

Improved Uniform International SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

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Of The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.
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Lesson for January 13

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A PEOPLE DELIVERED

LESSON TEXT—Exodus 6:6-8; 13:17-22.

GOLDEN TEXT—I will trust, and not be afraid; for the Lord Jehovah is my strength.—Isaiah 12:2.

"Is thy God able to deliver thee?" was the question asked of Daniel in the lions' den (Dan. 6:20). It is in the minds and on the lips of many in every hour of crisis.

God is able to deliver. Moses found that out when in answer to his complaint that the Lord had done nothing for his suffering people (Exod. 5:22), the Lord revealed Himself as the One who was not only able but ready to take them out of their bondage.

I. God's Promise (6:6-8).

Moses was to remember that he was dealing with the Eternal One, unchangeable, and always true to His word and able to make His will come to pass (v. 2, 3).

So often men in dealing with God think of Him in terms of their own weakness and failure. What we need is to have a Godlike conception of God, not a manlike idea of Him. God is the infinite and the Eternal One with whom we have no right to quarrel, and whose dealings with us are too high for us to judge (Ps. 139:1-6).

God's covenant with His people was established (v. 4). He had heard their cry (v. 5), and His deliverance was sure (v. 6). The only thing Moses had to do was to wait and see God work.

That word "wait" is a little one. It seems to call for no effort, to be easy of fulfillment; yet it seems to be the hardest thing for a human being to do. Christians who can speak and work for God when things are active and moving become querulous and despondent when they have to wait or when they are laid aside for a time.

His promise is sure. That is not just a religious sentiment. It is a fact, and it is proved by history.

II. God's Plan (13:17-19).

There was a direct, easy road along the coast of the Mediterranean up to Canaan, but God with His pillar of cloud and fire did not lead in that way.

How strange that He should take them by a longer, more difficult way! Not at all. He knew the danger of the easy way. It was there that the warlike Philistines would be lying in ambush. Such immediate conflict would discourage Israel and tempt them to return to the fleshpots of Egypt. So He took them the other way.

Note that God's guidance for them was one of intelligent planning, not just impulse or chance. He knew what to do, and He did it, for their good.

God has a plan, not only for the nations, but also for individuals, for your life and mine. Let us find His will for us, for it is good, acceptable and perfect (Rom. 12:1, 2).

Note the honoring of the faith of Joseph in God's promise (v. 19). The memory of his assurance was a blessing to his descendants, and they honored it and him. What will our descendants have to say about our faith in God?

III. God's Presence (13:20-22).

Our God does not just send a plan or program to His people. He is always with them and is ready to go before them.

God's plan is made known to His people as they follow Him step by step. This means that there must be guidance, moment by moment, if His plan is to be worked out. He gives such guidance and it is only when His children fail to follow it that the pattern of life becomes confused.

The field of divine guidance is one in which Christians have widely divergent experiences. Some know the sweet, unconfused daily experience of God's hand upon them, caring for even the minor details (or are they minor?) of life. Others have known the directive power of God in some life crisis, but not in the ordinary affairs of life. Many, and perhaps most, think of divine guidance as a spiritual theory of which the preacher talks, but know nothing of it in their own lives.

What makes this great difference? Faith—or the lack of it. Those who trust God accept and receive His blessed leadership moment by moment. It is as simple as that. Others reach out and take it when the pressure of life makes them cast themselves on God. Others simply muddle along "doing their best," which is not their best, for God is not in it.

The pillar of cloud, which became luminous at night, was ideal for the guidance of Israel. It provided shade from the hot sun by day, and it was a sure guide in the darkness of the night.

We who believe in Christ have an even better and more precious evidence of God's presence—the Holy Spirit who indwells us. He reveals God's will to us, urging us on, or restraining us as the need may be. Are we obedient to His blessed promptings? Do we walk in the light of His perfect guidance?

Creamed Comments On The Sunday School Lesson

A PEOPLE DELIVERED

Exodus 6:6-8; 13:17-22.

In the deliverance of the Children of Israel out of Egypt was seen an undisputed fact of God's power expressed with His fatherly care; this would produce the needed faith for the children of God.

