

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

SUNDAY SCHOOL. Lesson IX, November 30, 1913.

Crossing the Jordan.—Josh. 3, 1-17.

Commentary.—I. Israel instructed (vs. 1-6).

When the time came for the advance of the hosts of Israel into Canaan, the start was made early in the morning.

This was done because Joshua was active in prosecuting the task that God gave him.

A second reason for the early start was that in hot countries the work is done in the morning or during the night.

And the people plan to rest during the middle of the day. The place of Israel's camp had been for a time eight or nine miles east of the Jordan, and now a new camp was made near the river.

There is a difference of opinion regarding the three days here mentioned. Some regarding the three days after the Israelites had removed to a point near the Jordan, that the officers went through the camp giving the people directions regarding the advance, and others think that it was three days after the orders were issued to the people to make preparations for crossing the river.

The latter view seems more reasonable. It was necessary for Joshua to reach the people through officers of the various tribes, for he could not speak directly to all the people. He could give his orders to the assembled elders of the tribes, and they could make them known to all the people. The signal for Israel's advance was minutely described. It was the ark of the covenant carried forward by the priests. The ark was a chest made of acacia wood according to the plan which God gave Moses in Mount Sinai.

Its place was in the most holy place of the tabernacle. It contained the tables of the law, the pot of manna and Aaron's rod that budded. The lid was the mercy-seat, which was overshadowed by the cherubim (Heb. 9, 4, 5). The ark was the symbol of the divine presence. The Levites usually carried the ark when it was removed from its place in the tabernacle, but on special occasions the priests performed that office. The priests were to carry the ark of the covenant about three-quarters of a mile in advance of the people. At that distance the multitude could see it, while if they should crowd close to it, only a few could see when it moved forward.

Perhaps an additional reason for this distance was the sacredness of the ark of the covenant was to be Israel's guide in Canaan. The Israelites were commanded to make themselves ceremonially clean by washing their garments and persons, and by keeping themselves from everything that grasped the defilement. Joshua's faith grasped the promise of God. He announced to the people that they would see marvelous things on the following day, for the Lord was going to work for them. At Joshua's command the priests went forward bearing the ark. The fact is stated according to the Hebrew manner of speaking, that Joshua's orders were obeyed, but it was not done until the next day.

Joshua and the people encouraged (vs. 7-13). This day—the day upon which Israel was to cross the Jordan. To magnify them in the sight of all Israel—it was necessary that the people should have confidence in their leader through their representatives. Hear the words of the Lord—Joshua had perfect assurance that God had given him a message for the people. 10. Jehovah is called the living God in contrast to the gods of the heathen, which were simply idols, without life or efficiency. He will without fail drive out from before you the man who is deceiving Israelites had said at Kadesh-barnea that they could not take possession of Canaan, although God had promised it to them; now God declares in unmistakable language that He will drive out the inhabitants before them.

Those who occupied the lowlands of Canaan. Hittites—Descendants of Heth. They dwelt in southwestern Canaan. Hivites—Inhabitants of west central Canaan. Perizzites—They dwelt south of the Hivites. Gergashites—Probably dwelt east of the Jordan. Amorites—Occupied the highlands of Canaan west of the Dead Sea. Jebusites—They occupied the fortress of Jebus, afterward called Jerusalem. 11. Lead of all the earth—He has power to subdue all the nations of the earth. 12. Twelve men—The choice was to be made before the passage of Jordan for later service in making the memorial of the crossing of the river (Josh. 4). 13. Shall be cut off—The priests must show their faith by walking into the very waters of Jordan. The flow of the waters would be stopped at once. The knowledge that God had long before this made a way through the Red Sea for the passage of Israel, in their escape from Egypt, would encourage their faith.

