

The Sunday School

BIBLE LESSON.

Abridged from Peloubet's Notes.

Third Quarter, 1905.

JULY TO SEPTEMBER.

Lesson IX — August 27 — Jeremiah in the Dungeon.—Jeremiah 38: 1-13.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.—Matt 5: 10

EXPLANATORY.

I. JEREMIAH'S ENEMIES CONSPIRE AGAINST HIM.—Vs 1-4. During those long, dark months of siege probably the only soul to all that crowded city which was in perfect peace, and free in its unrestrained liberty, was Jeremiah's. "Cursed though he was, he had many opportunities of proclaiming his message. "It would appear that he was constantly reiterating in the ears of all who passed through the court-house the message which he had previously delivered to the king, that to stay in the city was to incur death by sword, famine or pestilence, while to go forth to the lines of the Chaldeans was the one condition of life."

II. SHEPHTIAH. Not mentioned elsewhere. Gedaliah. Possibly a son of the Pashur who put Jeremiah in the stocks (Jer. 20: 1, 2). JUCAL. The Jebucal whom Zedekiah had sent (Jer. 37: 3) to beg Jeremiah's prayers for the people. PASHUR THE SON OF MALCHIAH. Zedekiah had sent him to Jeremiah at the beginning of the siege, to learn the outcome (Jer. 21: 1). These four princes were evidently officers close to the king. HEARD THE WORDS THAT JEREMIAH HAD SPOKEN. R. V., "spoke." The form of the verb "implies that the prophet often used the words."

2. HE THAT REMAINETH, etc. Pashur may have been the spokesman. At any rate, that is substantially what he had heard Jeremiah say (Jer. 21: 9-10), though doubtless Jeremiah was often saying just such things. HE THAT GOETH FORTH TO THE CHALDEANS, NOT AS A TRAITOR BUT IN HONORABLE SUBMISSION, SHALL HAVE HIS LIFE FOR A PREY. "Something snatched up hurriedly and borne away with him rather than his secure possession."

4. LET THIS MAN BE PUT TO DEATH. This cruel request was a tribute to the prophet:

FALSE HUNGER.

A Symptom of Stomach Trouble Corrected by Good Food.

There is, with some forms of stomach disease, an abnormal craving for food which is frequently mistaken for a "good appetite." A lady teacher writes from Carthage, Mo., to explain how with good food she dealt with this sort of hurtful hunger.

"I have taught school for fifteen years," she writes, "and up to nine years ago had good, average health. My diet was always generous, comprising whatever I took a fancy to. I ate freely. Nine years ago, however, my health began to fail, and continued to grow worse, steadily, in spite of doctor's prescriptions, frequent changes of residence and everything I could do. During all this time my appetite continued good, only the more I ate the more I wanted to eat—I was always hungry. The first symptoms of my breakdown were a distressing nervousness and a loss of flesh. The nervousness grew so bad that finally it amounted to actual prostration. Then came stomach troubles, which were very painful, constipation which brought on piles, dyspepsia and severe nervous headaches. The doctors seemed powerless to help me, said I was overworked, and at last urged me to give up teaching, if I wished to save my life."

"But this I could not do. I kept on at it as well as I could, each day growing more wretched, my will power alone keeping me up, till at last a good angel suggested that I try a diet of Grape-Nuts food, and from that day to this I have eaten it, finding it delicious, always appetizing and satisfying. I owe my complete restoration to health to Grape-Nuts, and my persistence in using it. My weight has returned, and for more than two years I have been free from the nervousness, constipation, piles, headaches and all the ailments that used to punish me so, and have been able to work freely and easily." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich. There's a reason.

they had discovered that death alone would silence him. FOR THUS R. V., "Forasmuch as" because. HE WEAKENED THE HANDS OF THE MEN OF WAR. That was true: Jeremiah's confident prophecies of defeat must have made the soldiers dispirited. But what of it, since they were true? THAT REMAIN IN THIS CITY. The phrase implies that the hardships of the siege had greatly reduced the garrison. Verse 10 also indicates that many had gone over to the Chaldeans.

