

Improved
Uniform
International
SCHOOL
LESSON

By HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, D. D.
Of The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.
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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:

L. 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 devout and careful approach of Jethro to the matter (vv. 9-12) and his evident desire to glorify God in all, 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 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!

COME TO CHURCH

Creamed Comments On The Sunday School Lesson

CHURCHES

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

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. "We have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I have 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.

v. 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 that half will be easier for thyself, and they shall hear the burden with thee. "Here is God's plan of organized government. A god fearing man at the head with statesmen in office, who were capable, pious, truthful, and honest.

v. 23. "If thou shalt do this thing, and God command thee so, then thou shalt be able to endure and all this people shall go to their place in peace." This arrangement would save guard 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 had said." 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

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 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.

1. Where was the first anti-Semitic movement?

2. How did Moses escape being killed?

3. Why did Moses flee out of Egypt?

4. How did Moses receive the call to be Israel's leader?

5. How was Moses when he accepted the call to be Israel's leader?

Home Education

How to Get Happiness

Everybody wants a happy home life. Many homes are lacking in it, because of one grouchy. There then is a problem, which to solve, one needs only to refuse to permit the spirit of the grouchy to dominate him. One can never cure a grouchy 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 workman had a son who was making a good record in school. He had two daughters who were educated. 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 cheeks of the door. Smiles brightened the faces of all. Joy and love filled their hearts. Home was a happy place to be.

ANSWERS TO DO YOU KNOW?

1. In Egypt when, 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.

St. Mary's Catholic Church

First Mass 6:00
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

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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. Ser-
mon. "Sons of God." Visitors are
always welcome in this service.

7:00 p. m.—Evening worship ser-
vice 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.

Wednesday, 8:00 p. m.—Cottage
prayer meeting at the home of Mrs.
Albert Harlow.

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

Wednesday, 8:30 p. m.—Friendship
Circle in the home of Mrs. Robert
Thompson.

Wednesday, 9:30 p. m.—Junior
choir rehearsal.

Wednesday, 7:00 p. m.—Cottage
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Wednesday, 8 p. m.—Bethany Circle
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