V. 6. "Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched-out arm and with great judgments." Moses had been in training for many years and was now the chosen instrument of God through whom he could speak to others. We, as disciples, are learners in training, through whom God has designed to speak to those in bondage of sin today. The first point of emphasis in salvation is to make clear the fact of God, mighty to save and deliver. God's work of redemption began with the fall of man, and is a continual process; the whole plan of salvation is one of good judgment.

V. 7. "And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God, and ye shall know that I am the Lord your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians." God has made large provisions for the welfare of His children. Relationships with God is not a matter of guess work; it is written "ye shall know that I am the Lord your God." It is a knowledge that comes from experience.

V. 8. "And I will bring you in unto a land, concerning the which I did swear to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; and I will give it you for a heritage; I am the Lord." Enough of the future is revealed that there is no need of fear. The seal of God is on the promised future as well as on the present.

V. 17. "And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not through the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt." Israel was not prepared for war; the Philistines were very warlike, and an avowed enemy of Israel; they were great fighters; the children of Israel needed that spiritual force that comes from God that is the

highest equipment for earthly conflicts.

V. 18. "But God led the people about, through the way of the wilderness of the Red Sea, and the children went up harnessed out of the land of Egypt." The most hopeful sign of deliverance was in the fact that there was a willingness to let God lead the people about. Note that the path was not on paved roads but through the wilderness; patient suffering with faith in God develops Christian virtues.

V. 19. And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him; for he had straightly sworn the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you; and ye shall carry up your bones away hence with you. "The taking of the bones of Joseph back to his homeland was in fulfillment of an oath exacted from his brethren. It is a good thing to remember the good of our forebears."

V. 20. "And they took their journey from Succoth, and encamped in Etham, in the edge of the wilderness. The children of Israel did not plunge into the wilderness at once. It is good to think before one leaps."

V. 21. "And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way, and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and by night." He who miraculously delivered the children of Israel out of Egypt now miraculously leads them in times of peace. It is not so important to know just how these people were led as it is to know that they were truly led by God. Here again was seen evidence of the presence and kindly care of God.

V. 22. "He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people." God's interest in his children is not just for a moment; but by day and by night, God never takes his eyes off of us; he furnishes the necessary light for us to walk with him by night as well as by day. We may claim his promises when going through hard places dark as the night.



War Religious Experience

For many months, in various camps, the men now wounded and suffering in the hospital had heard sermons intended to prepare them for such a time as this. Many of these warriors, too, had heard in their homes and in church and Sunday school of God's power to protect.

This was it—not only the time of battle, but the hour when Christian faith was tested. How often we heard these words: "Chaplain, I thought—now I know." "Chaplain, I prayed words—now I am really praying." "Boy, how I prayed when Bedcheck Charlie came to call on us last night." "Bedcheck Charlie" was the GI name for the Luftwaffe aircraft. "You know, Chaplain, I was so scared last night that I thought I'd die without getting hit, but somehow I just held on to faith and prayer and I made it." How the heart reaches out, for something in those trying moments—and thank God, that something is there!—Chaplain Alvin O. Carlson.

to 1935 the unchurched heathen population of the world made a net gain of 270,000,000 over the gains of all churches combined, or an average annual gain of 6,000,000 for this forty-five year period!—E. P. Allred, Training Union Magazine.

The Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America now has an office in Washington, D. C., with Dr. Benson Y. Landis as full-time secretary. The threefold purpose of this office is stated as follows: (1) to furnish prompt and authoritative notice about pending legislation and governmental directives affecting the churches; (2) to explain or interpret legislative and administrative acts; (3) to indicate to interested persons proper channels for contacts in Washington. The announcement regarding the new office indicates that the secretary will have no authority to make decisions of policy for the churches, and that action will be taken by the Federal Council only when representatives of the constituent denominations, through the council's executive committee, have given due authorization.

CHURCHES

St. Mary's Church
Very Rev. Msgr. Seimetz, pastor
First Mass 6:00 a. m.
Second Mass 7:30 a. m.
Children's Mass 9:00 a. m.
High Mass 10:15 a. m.
2:30 p. m. Holy Hour.

First Evangelical Church
F. H. Willard, Minister
Sunday School 9:15 a. m. Merritt L. Alger, supt.
Morning worship 10:10.
Youth Fellowship 6:00.
Evening service, uniting with Decatur churches at the Church of God.

