

Improved Uniform International SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

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Lesson for April 22

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THE FOUNDING OF THE NATION

LESSON TEXT—Exodus 18:19-24; 19:3-8.
GOLDEN TEXT—Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people.—Proverbs 14:34.

God has a purpose for the lives of men and of nations. Happy are those who seek His guidance so that their lives may be directed in right and useful channels.

God's threefold purpose for Israel, which we noted in our lesson of last week, could only be worked out in a nation which was separated unto Him, following holiness in its life and service.

Moses, one of the greatest and most able figures of all history, was God's appointed leader. His success is explained by his willingness to follow God's leading. He sought:

I. God's Counsel (18:19).

Jethro, the father-in-law of Moses, having observed how he was burdened constantly by the affairs of the people, came to offer him advice. He started in the right place, by urging Moses to continue to seek God. Yes, to spend even more time in the Lord's presence, asking His wisdom and guidance.

No man can lead a people in the right way if he does not have his own life in constant touch with the throne of God. Much of the failure of our day centers right there. We talk much to other men about our national and international problems. There are multiplied meetings and conferences. They do have value, but very little, unless there is a seeking of God's will.

A day of national repentance and prayer would do more for us than many weeks of discussion and debate. We need to seek God's counsel.

Note that the coming of Moses to God concerned the daily affairs of His people. That reminds us that not only the life of our nation, but that of our own homes—and our personal beings—all need God's counsel.

To aid Moses in administering the affairs of the nation, Jethro recommended the appointment of men who were to serve as:

II. God's Counselors (18:20-24).

There has been not a little criticism of Moses for accepting this advice. It is pointed out that when God puts heavy burdens on us, the way out is not to shift the load on someone else, but to seek God's special grace to bear it and to do it acceptably.

There is value in such an interpretation; but when one considers the devoted and careful approach of Jethro to the matter (vv. 9-12) and his evident desire to glorify God in it, there is ground for believing that he was giving Moses good advice.

The great unorganized host of possibly two million people were going through a very difficult experience. The result was dissension and strife, often over trivial things, which needed to be settled. For all this to come to Moses seemed undesirable; therefore other men were chosen to be counselors to the people, interpreting for them the law and the will of God.

While each of us should carry every God-given responsibility with gladness, that does not mean that we are to assume that only we are able to do things. There is no more tragic figure than the pastor or church officer who tries to do everything. Why not put others to work? How can our young people and new converts ever find a place of service if older Christians hold on to every job in the church? Let us train them; then trust them with real responsibility. Counsel, encourage, pray, direct if need be, but do not try to do it all yourself!

Now we come to the solemn and crucial moment when God was ready to establish His people and they were ready to accept:

III. God's Covenant (19:3-8).

In the sacred and awe-inspiring meeting place before Mount Sinai, where the Lord was to give them His law (Exod. 20), they made a solemn covenant with God.

In preparation for it He reminded them of what He had done for them in the past. God is the unchanging One. If He was tender and gracious toward them in the past, they could enter the future confident of His blessing. And so may we!

Note verses 5 and 6, for they give us God's great purpose for Israel. All they had to do was to obey His voice by keeping His covenant. This they, in solemn assembly, agreed to do (v. 8). How different their history—and that of the world—would have been had they kept their promise.

"We lament their failure, but what about us who are so highly favored that we have Christ in our midst? Are we obedient?"

Following the making of the covenant (which God will one day fulfill in spite of their failure), we have the giving of the Ten Commandments, and the establishment of Israel's center of worship in the tabernacle. It was the dwelling place of God among His people. How precious!

Creamed Comments On The Sunday School Lesson

Creamed comments on the Sunday School lesson, "The Founding of the Nation"—Exodus 18:19-24; 19:3-8 for Sunday, April 22.