III. Entering Canaan (vs. 14-17). 14. Removed.—The people obeyed the commands of the Lord. 15. Overflowed—all his banks—The rapidly melting snow on the mountains of Lebanon caused the river to overflow in April and May. The Jordan has three sets of banks, one above another. 16. Waters stood.—They were miraculously held from coming down. The location of the place mentioned is not definitely known. The bed of the Jordan was bare for a distance perhaps of several miles. Right against—Opposite Jericho. 17. Priests—Bearing the ark of the covenant, which was the symbol of the divine presence. They stood in the midst of Jordan to show that the waters were held back by divine power. It is probable that the people crossed in the space of a few hours.

IV. Divine power manifested (vs. 18-24). God's power, shown in behalf of Israel in their deliverance from Egyptian bondage, was sustained. The miracle which attended Israel's march was God's attestation to the fact that they were entering into His will. T. R.

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most poetic language, to emphasize the fact that it was the hand of God that opened Israel's way through the Red Sea, and turned back the waters of the Jordan that his people might enter the land of Canaan. It was the Lord that brought water for the hosts of Israel from the rock. He is exalted as having power over the forces of nature.

Questions.—Where did Israel camp just before entering Canaan? What directions were given regarding the ark of the covenant? What assurance did God give Joshua of his assistance? What nations were to be driven out before the Israelites? What was the signal for Israel's advance? Describe Israel's passage of the Jordan.

PRACTICE SURVEY.

Topic.—Advancement in Israel.

I. Preceded by special preparation.

II. Preceded by minute obedience.

III. Preceded by special preparation.

Advancement is the leading thought of this lesson. Israel's advance was from a lowly position toward a noble destiny.

Their national growth and mission demanded a new type of life. It could not long remain a matter of doubt with them whether or not they stood ready for God to lead them over Jordan. Preparations were made for the decisive step, which committed Israel to the struggle which lay before them. There was a crisis reached in Israel's history analogous to the first great crisis, when they passed the Red Sea. With this crisis safely over their future was assured. In order that the miracle should have due weight, previous reflection and expectation were essential, a preparation for realizing God's work among them. The command to sanctify themselves was a call to heart-searching. Sanctifying themselves would afford evidence of faith in their leader and in God. Faith in preparation would lead to augmented faith in the time of action. This Israel was called upon to cooperate with God in working out their victories. At the decisive moment, when the people were about to enter upon the great conflict which was to secure the possession of the land of promise, the command was given to gather themselves together and follow the ark of the covenant.

II. Effected by minute obedience.

God's plan demanded the transfer of the line of march across the Jordan. The line of march was unknown, untrod. Great conflicts lay in it, trials of faith, of courage, of patience and of strength. Israel was instructed to accept God's guidance implicitly. Joshua grasped the inmost meaning of God's word to himself and set an example of diligent and prompt obedience. Now that the Israelites were about to enter upon their inheritance the time was a fitting one for signal marks of divine favor and might. The symbol of mercy and duty was to lead the way, proving the efficiency of spiritual barriers against all assailing forces. The ark led them as clearly as the pillar of cloud had done, and in following it Israel obtained the same miraculous help. The staying of the waters of Jordan was a direct exercise of the wonder-working hand of God. The miracle was to the people a prophecy and a pledge of victory in their conflict with the Canaanites. The power that rolled back the waters of the overflowing river could stay the force of the hostile tribes beyond the possibility of miracles springs naturally from the fact of the existence of the "living God." This miracle monstrated God's power over all nature. The ark was the token of the presence of God Himself. It proclaimed him the God of God Himself. It proclaimed him the God of mercy and of law. The combination of the symbols of law and mercy belonged to no religion but that of Israel. The name by which the ark was called was a pledge of God's truth and faithfulness. By Israel's wonderful entrance into Canaan Joshua was greatly honored and his authority established. It was the fulfillment of the promise God had made to be with him, as he had been with Moses. It was an emphatic endorsement of the people's enthusiastic response. It was his own seal placed upon Joshua's commission. This was essential to united and effective action on the part of those he led. By this miracle success was guaranteed. It gave proof of God's guiding presence, and such an assurance in those circumstances was peculiarly appropriate. In that strange experience through which God led caused Joshua and Israel to pass, led and the priests were disciplined in faith, obedience and steadfastness. Joshua was magnified in the sight of Israel in that beneficent way he was known to be a man who had God with him, and who leaned upon God's strength and was sustained. The miracle which attended Israel's march was God's attestation to the fact that they were entering into His will. T. R.

