

committee of that Society has everything well in hand for your entertainment. Why not drop a card today to Miss Rhoda Milton, 392 St. George St., Moncton, N. B., letting her know the day of the rally you expect to arrive. Remember the old saying, "Better late than never."

"For the joy of the Lord is Our Strength."
—Neh. 8:10.

The ancient soul-physician, Nehemiah, prescribed an interesting cure in the midst of his adversities, that we Christians might do well to apply today. "The joy of the Lord is your strength," declared this soul-healer. A few doses of such medication will positively relieve the sufferer. It also is an effectual remedy for spiritual anaemia.

The joy of the Lord is a Soul Tonic because it has its source in God. It is "of the Lord." If our joy has its source elsewhere it will sooner or later prove deficient. Material comforts may vanish overnight. Human achievements are limited. Earthly pleasures are for the most part like a mirage in the desert, a mocking disillusion. Health may be exchanged for sickness tomorrow. But the joy of the Lord is as satisfying and exhaustless as the Eternal God Himself. The Psalmist said, "Thou hast put gladness in my heart, more than in the time that their corn and their wine increased" Ps. 4:7.—Sel.

GOD'S DECREES ARE NEVER OUTMODED

(By R. Barclay Warren)

The first child born into the world became a murderer. God pronounced a curse upon him for his foul deed. Cain said unto the Lord, "My punishment is greater than I can bear." After the flood God said to Noah, "At the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man." This decree has never been rescinded. Under the law given by Moses provision was made for the appointment of six cities of refuge in the land. To these a man who had killed another might flee and be safe from the revenger of blood, until he stood before the congregation in judgment. If it were shown by two or more witnesses that he had wilfully smitten the man with a weapon of iron or wood or with a stone or simply by his hand, thus causing his death, he was delivered to the revenger of blood to be slain. But if he thrust him or smote him without enmity, and without seeking his harm, then he could live peacefully within the city of refuge. Here he must remain until the death of the high priest to ensure his protection from the revenger of blood.

These general principles form the basis of our system of justice. Now the state is the revenger of blood and the police constitute the refuge for the slayer. The execution of justice is not always faultless. The innocent have sometimes been punished and the guilty have gone free. Mistakes are inevitable since evidence is sometimes lacking. It is important that we cling to the principles laid down in God's Word. He who slays another by accident should not die for the deed. But if he has deliberately smitten his fellow, intending to do him harm and thus causes his death, he is a murderer in the sight of God. He should die for it: If the state fails to do its duty here, God's curse will be on the land and evil will wax worse and worse. God's decrees are never outmoded.

Sunday School Lesson

May 25, 1947

A. D. Cann

THE FALL OF THE NORTHERN KINGDOM

(Temperance Lesson)

Lesson: 2 Kings 17:5-12, 22, 23; Isaiah 28:1-4

Golden Text: For the Lord knoweth the way or the righteous; but the way of the ungodly shall perish. Psalm 1:6

Our last three lessons have pertained chiefly to the northern kingdom and today we conclude our consideration of it. During the approximate 200 years existence of Israel as a separate kingdom, there were nineteen kings and not one of them was said to be good. The lives of those kings were largely duplicated in the lives of the people resulting in ultimate disaster of the kingdom.

ISRAEL'S IDOLATRY

"For so it was, that the children of Israel had sinned against the Lord their God, which had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and had feared other gods and walked in the statutes of the heathen." Hoshea, the last king of the northern kingdom, made an alliance with So, the general of Egypt. This alliance worked his ruin. This was a common sin with the kings of Israel and the consequences were always the same. How can two walk together except they be agreed? God desires a people separate from the world and worldly alliances. God warned his people again and again of the consequences of failure to observe his statutes and judgments. Notice the farewell message of Moses—"I command thee this day to love the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes . . . but if thine heart turn away so that thou wilt not hear . . . I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish." Deut. 30:16-18.

