

Improved
Uniform
International | SUNDAY
SCHOOL
LESSON

By HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, D. D.
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 even the Lord, 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 (6:6-5).

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.

H. 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?

COME TO CHURCH

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 an undisputable fact of God’s power expressed with His fatherly care; this would produce the need of 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’s 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.”

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 my 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 evidences 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.

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 repeat 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 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).

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ANSWERS TO “DO YOU KNOW?”

1. How many plagues were visited on the Egyptians to cause them to let the children of Israel go?

2. What miracle did Moses perform before Pharaoh?

3. What was the first plague?

4. How old was Moses when he appealed to Pharaoh to let his people go?

5. How many years had the Israelites been in Egypt?

6. DO YOU KNOW?

7. Ten.

8. Moses’ rod was turned into a serpent.

9. The water was turned red.

10. Eighty years old.

11. Four hundred and thirty years.

CHURCHES

St. Marys 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 De-

catur 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

9:30-11:30 Unified Service

6:30 Youth Service. Bill Haw-

kins, 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 mes-

age of the evening.

First United Brethren Church

Madison At Ninth Street

Charles E. White, Minister

9:15 a. m. Sunday church school.

Curtis Hill, supt. Classes with se-

parate rooms and capable teachers

for all age groups. Urge your

friends, guests and neighbors to

attend. All are welcome.

Sunday 2:15 p. m. Youth Rally.

Fort Wayne, Sherman and Putnam

church. Rev. John Kane, Anderson,

Ind., speaker.

The public is most cordially in-

vited 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. Our

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 Ves-

per service. All are urged to at