

## The Sunday School

### BIBLE LESSON.

Abridged from Peloubet's Notes.

Fourth Quarter, 1902.

OCTOBER TO DECEMBER.

LESSON VI. November 9. Joshua 24:14-25.

JOSHUA'S PARTING ADVICE.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Choose you this day whom ye will serve.  
—Josh. 24:15.

EXPLANATORY.

JOSHUA'S FAREWELL ADDRESS.—Vs. 14-21. First A review of the past as a motive for the present (vs. 1-13.) 1. God's call to Abraham from idolatry, and his guiding care over him.

2. God's dealings with the patriarchs, and their discipline in Egypt.

3. The signs and wonders God wrought against Pharaoh in order to deliver his people.

4. The marvelous deliverance through the Red Sea.

5. Victory over the Amorites.

6. Balaam's curse changed into a blessing.

7. The crossing of the Jordan at flood-tide.

8. The capture of Jericho.

9. Many victories.

10. The strange victory over two kings of the Amorites, "not with thy sword, nor with thy bow," but with horns.

Note 1. The lamp of the past is the best light on the present. We know what God will do by what he had done.

Note 2. The review was an appeal to gratitude and love. Everything they possessed was God's gift to them.

Second. A call for a full, manly, decisive stand on the Lord's side (vs. 14, 15.)

14. NOW THEREFORE, IN VIEW OF THESE FACTS, FEAR THE LORD. Not be in terror before him, nor driven from him by fright, but hold him in reverential awe and respect, realize his power to help and to punish, so as to devote yourselves to him in perfect trust. There can be no trifling.

15. SERVE HIM IN SINCERITY AND IN TRUTH. Not in outward forms merely, but also in the heart and the life. PUT AWAY THE GODS WHICH YOUR FATHERS SERVED. We thus learn that idolatry lurked among the Israelites, and that it was that form of idolatry which had been known in the family of Terah of old (vs. 2.)

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FLOOD, i. e., of the river Euphrates, whence Abraham came, AND SERVE YE THE LORD. The real object of Joshua was to renew and confirm the covenant which had already been made with God.

16. IF IT SEEM EVIL UNTO YOU. If, having weighed all the reasons, you must think it wise and good to serve other gods, then CHOOSE YOU THIS DAY, now, on the spot. You have had time enough to consider. Every motive for a choice at all is a motive for deciding at once. WHOM YE WILL SERVE. Be decided. Cease to "halt between two opinions." THE GODS WHICH YOUR FATHERS SERVED IN CHALDEA. What had these done for them? Their ancestors had rejected these gods as unworthy.

THE GODS OF THE AMORITES, who had been unable to protect their worshippers from being destroyed by the Israelites. It would be absurd to turn from Jehovah to them. AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE (household) WE WILL SERVE THE LORD, even if we stand alone. The decision was worthy of the grand old man.

Third. The people decide for God (vs. 16-18.) God wants a free, deliberate choice, without compulsion. The people were free to choose. 16. GOD FORTH. "The form of the Hebrew is 'A profane thing be it to us!' To translate this Hebrew exclamation by an English oath, as our versions regularly do, savors somewhat of the taking of the divine name in vain. The phrase stated a reason for their choice. The forsaking of Jehovah strikes them as something horrible and profane and shocking." THAT WE SHOULD FORSAKE THE LORD. The people decided, and sincerely, to serve God. It was made under an appeal, under the power of the strongest and best motives that could be brought to bear upon them, when their minds were uplifted into clearest vision, above the smoke and clouds of earth. That was the right time to make a decision. God has given us feelings on purpose to move us to decide aright.

