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**BIBLE LESSONS.**

**STUDIES IN JEWISH HISTORY.**

**Fourth Quarter.**

**Lesson XIII. December 29.**

**REVIEW.**

**Passion.**—Eighty years B. C. 1055 to 975, including the reigns of David and Solomon.

**Place.**—Palestine, but centering around Jerusalem, now for the first time made the capital.

**Prophets.**—Samuel, Nathan, Ahijah, Gad.

**King.**—David, Solomon.

**King David.**—I. EARLY LIFE. David born c. 1050. At Bethlehem a shepherd. Early fame as prowess. Sent to Saul. Slew Goliath B. C. 1063. Called to court, persecuted, and in exile for seven or eight years, 1063-1066. Thus preparing to be a better ruler by all his experiences. A poet, a musician, skilled in the sling, bow, war, attractive, religious, a firm and loving friend.

**II. THE SOLDIER.** Battles in early life. Conquered the whole country when a king, fought many successful battles, organized the army (1 Chron. 27), conquered the Philistines.

**III. THE KING.** Began to reign B. C. 1056. Reigned over Judah seven and one-half years at Hebron. Made king of all Israel B. C. 1048. Capital at Jerusalem. Reigned 40 years in all. The kingdom much enlarged; made rich and prosperous; well organized (1 Chron. 22-27). The whole kingdom really placed on a new basis.

**IV. THE POET.** Wrote many of the psalms. Marvellously beautiful hymns, the highest poetry enduring to the end of time. Organized a large choir of singers with leaders. An orchestra of musical instruments for the public worship of God (see 1 Chron. 25).

**V. VARIOUS EXPERIENCES.** David's trials in youth; troubles which did not grow out of his own fault, but were a part of his training. Troubles in later life growing out of his sin. He sinned and bitterly repented. On the whole, he was prosperous and happy. He sings much of joy and peace, and faith in God. He died aged about 70, "full of days, riches, and honor" (1 Chron. 29: 28), the most honored king Israel ever had. In spite of his trials his "life was worth the living," and has been a blessing all down the ages.

**VI. ISRAEL'S LIFE.** A devoted servant of God, deeply religious, moral far beyond his age, full of virtues, many very noble qualities, which his few failings should never hide or obscure. He sinned greatly; but his repentance was deep, his confession public, his renunciation of sin complete. He was trusted and happy in his religious experience, and did much to cultivate piety among the people. The Lord repeatedly praises him, and calls him a man after his own heart. Who of us have as few faults and as many virtues?

**King Solomon.**—I. EARLY LIFE. Solomon was born B. C. 1033 to 1035 at Jerusalem. His father was David, king of Israel, and his mother was Bathsheba. His father died when he was 18 or 20 years old, when he became king.

**II. DAVID'S CHOICE.** At the beginning of his reign, when the Lord appeared to him in a dream.

**III. HIS KINGDOM,** enlarged to the full extent promised to Abraham (Gen. 15: 18-21); see 1 Kings 4: 21; 2 Chron. 9: 26. It was peaceful, so peaceful that vastating it was in earlier times (1 Kings 4: 24, 25). It was very rich and prosperous. Solomon organized the kingdom, created its commerce, developed architecture, and made the kingdom famous. Note the visit of the Queen of Sheba.

**IV. THE TEMPLE.** The most beautiful and costly temple; the centre of religious worship; a religious type for all ages.

**V. HIS WRITINGS.** The books of the Bible attributed to him, and their characteristics.

**VI. HIS FALL.** The sins into which he fell; safeguards; consequences.

**VII. HIS CHARACTER.**

**VIII. LESSONS FROM HIS LIFE.**

**A Tribute of Song.**

The first article in the new book, "The Giddy Gusher Papers," by Mary H. Fiske, is the following sketch which had so many readers at the date of its first publication in the *Dramatic Mirror*:

There is no place on earth where man's utter helplessness comes out so strongly, where the ceremonies in human use fall so powerless before the majesty of the occasion, as at a funeral. It need not be that one's heart shall be interested. The obsequies of a stranger, conducted with all the pomp and vanity of church and state, with the melancholy rolling drum of the military funeral, or the gorgeousness of the Masonic regalia apron—all are alike inadequate and unavailing.

But once in my life have I witnessed a ceremony that was as grand and impressive as the silent, awful occasion that was ever given to the dead.

I will tell you of a funeral which lingers in my memory as the grandest, most solemn and befitting, ceremony that was ever given to the dead.

It was rumored many years ago that a poor widowed woman, leading a hard life of unending labor, was called to part with the one thing dear to her—her only child. The mother and daughter had toiled together for fifteen years, and the only bit of sunshine falling into their dark lives was that shed by their loving connection. But the girl had always been sickly. Under the heart-broken mother's eyes she had faded and wasted away with consumption, and at last the day came when the wan face failed to answer with its ghostly smile the anxious tear-blinded eyes of the mother.

The poor young creature was dead. For many months the pair had been supported by the elder woman's sewing, and it was in the character of employer I had become acquainted with Mrs. Cramp and her story. By an occasional visit to the awful heights of an East side tenement where they lived, by a few books and with some comforting words, I had won the love of the dying girl. Her grateful thoughts turned in her last hours to the small number of friends she possessed, and she besought her mother to notify

me of the day of her funeral and ask me to attend.

The summons reached me upon one of the wildest days preceding Christmas. A sleet that was not rain and a rain that was not snow came pelting from all points of the compass. A wind that whirled in the chimney and howled in the street told how truly dreadful for outdoor purposes was the weather of the day. I piled the glowing grate; I drew closer the curtains and shut out the gloom of the December afternoon; I turned on the gas and sat down devoutly, thankful that I had cut out connection with the wicked weather—when an instalment of it burst in upon me in the shape of Parepa Rosa. She was Euphrosyne Parepa at that time, and the operatic life of the city. Muffled with tippets, flecked with snow, glowing with the elements, rushing up the steps from her carriage she threw herself into an easy-chair and proclaimed the horrors of the outer world to be beyond description.