II. JEREMIAH IN THE DUNGEON.—Vs. 5, 6. THEN ZEDEKIAH THE KING. He was weak and easily influenced, as Ahubent in the strong will of Elijah, Zerebel, and as Herod Antipas was swayed in turn by John the Baptist and Herodias. BEHOLD, HE IS IN YOUR HAND. A formal surrender. I custody, implying "Do with him what you choose."

6. THEN TOOK THEY JEREMIAH. "Cowardly," I call them, because they were to surprise him. He was in the dungeon, as Jehoiakim killed Uriah; they would rather that Jeremia should do their work for them. So, like Joseph, he was cast into a cistern. THE DUNGEON (or pit) OF MALCHIAH. "Probably meaning that he was in charge of it." THEN LET DOWN JEREMIAH WITH CORDS. An indication of the depth of the noisome place.—In Palestine "the rain water, which falls on the flat roofs of the houses and paved court yards, is conveyed to the cisterns by surface gutters and pipes, and carries with it many impurities. Much of the fever and sickness so prevalent in Palestine is due to the neglected state of the cisterns." So JEREMIAH SUNK IN THE MIRE. The long siege was exhausting the water supply. Jeremiah was in danger of suffocation from the foul gases, and likely to die of starvation. But Zedekiah, as Cheyne says, was sunk in worse mire. Some think that Psa. 69 was written by Jeremiah in remembrance of this terrible experience.

III. JEREMIAH'S FAITHFUL FRIEND.—Vs. 7-10. God has a deliverance always ready for his faithful children. Sometimes it is divine self and comfort while they remain in their fiery trials, so that, like Daniel's friends, "they have no hurt," and not even "the smell of fire is on them." Sometimes it is an angel sent to open the prison doors, as for Peter. Sometimes, as for Jeremiah it is a human messenger, perhaps a very lonely one. But the help always comes.

7. EBED-MELECH. "It is possible that the name, Ebed-melech, which means 'servant of the king,' may have been an official title." THE ETHIOPIAN. Ethiopian lay between Egypt and Abyssinia. Its people were renowned for their stature, and "for this reason probably they were chosen as attendants upon kings." ONE OF THE EUNUCHS WHICH WAS IN THE KING'S HOUSE. "He" was probably the custodian of the king's harem. THE KING THEN SITTING IN THE GATE OF BENJAMIN. The gate in the northern wall, looking toward Benjamin Ephraim, hence also called "the gate of Ephraim."

9. THESE MEN HAVE DONE EVIL. Being a foreigner, he was free from Jewish prejudice, and able to see what great injustice had been done. HE IS LIKE TO DIE OF HUNGER IN THE PLACE WHERE HE IS. Literally, "He is dead of hunger on the spot." Ebed-melech speaks impulsively, and almost as if out of breath with running. FOR THERE IS NO MORE BREAD IN THE CITY. "All private stores were consumed, and therefore unless Jeremiah could draw a soldier's rations as he had done hitherto from the magazines (Jer. 34: 21), he must inevitably die of hunger."

10. THEN THE KING, "always swayed by the last strong influence brought to bear on him" COMMANDED EBED-MELECH. "TAKE FROM HENCE THIRTY MEN. Ewald, Cheyne, and others consider 'thirty' a scribe's error for three; but the larger number of soldiers was probably due to Zedekiah's lack of discipline on the part of the princes."

IV. JEREMIAH'S RELEASE.—Vs. 11-13. 11. SO EBED-MELECH. . . . WENT INTO THE HOUSE OF THE KING UNDER THE TREASURY. To a room under the king's storechamber. TOOK HENCE OLD CAST (as away, discarded) CLOUTHS. These the thoughtful negro let down into the pit to Jeremiah, bidding him wrap his legs with them, but it might not check his amputated sides.

13. SO THEY DREW UP JEREMIAH AND JEREMIAH REMAINED IN THE COURT OF THE PRISON (R. V., "of the guard"). The prophet was restored to his former comfortable quarters, and to his share in the food dealt out to the soldiers.

The favor of the God whom Jeremiah served so faithfully did not cease even with the great deliverance. Zedekiah, in sore straits because of the siege again held converse with the prophet, but Jeremiah adhered to his advice, urging submission to the Chaldeans as the only price of safety, and promising, in that case, the preservation of both Zedekiah and Jerusalem. But the weak king's answer was the characteristic one, "I am afraid." Jer. 38: 14-28

THE WORD IN NATURE.

