

# Sunday School Lesson

(By Henry Radcliff)

## THE GOD OF NATIONS

International Sunday School Lesson for Dec. 11, 1927.

Lesson—Isaiah 37: 5-11, 14-20

The last of our three lessons taken from Isaiah is based mainly upon four chapters, namely, 7, 31, 36, and 37. The book has sixty-six chapters in all, and of course, it is difficult to study it thoroughly in three lessons.

Chapter seven tells of an invasion of Judah by the joint forces of Syria and Israel during the reign of Ahaz. He was much alarmed but Isaiah spoke as the representative of Jehovah to allay his fears and on behalf of God offered him the confirmation of a sign of his own selection. He refused to specify one and we then have a passage predicting the birth of a child from a virgin, interpreted as a prophecy of Christ's subsequent birth.

During Ahaz's rule this king of Judah relied upon the growing power of Assyria for protection against his foes. Syria and Israel were conquered by the Assyrians and King Ahaz paid annual tribute to them. When Hezekiah assumed the throne he inherited this international situation. The rivalry for world supremacy in this region was between Assyria and Egypt, and it was not long before Hezekiah made an alliance with Egypt and refused to continue the tribute to Assyria.

Isaiah opposed this dependence upon Egypt with all of his eloquence and conviction. "Wee unto them that go down to Egypt for help," he said, "and stay on horses and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen because they are strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel—Now, the Egyptians are men and not God; and their horses flesh, and not spirit. When the Lord shall stretch out his hand, both he that helpeth shall fall and he that is helped shall fall down." Isaiah preached a reversion to the old-time faith in the Jehovah who delivered the Israelites from Egypt in the days of Moses.

Hezekiah was a good kind. He could say to God, as he did in later days, "remember, now, O Lord, how I walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart and have done that which is good in thy sight." Yet, the inevitable invasion of the Assyrians, following his repudiation of the tribute payment soon confronted him with dire possibilities. Sennacherib, king, sent a herald to rehearse the past failure of other cities and kingdoms to stand before his strength and to hoot at the idea that any God of Judah would come to their aid with power to protect and deliver them.

Isaiah, the prophet, was consoled. He reassured the king of Judah, saying that because of the blasphemy of the Assyrian monarch God would defend Jerusalem and the strong army of the Assyrian king would be intimidated. Exactly how it happened we are not told, except that an angel of the Lord smote 185,000 men and the foreign army retreated in confusion to their own land where Sennacherib was slain by two of his own sons. A sudden pestilence a death-dealing wind, or a sudden panic in their own ranks in the night which caused them to fight each other are all suggested by tradition or commentators, but no definite information is given us.

In his distress Hezekiah uttered

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a prayer to God which shows how the conception of Jehovah had grown from a special Jewish God to the one and only God of the whole world. "Thou art God," declared the king, "even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth." This viewpoint and recognition was quite different from earlier ideas, which recognized other Gods for other lands and regarded Jehovah as the god of the Jews only. Hezekiah had faith sufficient to believe that God controlled not only Judah but even the powerful invading hosts of Assyria and that they were subject to his decree.

The modern world has been slow to act upon the faith in God and a belief in the necessity for righteousness between nations. Diplomacy was once considered a calling which justified any necessary lie to accomplish its purpose and nations went to war without troubling to give any just reason or justification for their action. Things have changed somewhat; when the World War broke out every nation sought to justify its action. This represents some advance. Even, yet however, there are those who subscribe to the doctrine accredited to Napoleon that God fights on the side of the heaviest battalions. On the other hand, many exist who will endorse Woodrow Wilson's words that "the weakest nation of the world in the right is more powerful than the strongest nation in the wrong."

## AT THE CHURCHES

### PRESBYTERIAN

With Illuminated Bulletin

"The Name Wonderful" will be the subject of the morning service at 11 o'clock. At the evening worship hour the pastor will speak upon the second of the Christmas themes namely, "Bethlehem." Come out and take a trip to Bethlehem, 7:30 p. m.

Bible School 9:45 W. M. Wright superintendent.

Junior Christian Endeavor 4:00 p. m.