And even as we congratulated ourselves on the prospect of a delightful day together, there came the summons for me to go to the humble funeral of the poor sewing-woman's daughter. I turned the little tear-blotted note over and groaned.

"This is terrible," said I; "it's just the overland that could take me out today; but I must go." And then I told Parepa the circumstances, and speculated on the length of time I should be gone, and the means of amusement in my absence.

"But I shall go with you," said the great, good-hearted creature.

"Your throat, and old Bateman, and your concert to-night!" I pleaded.

"If I got another 'froxy' note in my voice, it won't matter much; I'll hoarse as a raven now," she returned.

So she reworded her throat with the long white comforter, pulled on her worsted gloves, and off in the storm we went together. She climbed the flight after flight of narrow, dark stairs to the top floor, where the widow dwelt in a miserable little room not more than a dozen feet square. The canvas-back horse peculiar to the \$25 funeral stock in the street below, and the awful cherry-stained box with its ruffles of glazed white muslin stood on uncovered trestles in the centre of the room above.

There was the mother, speechless in her grief, beside that box—a group of hard-working, kindly-hearted neighbors sitting round it, and the poor widow, and the minister belonging to the twenty-five dollar funeral was heard on the stairs. There was a catarrhal conversation held outside between them as to the quality of the weather and (probably) the bad taste of the deceased in selecting such a bad time to die was discussed. Then the minister came in with a pious sniff and stood revealed, a regular Stiggins as to get up a dry, self-sufficient, and more than the day and colder than the storm.

He deposited his hat and black gloves and wet umbrellas on the poor little bed in the corner; he slapped his hands vigorously together; he took himself in a pious sniff, and he came to "Amen" with a jerk that brought me up like a patient snaffle. He pulled on his old gloves and grabbed his rusty hat, and with his umbrella dripping inky tears over the well-scrubbed floor he offered a set form of condolence to the bereaved lady.

He told her of her sin in rebelling against the decree of Providence. He assured her that nothing could bring the dead back. He inveighed against the folly of the world in general and this poor woman in particular, and then he made a horrid blunder, and showed he didn't know even the sex of the dead, by saying: "He cannot come to you, but you must go to him."

This was a settler for Parepa and myself. We looked at the departing minister in a stupefied manner.

The door swung wide, we saw the screw-driver waving in the air as the undertaker's man held converse with the clergyman. A hush fell on everybody gathered in the little room. Not one word had been uttered of consolation, of solemn import, or befitting the occasion. It was the emptiest, hollowest, most unsatisfactory moment I ever remember.

Then Parepa rose, her cloak falling about her noble figure like morning drapery. She stood beside that miserable cherrywood box. She looked a moment on the pinched, wasted, ash face upturned toward her from within it. She laid her soft white hand on the discolored forehead of the dead girl, and she lifted up that matchless voice in the beautiful melody:

"Angels, ever bright and fair,  
Take it to her to your care."

The screw-driver paused in describing an airy circle; the wet umbrella stood pointing down the stairs; the two men with astonished faces were foremost in a crowd that instantly filled the passages. The noble voice swelled toward heaven, and if I had been a creature of consolation, of solemn import, or befitting the occasion, I should have stood reverently about her. No queen ever went to her grave accompanied by a grander ceremony. To this day Parepa's glorious tribute of song rings with solemn melody in my memory as the only real, impressive funeral service I ever heard.

G. L. Easton, of Hamilton, Ont., speaks in terms of gratitude and praise of the best benefit he derived from Burdock Blood Bitters, taken for Dyspepsia.

**What Boys Can Do.**

Miss Frances E. Willard, writing a letter "To Boys" in the *Young Crusader*, says:

Let me tell you about three splendid boys I knew once on a time. Their father died, and their dear mother was left to bring them up and to earn the money with which to do it. So these young fellows set in to help her. By taking a few boarders, doing the work herself, and practicing strict economy, this blessed woman kept out of debt, and gave each of her sons a thorough college education. But if they hadn't worked like beavers to help her, she never could have done it. Her oldest boy—only fourteen—treated his mother as if she were the girl he loved best. He took the heavy jobs of housework by her hands, put on his big apron and went to work with a will; washed the potatoes, pounded the clothes, ground the coffee, waited on the table—did any talking and everything that he could coax her to let him do, and the two younger ones followed his example right along. Those boys never wasted their money on tobacco, beer or cards. They kept at work and found any amount of pleasure in it. They were happy, jolly boys, too, full of fun, and everybody not only liked, but respected and admired them: All the girls in town praised them, and I don't know any better fortune for a boy than to be praised by good girls, nor anything that boys like better. They all married noble and true women, and to-day one of those boys is President of a college, goes to Europe every year, almost, and is in demand for every good word and work; another lives in one of the most elegant houses in Evanston, and is his own "beloved physician," while a third is a well-to-do wholesale grocer in Pueblo, Colorado, and a member of the city council.

Rev. J. B. Huff, Florence, writes: "I have great pleasure in testifying to the good effects which I have experienced from the use of Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable Discovery for Dyspepsia. For several years nearly all kinds of foods fermented on my stomach, so that after eating I had very distressing sensations, but from the time I commenced the use of the Vegetable Discovery I obtained relief."

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After taking it a very short time, my health began to improve, and the longer I used it, the better my health became. After being laid aside for nearly a year, I last summer performed the hardest summer's work I ever did, having often to go with only one meal a day. I attribute the saving of my life to POTTER'S EMULSION. ENRY M. MURPHY,  
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