Youth choir, Sunday 2:00.
Administrative council Monday 7:00.
Loyal Daughters class Tuesday 7:30 at the church.
Mid-week service Wednesday at 7:00 p. m.
Adult choir rehearsal Wednesday 8:00 p. m.

Church of God
Glen E. Marshall, Pastor
9:30-11:20 Unified Service.
6:30 Youth Service. Bill Hawkins, president.
6:30 Shining Lights. Mrs. Mary Hazlewood, leader.

7:30 Union Service. This is the last service in the series of union meetings held in observance of the world week of prayer. The service will be held in this church. Rev. Carey Moser will preside, and Rev. Lyle Steiner will bring the message of the evening.

7:30 Monday—Men's prayer service at the church.
7:30 Mid-week prayer and praise.
7:30 Thursday evening. Ladies' Missionary Society meets at home of Mrs. Herbert Hawkins.

7:30 Thursday evening. Trustee and Finance Committee will meet. Sunday 2:15 p. m. Youth Rally. Fort Wayne, Sherman and Putnam church. Rev. John Kane, Anderson, Ind., speaker.

The public is most cordially invited to share in the service of this congregation.
"Where being a Christian makes you a member."

First Methodist Church
Merrill O. Lester, Minister
Lowell J. Smith, Supt.
A cordial welcome extended to all who do not worship elsewhere. Our church school is at 9:30 a. m. Public worship at 10:20 a. m. "Hearts Touched by God" will be the morning sermon subject. The choir will sing the anthem, "Cast Thy burden upon the Lord" by Mendelssohn. There will be no Vesper service. All are urged to attend the observance of prayer meeting at the Church of God at the 7:30 o'clock hour. The mid-week services will be conducted as usual on Wednesday. Our people are asked to give consideration to the Decatur school of leadership training which will be conducted at the Library Building Tuesdays and Thursdays in the evening, Jan. 22nd through Feb. 7th.

Baptist Church
Carey P. Moser, Pastor
9:25 a. m. Sunday school. C. E. Bell, supt.
11:15 a. m. Morning worship, music by our choir. Sermon by pastor, theme: "Is Thy God Able?" Junior church meets at this hour. Bring all the children.
7:30 p. m. This evening we unite with the other churches in the closing service of the Week of Prayer at the Church of God. Rev. Steiner of Missionary Church, the preacher.

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. Lutheran Hour, 11:30 a. m. Annual voters' assembly, 1:30 p. m.
Adult classes, Tuesday, 7:30 a. m.
Saturday catechism school, 8:30 a. m.

Nuttman Ave. U. B.
C. N. Van Gundy, pastor
Sunday school, 9:30 a. m. Divine worship, 10:30 a. m. C. E., 6:30 p. m.
Evening worship, 7:30 p. m. Prayer meeting Wednesday, 7:30 p. m.

Zion Evangelical and Reformed
William C. Feller, Pastor
Church school at 9:00 a. m. Edward Jaberg, superintendent. Help gear school to grow by being present every Sunday with the entire family.
Worship service at 10:00 a. m. Sermon: "Our More Convenient Times." Persons without a church

home in the city are invited to worship in this service.

The closing union service in the observance of the universal Week of Prayer will be held in the Church of God at 7:30 p. m. Sunday evening. Rev. Lyle Steiner will preach.

Junior choir rehearsal on Wednesday at 6:30 p. m.
Phoebe Bible class meeting on Thursday at 7:45 p. m. in the church social room.

Senior choir rehearsal on Friday at 7:00 p. m.
Catechetical classes on Saturday morning; seniors at 9, juniors at 10:00 a. m.
Come and worship with us.

Decatur Missionary
Lyle F. Steiner, pastor
9:30 a. m. Sunday school.
10:30 a. m. morning worship.
We extend a cordial invitation to all who do not have a regular church home to attend any or all of these services.

How to backslide—"Omit private prayer; do not study God's word; do not attend worship; do not enlarge in soul-saving work; do not testify for Christ; do not sacrifice; do not confess your faults; cease to daily trust in an indwelling Christ."