Before the children of Israel were in bondage in Egypt there were no Bible records of the chosen people of God as a nation; the records consisted of biographies of the chosen race through whom God planned to reveal himself to the world. The sufferings of the children of Israel in Egypt and their experiences in the forty years of wandering in the wilderness welded them into a nation, a people with a world history. Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, visited him and seeing his being taxed with arduous service of managing this great host suggested a plan of having assistant judges.

v. 19. "Hearken now unto my voice. I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee; be thou for the people Godward, that thou mayest bring the causes unto God." Since God had promised to be with Moses, his first duty was that of being an intercessor. When a leader of a nation puts God and his kingdom first in his life, the nation will likely be righteous. Moses sets an example for world leaders.

v. 20. "And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work they must do." A righteous nation needs the right instruction. Not only is it true, "as man thinketh so is he," but as a nation thinketh so is it.

vs. 21, 22. "Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. And let them judge the people at all seasons; and it shall be, that every great matter that they shall bring to thee, but every small matter they shall judge; so shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear the burden with thee." Here is God's plan of organized government. A god-fearing man at the head with state-men in office, who were capable, pious, truthful, and honest.

v. 23. "If thou shalt do this thing, and God commanded thee so, then thou shalt be able to endure and all this people shall go to their place in peace." This arrangement would save the health and efficiency of Moses and assure peace and prosperity of the people. Every nation wants peace and prosperity. God's plan suggested in this lesson will produce them.

v. 24. "So Moses hearkened to the voice his father-in-law and did all that he said unto him." A great man not only has great ideas but he will accept great ideas of others. In a true democracy the voice of the people is heard and heeded.

v. 3. "And Moses went up unto God, and Jehovah called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel." Moses climbed Mt. Sinai.

A joint evangelistic conference of ministers of the Northern Baptist convention and the Disciples of Christ will be held at Grand Lake, Wis., Aug. 17-25. Each denomination will attend.

The conference was proposed by the joint committee on closer unity between Northern Baptists and disciples of Christ as a further step toward mutual understanding and cooperation.

The churches have cooperated in other projects, including a joint hymnal. The Christian Evangelist, Disciples of Christ national publication, recently announced it will devote an entire page every month to Baptist news.

One of the best barometers of religion is how widely its literature is being read. We have a wireless report from Chungking, China, showing that the monthly sales by the Chengtu headquarters of the United Christian Publishers have increased from 400 and 500 per cent, such gains accomplished without sufficient funds, adequate transportation and proper mailing facilities.

Home Education

How to Get Happiness
Everybody wants a happy home life. Many homes are lacking in it, because of one grouch. There then is a problem, which to solve, one needs only to refuse to permit the spirit of the grouch to dominate him. One can never cure a grouch by being grouchy.

On the other hand do your duty well, have a worthwhile ambition, have an ideal, be occupied sincerely with your work, keep on the road to your ideal, and happiness will cross your path all the while.

This story is a good illustration: A woman had a son who was making a good record in school. He had two daughters who helped their mother. He had a cottage, a small yard, a few flowers, a garden, and a family. He had health plus contentment.

Happiness flowed thru the checks of the door. Smiles brightened the faces of all. Joy and love filled their hearts. Home was a happy place to be.

to the top, 7,000 feet high; he took time off to do this because he was sincere and earnestly desirous of knowing the will of God. The will of God must become the will of men if a nation will be righteous and enjoy peace and prosperity.

v. 4. "Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself." God's providence in the past will serve as a help to the needed faith. "Bear you on eagles' wings" refers to the way a mother eagle in order to keep her young from falling will fly under the little eaglets when they are first trying their wings.

v. 5. "Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then shall ye be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people; for all the earth is mine." The secret of a righteous nation depends upon the obedience of its citizens to God. The big task and the work of first importance of every child of God is to seek to produce obedience to God in others; this work is peculiar since it is so different from the way of the majority.

v. 6. "And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." Every man is to be a priest in that he is an intercessor between man and God.

v. 8. "And all the people answered together, and said, All that Jehovah hath spoken we will do." There must be a will to do what God commands if a nation of peace and prosperity is established.



Fifty new missionaries of the Southern Baptist convention will leave for Latin America in April, it was disclosed here by Dr. Everett Gill Jr., of Richmond, Va., secretary for Latin America of the convention's foreign mission board.

The number of American Roman Catholic missionaries has been increased by fifteen percent in the last two years. More than two thousand American missionaries are engaged in the foreign field.