ISRAEL'S DRUNKENNESS

"Woe to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim, whose glorious beauty is a fading flower, which are on the heads of the fat valleys of them that are overcome with wine." Many sins that are destructive to the pocket book and reputation, are restrained by self love. Such is commendable but what is the cure for unrestrained self love? There is only one answer and that is the sovereign grace of God. This is the solution to every sin problem, whether it be outward in the life or inward in the spirit. The selfish man needs the cleansing blood of Jesus as well as the drunkard. All alcoholics are insensible to right and wrong but all who are insensible to right and wrong are not alcoholics. Business cares, greediness, lusts, etc., which make men insensible to God and holiness are equally sinful as strong wine. No nation, regardless of how great or how strong, is capable of making decisions when overcome with wine. When strong drink and supreme love for self are uppermost in men's minds then we can look for poverty, famine, vice, disease and death.

ISRAEL'S PUNISHMENT

"So was Israel carried away out of their own land to Assyria unto this day." Someone has said—"You may fool all the people some of the time, you may fool some people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time." Sin always catches up with the sinner. "The children of Israel did secretly those things that were not right against the Lord." Their sin was not accidental. Their secrecy was because of their sin. "Jesus answered him, I spoke openly to the world—and in secret have I said nothing." John 18:20. There is a severe penalty for every secret sin. God will forgive and forget providing there is a corresponding confession, but nature never forgives or forgets. When the Assyrians made

their attack, Israel was impotent to drive them away. In losing God out of their lives, they also lost their resistance to evil. Be sure your sin will find you out is always a timely warning.

June 1, 1947

JUDAH'S UNSTEADY COURSE

Lesson: 2 Kings 19:5-7; 32:37; 20:12-17

Golden Text: For thus saith the Lord, the holy one of Israel. In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and confidence shall be your strength.

Isaiah 30:15

When Hezekiah came to the throne, Judah was in a very low spiritual condition. The former king had been a very wicked man and Jerusalem was full of idolatry. Hezekiah was a good man and he realized the need of a radical change in the nation.

HEZEKIAH'S REFORMS

Notice the commandment from the new king—"Hear me, ye Levites, sanctify now yourselves, and sanctify the house of the Lord God of your fathers, and carry forth the filthiness (idols) out of the holy place." 2 Chronicles 29:5. The new king had vision and the cleansing of the temple was followed by the observance of the feast of Passover to which even the people of North Israel were invited. This cleansing of the temple is analogous to the cleansing of the believer. In order for the priests and the holy place to be sanctified the idols or filthiness must be taken out. Likewise for the believer to be sanctified he must consent to the Holy Spirit cleansing away all idols or filthiness from the heart.

HEZEKIAH'S WISDOM

Near the close of Hezekiah's reign, Sennacherib made a great western invasion with his Assyrian army, sweeping everything before him. They attempted to take Jerusalem but without success. Hezekiah showed his wisdom by calling upon God for deliverance. Isaiah predicted to the king that the Assyrians would not take Jerusalem, but would return home. This is what took place.

It was a supernatural deliverance performed. "Saith the Lord: for I will defend the city to save it, for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake." Thus the "Angel of the Lord went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand (185,000)." Thus again Judah is saved, not by her own power but by the supernatural power of God. Again we are reminded that in our own strength and wisdom we can be sure of failure, but when we trust and obey God we cannot lose.

HEZEKIAH'S FOLLY

The "king of Babylon sent letters and a present unto Hezekiah: for he had heard that Hezekiah had been sick." The apparent interest of the king of Babylon in Jerusalem appealed to the vanity of Hezekiah. The king of Judah so completely adapts himself to the liking of the heathen king that he wins the disfavor of God. He so cherishes the good will of Babylon that his house is severely punished. To the question of Isaiah—"what have they seen in thy house?" Hezekiah answered—"all the things that are in mine house have they seen." Isaiah said unto Hezekiah, Hear the word of the Lord. Behold, the day's come that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store unto this day, shall be carried into Babylon: nothing shall be left saith the Lord." There are some things that minister to our spiritual welfare and should be in every home: (1) Supreme love to God. (2) Family altar. (3) Charity and gratitude. (4) Separation from sin and worldliness. (5) Loyalty to God and meekness. (6) Deep concern for the spiritual welfare of others. (7) Witnessing for Jesus by our lives and testimony. (8) Paying our tithes and offerings to the Lord. If our homes lack these things then we will be taken captive by Satan.