Fourth. The resolution enforced by a solemn appeal and warning (vs. 19, 20.) 19. YE CANNOT SERVE THE LORD, etc., i. e., "ye cannot in your own strength; it is more difficult than you imagine." "It cannot be supposed for a moment that Joshua intended to deter the people from the service of God by representing it as impracticable or dangerous. On the contrary, his design is to enlist them more sincerely and steadfastly in it." It was a very serious and difficult thing to serve God, and unless they were true-hearted and sincere, they would not succeed. FOR HE IS AN HOLY GOD, and therefore cannot en-

dure anything impure or selfish or wicked in his children. HE IS A JEALOUS GOD, unwilling to have a rival, as a true husband or wife is and ought to be unwilling to have a rival in the other's affections. Such a rival is intrinsically opposed to the very nature of the relation. HE WILL NOT FORGIVE YOUR TRANSGRESSIONS. "Kather 'will not pass by,' as if taking no notice. Joshua is supposing their wilful rebellion and forsaking of God." He will not tolerate your transgressions. He will punish them, and take every means to save you from them. It will not be possible, under God's rule, to prosper while continuing in sin, as was shown in the case of the fiery serpents and their complaints at Meribah, and the disaster at Ai.

Fifth. The people reiterate their decision (vs. 21.) 21. AND THE PEOPLE SAID UNTO JOSHUA, YEA; BUT, rather "for." All you say makes our resolution more firm. Nothing can move us from our decision. Or possibly the sense is.—YEA, these evils will not come upon us, for WE WILL SERVE THE LORD. The warnings had a good effect.

THREE WITNESSES TO THEIR PROMISE. Vs. 25-25. The first witness, themselves. 22. YE ARE WITNESSES AGAINST YOURSELVES. Your public promise to obey will be a witness that you know your duty and accepted the conditions of blessings for obedience and punishment for disobedience. This witness will warn you if you are tempted to go astray, and will justify God's dealings with you, if, forsaking God you suffer the bitter punishment.

23. NOW THEREFORE. If you have spoken truly, show it by your actions, and PUT AWAY . . . THE STRANGE GODS WHICH ARE AMONG YOU. This shows that there was need of Joshua's warning. The disease was only beginning, but if let alone it would destroy the whole body. AND INCLINE YOUR HEART UNTO THE LORD GOD, for if they gave God their hearts, they would not worship idols; and all acts of worship, even to the Lord, were in vain, unless they proceeded from a heart of love. The supreme love of God was the fountain from which all morality and all their prosperity and success would flow. They only truly worship God, who worship in spirit and in truth.

24. Again, in still stronger words, they promise. HIS VOICE WILL WE OBEY. Thus there has been a threefold promise on the part of the people to engrave it deep into their souls.

The second witness was a public pledge and covenant. 25. SO JOSHUA MADE A COVENANT WITH THE PEOPLE THAT DAY, i. e., "he solemnly ratified and renewed the covenant of Sinai (Ex. 19, 20,) as Moses had done before him in the plains of Moab (Deut. 29: 9.) SET THEM A STATUTE. "Either he formed the whole into a statute and ordinance which was promulgated for all Israel to receive and obey, or it may mean that he declared or propounded to them, he set before them, the sum and substance of the Mosaic statutes, which their covenant obliged them to observe."

### A WIFE'S TERRIBLE STORY.

The following is the evidence of the wife of Thomas Winfield, who, whilst under arrest for threatening her life, committed suicide in Grantham Police Station.—The Coroner: It is a well-known fact, not only to you, but to everybody else, that your husband was a great drinker? Witness: Yes, sir.—And when he was in these drinking bouts he was not very kind to you? No, sir; but very kind when he was out of drink.—You have pulled him up before the magistrate several times? Yes, sir.—And he has been to jail for threatening you? Yes, sir; and the last time he came out, he told my daughter that if I would not take him in he would sever his head from his body, and leave it on the doorstep.—What did he go to jail last time for? For cutting my head on both sides with a hatchet.—The Chief Constable: He got three months that time, sir.—Witness: That was the second time he had got a hatchet to me. I can show you two great cuts on the door, which he did when he hit the door instead of me. He always had razors on him when he drank, and my children have taken them from him scores of times. I had to sleep at my daughter's three nights—I daren't go in. I have spoken to policemen every day about him. In consequence of his conduct and threats I took out a warrant on Thursday.—The Coroner: You have had a large family? Yes, I have had fourteen children, and eleven are alive. I have two going to school now.—What did he drink? Beer; he did not care for liquors.