Baptist missionaries of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, after almost three years of absence, are preparing to return to their posts in Burma. The society is recruiting many new missionaries to bring the staff up to pre-war strength. The Baptists are the largest Protestant denomination in Burma. Recent aerial photographs have shown that a large number of the best Baptist mission buildings are still standing, including Dr. Gordon Seagrave's hospital.

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Answers to "DO YOU KNOW?"

1. In Egypt, because the children of Israel were thrifty, the male children were ordered killed.

2. He was hid in a little ark in the bulrushes?

3. He killed an Egyptian who was mistreating an Israelite, and fled for his life.

4. Through God's voice in a burning bush.

5. Forty years.

CHURCHES

Decatur Missionary Church
164 South Second street
Charles V. Glenn, pastor

Sunday, 9:30 a. m. — Sunday school. You will not now God's will for your life any better than you know the Bible. Come and study it with us.

10:30 a. m. — Morning worship service with message delivered by the pastor.

7 p. m. — Young People's service. One half hour entirely devoted to the young people.

7:30 p. m. — Evening worship service with message delivered by the pastor.

Wednesday, 7:30 p. m. — Mid-week prayer, praise, and Bible study hour. We are just starting the eighth chapter of Hebrews, you are invited to enjoy it with us.

First Presbyterian At Five Points

9:00 a. m. — Bible school hour with Mrs. W. A. Lower directing.

9:30 a. m. — Sunday school, W. P. Schrock, superintendent.

10:30 a. m. — Morning service, with Rev. Albert Swenson in charge.

The advisory committee will meet at the church parlors Friday evening, April 27 at 7:30 o'clock.

The ordination service for Rev. John W. McPheeters will be held at 7:30 p. m. Sunday, May 13.

Nuttman Ave. U. B. C. N. Van Gundy, pastor

Sunday School, 9:30 a. m.

Worship, 10:30 a. m.

C. E., 6:30 p. m.

Evening worship, 7:30 p. m.

Prayer meeting Wednesday evening, 7:30 p. m.

Church of God Glen E. Marshall, pastor

9:30-11:20 a. m. — Unified service. Worship service and church school classes. Pastor's message theme, "The Church Answers a Call."

6:30 p. m. — Shining Lights.

6:30 p. m. — Christian Crusaders.

7:30 p. m. — Evening service. Join in the singing of the happy songs of the Christian religion. An uplifting service of song and sermon. The choir sings in each of the Sunday services.

7:30 p. m. — Mid-week prayer and praise, Wednesday evening.

8:30 p. m. — Choir practice, Wednesday.

The public is most cordially invited to attend all the services of this congregation.

Where being a Christian makes you a member.

First Methodist Church M. O. Lester, minister L. J. Smith, supt.

9:29 a. m. — Church School.

10:20 a. m. — Public worship.

Wednesday night — Prayer and praise service.

"Making the most of Life" will be the morning sermon subject.

"Serving the Lost" will be the sermon subject at 7:30 service.

A cordial invitation is extended to all. Committee on nominations and church membership must have their meetings at once. Our visitation will be May 3rd. Dr. W. W. Robinson will be present and conduct the business session and bring a message. The good results of the revival meeting are in evidence. It is our privilege to maintain the spiritual glow by continued devotion, sacrifice and activity.

The Better Way

"A Cut-Flower Civilization"

In Elton Trueblood's thoughtful diagnosis of the state of our civilization three points emerge:

(1) The poison of secularism has entered deeply into modern life.

(2) Scientific education is no adequate physician. It puts vast power into man's hands but is morally neutral as to the ends for which that power is to be used.

(3) Ethics affords no adequate remedy. We have magnificent moral ideas like democracy and brotherhood, but they are impotent. Their impotence is due to our trying to maintain them apart from the Christian faith that produced them. Ours is "a cut-flower civilization." Cut flowers may be very beautiful but they do not last long when separated from their sustaining roots.

If this diagnosis is correct, the dynamic center of all our efforts must be to produce men and women of steady Christian faith.

St. Mary's Catholic Church

First Mass 8:00
Second Mass 7:30
Children's Mass 9:00
High Mass 10:15
Communion Sunday for the Children of Mary.