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all; The earth is full of Thy riches.



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INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY

On and after SUNDAY, June 4, 1905, trains will run daily (Sunday excepted) as follows:

TRAINS LEAVE ST. JOHN.

No 5—Mixed for Moncton,	7.45
No 2—Exp. for Halifax, Sydney Point du Chene, and Campbellton	6.00
No 26—Express for Point du Chene, Halifax and Pictou	11.45
No 4—Express for Moncton and Point du Chene	11.00
No 8 Express for Sussex	17.15
No 134—Express for Quebec and Montreal	19.00
No 10—Express for Halifax and Sydney	23.25
No 136, 138, 156—Suburban express for Hampton	13.15 18.15, 22.40

TRAINS ARRIVE AT ST. JOHN.

No 9—Express from Halifax and Sydney	6.25
No 7—Express from Sussex	9.00
No 133—Express from Montreal and Quebec	12.50
No 5—Mixed from Moncton	16.30
No 3—Express from Moncton and Point du Chene	17.00
No 25—Express from Halifax, Pictou and Campbellton	17.15
No 1—Express from Moncton	21.20
No 81—Express from the Sydneys, Halifax, Pictou and Moncton (Sunday only)	1.35
No 135, 137, 155—Suburban express from Hampton	7.45 15.30, 21.05

All trains run by Atlantic Standard Time 24.00 o'clock is midnight.

D. POTTINGER,

General Man.

Moncton, N. B., June 1st, 1905.

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The mighty God is a tireless God; he fainteth not, neither is weary. This is brave doctrine, then, that a tireless deity attends humanity amid all struggles and hardships, and attends it to aid, to soothe, to cheer, to purify, to redeem, to save.—C. Silvester Home.



SYNOPSIS OF CANADIAN NORTH-WEST

HOMESTEAD REGULATIONS.

ANY even numbered section of Dominion Lands in Manitoba or the North west Provinces, excepting 8 and 26, not reserved, may be homesteaded upon by any person who is the sole head of the family, or any member of a family, or any male over 18 years of age, to the extent of one-quarter section, of 160 acres, more or less.

Entry may be made personally at the local land office for the district in which the land to be taken is situated, or if the homesteader desires he may, on application to the Minister of the Interior, Ottawa, the Commissioner of Immigration, Winnipeg, or the local agent for the district in which the land is situated, receive authority for some one to make entry for him.

HOMESTEAD DUTIES: A settler who has been granted an entry for a homestead is required to perform the conditions connected therewith under one of the following plans:

(1) At least six months' residence upon and cultivation of the land in each year during the term of three years.

(2) If the father (or mother, if the father is deceased) of any person who is eligible to make a homestead entry under the provisions of this Act, resides upon a farm in the vicinity of the land entered for by such person as a homestead, the requirements of this Act as to residence prior to obtaining patent may be satisfied by such person residing with the father or mother.

(3) If the settler has his permanent residence upon farming land owned by him in the vicinity of his homestead, the requirements of this Act as to residence may be satisfied by residence upon the said land.

APPLICATION FOR PATENT should be made at the end of three years, before the Local Agent, sub-Agent or the Homestead Inspector.

Before making application for patent the settler must give six months' notice in writing to the Commissioner of Dominion Lands at Ottawa, of his intention to do so.

W. W. CORY,

Deputy of the Minister of Interior.



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PRINCIPAL, HENRY W. AUDEN, M. A. Cambridge, late Sixth Form Master at Fettes College, Edinburgh.

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For Calendar and all particulars address THE BURSAR, UPPER CANADA COLLEGE, Toronto, Ont.

[Sp. 20]

WANTED

For the Schools at Wolfville.

1. A man and his wife for Steward and Matron of "College Residence," the boarding house of College students.

2. A head cook for Acadia Seminary.

3. Two women to have the care of rooms in College Residence and the Academy Home.

4. Ten young women to work in dining rooms and kitchens of Acadia Seminary, Horton Academy and College Residence.

5. One man servant for the Seminary, to have charge of fires and do all sorts of general work.

Write the undersigned for full particulars, stating what position you will accept.

A. COHOON,

Sec'y. Executive Committee

