3rd, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Margeson, in the 57th year of her age.

KENT.—At Lower Village, Truro, N. S., the darling infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Kent, died March 1st, aged 1 year 4 months. A lovely healthy child, but sick only six hours, and Jesus gathered the lamb to His bosom.

CAIN.—On the 7th inst. at his late residence, Cove Road, Yarmouth, Capt. James Cain, aged 79 years. The deceased has been a member of Temple church for 25 years. He leaves a widow and three sons, one of whom is Pastor S. H. Cain, so well and favorably known in Nova Scotia, at present laboring in Illinois. His end was peaceful.

HARLOW.—At Sable River, Shelb. Co., N. S., on the 24th, bit. Sister Nancy Harlow wife of Bro. James Harlow, sen. Our departed sister was converted to God very early in life, united with the Baptist church in which she has been a most faithful member until she peacefully and calmly passed away in the 77th year of her age.

COCK.—At Brookside, near Truro, Colchester Co., N. S., Feb. 17th, Mrs. N. Cock, aged 85. A member of Prince St. church, Truro. A ripe Christian, and patient through years of suffering, ever cheerful, and a kind word for all who visited her. The fatal "grip" attacked her and she died within one week. Her end was peace. Her faithful son and grandchildren will miss her cheerful face. But hope to meet again.

ARCHIBALD.—At Clifton, Colchester Co., N. S., March 1st, Charles Archibald, aged 80 years. "An old disciple" our brother truly was. A member of Prince St. church, Truro, many years. Gentle and patient, and beloved by all who knew him. He delighted in spiritual conversation, and looked forward to death as, "going home." He leaves an affectionate wife, and several daughters and a son, to wait a little longer, ere joining him on the shining shore.

EASTMAN.—Died at Forest Glen, March 5, aged 49 years, Mrs. E. P. Eastman. In the death of our sister the community grieves for its most useful member. For

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