FARM GARDEN RASPBERRY HINTS.

A successful and practical method of producing large luscious berries is as follows: Prepare the soil by manuring as described in a recent issue for the growing of strawberries. Sea out the plants three feet apart in rows, running north and south, if possible, and five or six feet between each row.

If the young canes are long and slender they should be cut back to within 18 inches of the soil, but if strong and "swocky" a few inches only need be cut off. This is done to make them throw out new wood for the next season's crop, and to strengthen the lateral or side shoots. Next secure a fence post long one foot every 50 or 60 feet and strain two wires on to them. The bottom wire had better be about 18 inches from the ground and the other 3 feet. From each plant as they grow, select 3 or 4 shoots and tie them to the wires in a fan-shaped direction, that is, train the centre one perpendicular, and the side ones branching away from it. Having thus secured the necessary wood for next year's crop cut away and others that remain. By doing so the growth of those left on is increased, a larger berry and a more plentiful crop is ensured; also when the old canes are done fruiting, or when the raspberry season is over they should be removed for the same reason.

Before severe frost sets in, loosen off the young canes from the wires, bend some of them to the right, and the others to the left, securing them to the soil with a crocheted stick or strong wire. This prevents them to a great extent from freezing so injurious in this country to young wood. The snow helps to protect them, and when so treated, they will not be broken or lopped about by the winter's storm. In the early spring remove the canes to the wires as before, for fruiting, and select and tie in the young growth, following the same plan year after year as described.

The manuring is best accomplished by shaking some half rotted stuff over and around the canes after they are soaked to the ground for the winter, and again as a mulch when the fruit has set. The space between the rows need not be left idle, one row of any of the vegetables or be planted there, but for cauliflowers it makes an ideal place, as the canes shelter them from the scorching sun.—Richard J. Black, New Glasgow, N. S., in Canadian Farm.

IMPORTANCE OF A GOOD SIRE.

The greatest curse that dairy farming in this country has known is the "rich" bull, which is the result of a few years of absolutely useless, to attempt any great improvement of the herd unless careful attention is given to the selection of this all-important member. He is truly the "head of the herd," and cannot be too carefully selected from a strain which has a record for large milk production. The services of a few years of indifferent breeding. It is the part of wisdom to see that such a bull serves none but those cows which come up to a good standard. Many farmers feel that they cannot afford to purchase expensive animals, but why should not several farmers co-operate in the purchase and use of bulls of the right sort? Why should not the Cow Testing Association take up the question of securing bulls for their exclusive use and mate them only with the best cows?

CARE OF MANURE.

It is generally considered now, that the most economical way to handle and care for manure, both as to the economy of labor and elements of fertility, is to haul the manure direct from the barn to the field. There are two ways by which the fertilizing value is lost; the first is by heating and the second by leaching. If manure is left in piles about the barn, it soon begins to heat, even in winter, especially if it contains any large proportion of horse manure. When it heats, the manure is decomposed, and the element of most value, nitrogen, is lost. In the spring and early summer if manure is piled about the barn, where rain can fall on it, much of the fertility is leached out and carried away. If manure is spread on the field directly from the barn, heating is prevented until the manure is covered up in the soil. Then any elements that are liberated by decomposition are taken up by the soil and saved. When manure is spread out on the fields it dries out, and as the larger part of the manure is in an insoluble form, even if it does rain on the fields, very little fertility is washed out, because it is not soluble. Considering these facts, and the fact that manure is handled fewer times when handled direct from the barn to the field, makes it quite evident that this is the practical way of handling manure except where the land is subject to excessive washing and flooding.—J. B. Henderson, B. S. A., in Canadian Farm.