Intermediate and Senior Christian Endeavor 6:30.

Mid-week service Wednesday 7:30 p. m.

### METHODIST EPISCOPAL

H. F. Pemberton, Pastor

Morning worship at 11 o'clock Sermon subject: "All Things to All Men."

Evening worship at 7:30. Subject: Jesus Christ: Prophet, Priest and King.

Sunday School for everybody at 9:45.

Epworth League for all young people over 14 at 6:15.

Wesley Foundation Forum for Normal students and all teachers at 6:15.

Prayer meeting Wednesday evening at 7:30.

You are cordially invited to enjoy these services with us. You will be encouraged and helped by them.

Strangers and visitors especially welcome. Come as you are to this homelike church.

### CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Fourth and C Streets  
P. C. THATCHER, Pastor

Sunday School at 9:45 a. m. Mr. T. S. Wiley Superintendent.

At 11 o'clock, morning worship with sermon from the subject "The Cross of the Christian."

At 6:30 p. m. Young Peoples Meeting.

At 7:30 p. m. Praise service followed with sermon from the subject, "The Activity of Sin."

The Mid-Week prayer meeting will be held on Wednesday evening at 7:30 p. m.

A hearty welcome to all.

### FREE METHODIST CHURCH

The regular services are as follows: Sunday School Sunday morning at 9:45. Preaching at 11 a. m. followed by the weekly class meeting. Preaching in the evening at 7:30.

Our regular church prayer meeting is held on Thursday evening at 7:30.

An interesting Bible class is held on Tuesday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock in the parsonage, next door to the church. We study the Bible as the inspired word of God we are asking for the "old paths," the "good way" and shall walk therein.

## HOT POINT

### ELECTRIC GIFTS!

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Bath Salts	\$ .35 to \$ 1.50
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Men's Sets	\$ .50 to \$ 1.50
Dennison's Gift Dressings	.10
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We cordially invite all who will to join us in all the services.  
EMMA R. THOMASON.

### CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Second and A

If you are in Ashland and have no church home here, come to the Christian church.

Sunday School begins 9:45 a. m.

The Communion Service 11 a. m. is followed by the morning sermon.

The Christian Endeavor societies meet at 6:30 p. m.

Evening church service 7:30 p. m.

You are cordially invited to attend these services each Sunday.

### BAPTIST NOTES

The Baptist are very fortunate indeed in procuring Dr. Norton of Ashland to preach for them Sunday morning. Dr. Norton is not only a good speaker, but he is a man of wide experience, having been on the Chautauqua platform for many years. He is going to give us something very fine and it is hoped that every Baptist as well as any others who can will

hear him Sunday morning at 11 o'clock.  
Sunday School at 9:45 our school is real interesting now and is growing. We have a good choir and classes are showing a deep interest in the work. There is a class for you.

At night the B. Y. P. U. have arranged an entertaining program at 6:30 P. M. lasting one hour. Followed by Mr. Robert S. Eastman who will deliver his famous lecture "WHY."  
Good music will be interspersed in these services and you will

not only be well entertained, will certainly enjoy a profitable time by attending all these services.

Baker—Superior Dredge gold dredge being overhauled winter run.



Wallace Beery, Raymond Hatton and Louise Brooks in "Now We're in the Air" A Paramount Picture  
At the Vining Theatre Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

## The Shoe Den's First Sale Is Great Success



Any Shoe in Den \$4.85

Our "Den" was swamped with women and girls on Wednesday when our first sale started. Many persons bought two pairs.

Values to \$8.00 for \$4.85

Additional sales help will now insure quicker service. Many customers came long distances to get these bargains. Sizes are still complete for your selection.



Bedroom Slippers  
40 per cent off



Slippers are always acceptable gifts and many folks will receive a pair at Christmas time from the Den. Fine Stock to select from. Plenty for the children, too. Remember—40 per cent off.

QUEEN QUALITY AND HAGERTY SHOES  
WILL SOON FILL OUR SHELVES

Large shipments of these shoes will soon be here and this sale is rapidly clearing our Shelves.

SALE ENDS SATURDAY, DEC. 17

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