Rev. J. J. Seimetz, Pastor

Zion Evangelical and Reformed William C. Feller, pastor

Church school at 9 a. m. Luther Clase, superintendent. Parents are invited to come and bring their children. There are classes for all.

Worship service at 10 a. m. Sermon, "Sons of God." Visitors are always welcome in this service. Come and worship with us.

Wednesday, 6:30 p. m. — Junior choir rehearsal.

Wednesday, 7:00 p. m. — Cottage prayer meeting at the home of Mrs. Albert Harlow.

Wednesday, 8 p. m. — Bethany Circle in the home of Mrs. S. E. Leonardson.

Wednesday, 8 p. m. — Philalethean Circle in the home of Mrs. Forest Owens.

Wednesday, 8 p. m. — Friendship Circle in the home of Mrs. Robert Thompson.

Thursday, 2:30 p. m. — Ruth and Naomi Circle at the church.

Friday, 7 p. m. — Senior choir rehearsal.

Zion Lutheran Church Monroe and Eleventh Sts. Paul W. Schultz, pastor

Sunday school and Bible class, 9:00 a. m.

Divine services, 10:00 a. m.

The Lutheran hour, 11:30 a. m.

Church choir, 1:00 p. m.

Thank-offering collection begins today.

Monmouth high school baccalaureate services, 7:30 p. m.

Saturday catechism school, 8:30 a. m.

First United Brethren R. R. Wilson, minister

Sunday School, 9:15 a. m. Curtis Hill, superintendent.

Morning worship, 10:30 a. m. Sermon, "In the Beginning God."

Christian Endeavor, 6:30 p. m.

Evening worship, 7:30 p. m. Sermon, "Jelly-fish Religion."

Prayer meeting and choir practice Wednesday night, 7 and 8.

First Evangelical Church F. H. Willard, minister

Sunday School, 9:15 a. m. Gregg McFarland, superintendent.

Morning worship, 10:10 a. m.

"Tests of Religion."

Youth Fellowship, 6:45 p. m.

Evening service, 7:30 p. m. "Tests of Faith."

Congregational meeting Wednesday, 7:30 p. m. Election of trustees and class leaders. Reports from church treasurer, financial secretary and pastor.

Laymen's prayer meeting Monday, 7:30 p. m.

Service is love made visible. Be a little kinder than necessary. The wages of sin have never been reduced.

Truth bath a quiet breast. — Shakespeare.

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Miller's North End Grocery.

Baptist Church Carey R. Moser, pastor

9:25 a. m. — Sunday School. C. E. Bell, superintendent.

10:15 a. m. — Morning worship. Our guest speaker will be Dr. R. T. Capen, a missionary to China for more than 35 years, under our own Baptist board. You cannot afford to miss the blessing of this man of God. Special music.

7:30 p. m. — At our evening service we will have the privilege of hearing Walter Pageler, missionary on furlough from Cuba. He is a missionary supported by the World's Christian Crusade, an auxiliary of the Fort Wayne Gospel Temple. He will show pictures on the screen of his work in Cuba. Let everyone rally on this great missionary Sunday. Come praying. The public is always welcome at this friendly church.

Church of the Nazarene Marshall at North 7th Streets J. T. Trueax, Minister

Sunday school 9:30 a. m. You are urged to be one of 200 or more in the Sunday School Rally. Bring your friends with you to enjoy and study God's Word together. Meet your friends there.

Morning service 10:30 a. m. Special singing. Message by Dr. W. G. Heslop.

Missionary Rally 2:30 p. m. with Mrs. W. G. Heslop speaking on their Missionary Experience in Korea. Hear her tell how her hair turned white over night. Don't fail to hear her.

Junior church 6:45 p. m. Young peoples service 6:45 p. m. An interesting and spiritual service for the youth. A good service is planned.

Evangelistic service 7:30 p. m. Old fashioned congregational singing, special singing, message by Dr. W. G. Heslop. This is the closing service of the revival so plan to be present. Come in time to get a good seat.

Prayer meeting Wednesday at 7:30 p. m.

When we sow courtesy, we reap friendship.

Conscience is the echo of God's voice within the soul.

He is truly wise who gains wisdom from another's mishap.

He knows not when to be silent who knows not when to speak.

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