STOCK NOTES.

Finish the cattle.

Produce what the market demands.

There is a movement started in Pennsylvania to raise more calves.

Watch it spread.

Buck lambs are not wanted on the market. Next spring should see castration of grade lambs in general practice.

There is a big demand for stockers and feeders. There is almost sure to be an equally strong demand next spring for finished beef.

When the rancher is entirely driven out by the grain farmer, where will the cattle come from, unless more of the real calves are raised?

When a veal calf, at 160 pounds, sells as high as a yearling steer did a few years ago, there is any wonder many of these youngsters are slaughtered?

Do not sell the grain this winter. Get a big price for it as finished meat or as milk or some of the products made from it, and have the greater portion of the plant food it contains to spread on the fields for a bigger crop in 1914.

Not a man in a thousand has accuracy of eye and judgment sufficient to become an eminent breeder. These are words of a noted breeder of Shorthorn cattle in the United States. But it

must be added that training and observation can do considerable.

The buyer of stockers, the feeder, the butcher and the exporter all want the low-set, deep, thick, even-fleshed type of animal. There is room for improvement in the type of bulls being used in many sections. Get rid of the scrub sire, and plan to make something of the calves rather than to kill them at birth.

If all the live stock marketed was as good as the choice types, how much greater would the feeder's net returns be? A visit to a few of the large markets reveals the fact that too great a portion of the offerings consists of inferior stock apparently due more to bad breeding than to bad feeding, although the two quite frequently are closely connected.—Farmer's Advocate.

CROP BULLETIN

Early November Statement of Ontario's Agriculture.

Grains Good, the Potatoes Light, Apples Scarce.

The following statement regarding crop conditions, based on the reports of 2,000 correspondents, sent in during the first week of November, has been issued by the Ontario Department of Agriculture.

Fall Wheat.—Fall wheat has been a most satisfactory crop, both as to yield and quality, the same as a rule being fully up to weight. While the straw was rather short, it was clean and bright.

The New Fall Wheat.—Reports indicate an enlarged acreage, every fall wheat district promising to share in the increase. Notwithstanding the rather dry conditions at the time of sowing, the soil as a rule proved to be in good tilth for a seed bed, and the young fields at present are described as looking strong and promising. Only a few complaints have been made of injury from Hessian fly or other insects.

Spring Wheat.—This crop has now a comparatively small acreage in this Province. Where grown it was a good average crop, both as to yield and quality.

Barley.—An average yield of plump, well-colored grain, on short, clean straw, harvested under most favorable conditions.

Oats.—Oats are well up to weight and general quality of grain—the best in this regard for years—and are about an average in yield per acre; but owing to the drought the straw is short, though clean and first-class for fodder.

Rye.—Comparatively little rye is now raised in this Province, but where grown the crop has done well this season.

Peas.—Although not so much grown as formerly, owing to the ravages of the weevil, peas have done well this year, especially where raised for the canning factories.

Buckwheat.—Buckwheat suffered from frost to a greater degree than any other field crop, and the drought of summer also told against it. On the whole, it is not at all up to the average of recent years in either yield or quality.

Beans.—This crop was slightly caught by frost in some localities, but taken all together, it was well harvested, and has turned out to be fair both as to yield and sample. Some low-lying fields suffered from rain in August.

Corn.—This crop was checked in early growth in the season by cold weather, followed by drought, but later on it picked up wonderfully and gave promise of a fair yield, although somewhat shorter in stand than usual. Some of the corn fields got touched by frost about the middle of September, and as a consequence, there will be a little soft grain, but the bulk of the crop will be of first-class quality, both for husking and the silo, being well matured, and all of it will make good feed for live stock.