We will not have an evening service Sunday because of the united prayer service, which will be held at the Church of God.
7:30 p. m. Wednesday, prayer meeting.

Rev. Jared Gerig, dean of the Fort Wayne Bible Institute, will be speaker in the morning service this Sunday.

First United Brethren Church
Madison at Ninth Street
Charles E. Whits, Minister
9:15 a. m. Sunday church school. Curtis Hill, supt. Classes with separate rooms and capable teachers for all age groups. Urge your friends, guests and neighbors to attend. All are welcome.
10:30 a. m. Morning service. (See announcement elsewhere in Democrat).

6:50 p. m. Adults, senior, intermediate and junior Christian Endeavor Societies.
7:30 p. m. Evening evangelistic service.
7:00 p. m. Wednesday mid-week service.
8:00 p. m. Wednesday choir rehearsal.

Sunday, Jan. 27th congregational vote on denomination merger of the Evangelical and United Brethren church.

Give God time, and even when the knife flashes in the air the ram will be seen caught in the thicket.

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Church of the Nazarene
North 7th and Marshall Sts.
J. T. Truax, Pastor

Sunday school 9:30 a. m. Mr. Doyle Lytle, Supt. We have a class for every member of your family. Plan to bring them. We are working to have 175 in attendance and will need your help. A special announcement will be made in the Sunday school hour concerning the "Sermon in the Box," the same to be given the last Sunday of the revival.

Morning service 10:30 a. m. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Rabel singers in charge of music and song service with Rev. J. A. Rodgers, evangelist, speaking on the subject "The Great Shepherd."

Junior church 6:45 p. m. A spiritual service for the children. See that yours are there. Help us help your child.

Young peoples meeting 6:45 p. m. An interesting and spiritual service for the youth. You will miss a lot if you are not there.

Evangelistic service 7:30 p. m. Great congregational singing, special music and songs by the Rabels. Message by Rev. Rodgers, subject: "The Devil's Duplicating Ground."

Subject Monday night, "The Signs of the Times or Is the End at Hand?"

Revival each night 7:30 p. m. through January 29.

First Presbyterian Church
John W. McPheeters, Jr., Minister
9:00 a. m. Bible class. Mrs. W. A. Lower.
9:30 a. m. Church school. Kenneth Runyon, asst. supt.
10:30 a. m. Morning Worship. Sermon. Mrs. John Carroll will supervise the Toddler's room.
6:00 p. m. Supper meeting of the Westminster Youth Fellowship.

Tuesday, 7:50 p. m. The Young Adults class social at the Mansie. Wednesday, 7:00 p. m. Bible insights. Study of Exodus: The March from the Red Sea to Mt. Sinai.

8:00 p. m. Deacons' meeting. Thursday, 2:30 p. m. Ladies Aid society will meet at the home of Mrs. Phil Macklin. Since this is the first meeting of the new year, a large attendance is expected.

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J. Edgar Hoover says: "Church attendance is a vital factor in the nation's crime prevention program. While serving as director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation during the past 20 years, I have been profoundly impressed with the fact that the 'church-going people' are the most substantial of citizens in the nation. Crime attendance and crime appear to like the ingredients of oil and water—they do not mix." Why accept the invitation and come to church next Sunday?

7:00 p. m. Young People's Choir practice.
7:30 p. m. Adult choir practice.
Friday, 7:30 p. m. Christian Education committee.



LESLIE L. ROOD, JR., Linden, N. J., has been appointed by President Truman as American secretary of the Anglo-American committee of the board of inquiry that will investigate the Palestine question soon. (International)

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Small Republic
Smallest American republic is Salvador. Coffee and banana plantations dot verdant valleys and mountain slopes. Colonial atmosphere lingers in towns dating back to the Conquistadores.

Wit and Wisdom

A preacher describing the valent indifference to the said that on a certain church bulletin board was written this announcement: "Church service Sunday, 11:00 a. m., the preacher and his subject are W. H. Thomas, 'Who Cares?'"

Our Passages Says

© A. Carl Brown

If you only as people are willing to yield their lesser ideals to greater ideals that we are all to live in harmony; there has to be a mutual concession for the welfare of all. Civil government is possible only as the minority is willing to acquiesce, to hold ideal in abeyance and allow the majority to prevail.

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