### HOW RELIEF CAME.

An Interesting Story From An Icelandic Settlement.

From the Logberg, Winnipeg, Man.

The readers of Logberg have long been familiar with the virtues of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills through the well authenticated cures published in these columns each week. Many of our readers are also able to vouch for cures which have come under their own observation. This week "Logberg" has received a letter from one of its readers, Mr. B. Walteson, a prosperous farmer living at Bru, in which he gives his own experience in the hope that it may benefit some other sufferer. Mr. Walteson says: "Some years ago I was suffering so greatly from rheumatism in my limbs that I was for a long time unable to do any work. I tried in many ways to get a cure, both by patent medicines and medicine prescribed by doctors, but without obtaining any benefit. I saw Dr. Williams' Pink Pills advertised in the Logberg as being a cure for this trouble and determined to give it a trial. I bought a dozen boxes and before half of them were used I felt a great change for the better. This improvement continued from day to day, and before I had used all the pills I was completely cured. Since that time I have never had an attack of this trouble. After this I used the pills in several other cases and no other medicine has been so beneficial to me. I feel it my duty to publicly give testimony to the merits of this wonderful medicine so others similarly affected may be led to try it."

If you are weak or ailing; if your nerves are tired and jaded, or your blood is out of condition, you will be wise to use Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, which are an unfailing cure for all blood and nerve troubles. But be sure you get the genuine, with the full name "Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People" on the wrapper around every box. Sold by all medicine dealers or sent post paid at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50 by writing direct to the Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

### OUR HOMING INSTINCT.

Down at the station at Huntington, the other day, they had a box of doves. I saw one of the doves trying to get out through one of the slats. I advised the baggage master to look out for it, or they would lose them. He called the owner, an old farmer with long whiskers, who came trudging with his cane down the platform. He seemed to think it was none of my business, anyway, and simply dismissed the whole matter by saying, "If they get out, they will go home." It was not much matter to him if they stayed in or got out, because they would fly home. The dove's nature was to fly to its cote. If it had broken out of that box it would have circled up for a hundred and sixty feet and then, turning its face infallibly towards home, would wing its way with joy back to its little ones it had left behind. So the spirit of man, having within it the dove-like spirit of love once implanted, has the tendency to rise and go towards its home. And when death comes the spirit that hath in it the love of Christ will rise towards heaven and set its face towards its eternal home and go directly there. No man that confesses Christ sincerely is ever lost, or ever can be lost; if he has the eternal principle of God, he has become a child of God, and Jesus said truly, "No man can pluck them out of my hand."—Ex.

What He Wanted.—Weary—"Dese horseless kerridges is great, isn't dey?" Anxious—"Yep; but what dey order invent is a biteless dorg"—Baltimore American.

Blodds—"I heard a lecturer last week who gets \$500 a night." Slobbs—"That's so? What was his subject?"

Blodds—"Free speech."—Philadelphia Record.

o The golfer—"You must acknowledge that it requires a great deal of skill to drive a ball a hundred yards."

The farmer—"Don't require half ez much skill ez it does t' drive a pig fifty feet."—Harper's Bazar.

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Gentlemen,—My daughter, 13 years old, was thrown from a sleigh and injured her elbow so badly it remained stiff and very painful for three years. Four bottles of MINARD'S LINIMENT completely cured her and she has not been troubled for two years.

Yours Truly,

J. B. LEVESQUE.

St. Joseph, P. Q., Aug. 18, 1900.



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### FEELS SPLENDID NOW.

Before taking Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills I was all run down, could not sleep at night and was terribly troubled with my heart. Since taking them I feel splendid. I sleep well at night and my heart does not trouble me at all. They have done me a world of good.—Jas. D. McLeod, Hartsville, P.E.I.

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