Potatoes.—Potatoes are somewhat smaller in size and yield than usual, owing to the dry season, but as a rule the quality is excellent, and so far there is said to be an almost complete absence of rot. All were under cover when correspondents wrote.

Turnips.—Returns concerning turnips vary, some very poor and some very good yields being reported, but as a whole the crop is a disappointing one. In a number of counties the plants were severely attacked by lice, and the drought also told on the crop.

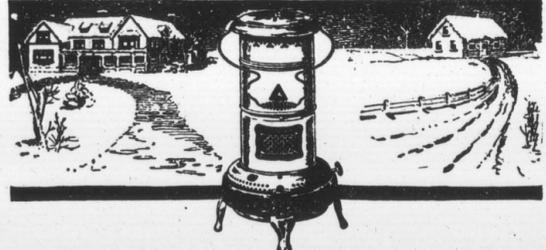
Mangels.—Like turnips, mangels are reported to be rather light in yield, and smaller in size than usual, but as a rule they are reported to be of good quality.

Fruit.—Fruit trees, vines and bushes are likely to enter the winter with well-ripened wood. Some orchards, however, where spraying has been neglected, are suffering from the San Jose scale and other insect and fungus pests. The tent caterpillar are more prevalent than usual, more especially in the eastern half of the Province. Winter apples will not be plentiful; pears have done better relatively. Plums, cherries and peaches gave generous yields, and small fruits gave a fair yield, despite the spring frosts and summer drought, although grapes were not up to the standard in their bearing.

BOOTH IN NEW YORK.

New York, Nov. 24.—General Bramwell Booth, head of the Salvation Army, arrived here last night from Chicago, accompanied by his sister, Commander Eva Booth; his private secretary, Col. Theodore H. Kitching, and Commissioner Thomas Estlin, in charge of the department of the West.

Speaking for the General, Col. Kitching said the Salvation Army's leader was hopeful of meeting his brother, General Ballington Booth, head of the Volunteers on America. The two separated seventeen years ago, when Ballington Booth organized a separate body after quitting his father, General William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army. There is a report that the two organizations will consolidate. "This is largely dependent on the attitude of mind of General Ballington Booth," said Col. Kitching.



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MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS

LIVE STOCK.

UNION STOCK YARDS.

Receipts were moderately large.

188 cars, 4,000 cattle, 70 hogs, 2,36 sheep and lambs, and 215 calves.

CATTLE.—The bulk of the cattle were feeder's stockers, and common to medium butchers', and only a small offering of good to choice fat cattle. Trade in all classes was brisk at steady to firm prices at the close of last week.

Choice butchers' steers... \$7.75 to \$8.00

Good butchers' steers... 6.00 to 6.50

Medium butchers' steers... 5.25 to 5.75

Common butchers' steers... 4.50 to 5.00

Choice butchers' heifers... 7.00 to 7.25

Common butchers' heifers... 5.50 to 6.00

Stocking cows... 3.50 to 4.00

Good cows... 3.25 to 3.50

Canners' cows... 2.50 to 3.00

FEDDERING AND STOCKERS.—The demand for stockers and feeders was as strong as ever as there were many buyers.

Choice steers... \$5.40 to \$5.60

Medium steers... 4.50 to 5.00

Stocking cows... 2.50 to 3.00

Rough steers... 4.00 to 4.50

MILKERS AND STOCKERS.—Receipts were moderate, and sold at \$9 to \$9.50 each; bulk sold at \$5 to \$5.50.

CALVES.—Market was strong at firm prices.

Choice veals, \$9 to \$10.50; common to medium, \$4.50 to \$5.50.

Choice and lambs.—Receipts were large and prices a little easier for lambs.

Sheep... \$4.50 to \$5.25

Lambs, choice Ewes and... 2.50 to 4.50

Wethers... 4.00 to 4.75

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