Local Woman, Member Presbyterian Bible Class, Writes Review of Genesis

The women's Bible class of the First Presbyterian church has for the past six months been studying the book of Genesis. Upon the completion of a book of the Bible, it is customary for a member of the class to write her views upon that book. The following is the impressions of one of the members of the class upon the book of Genesis.

To me, Genesis is the cornerstone of the Christian faith, not only because it is the chronicle of God's omnipotence in creating the world and of the beginning of our Christian life or because it is the story of the beginning of the growth of a conception of God, but because the spirit or theme of the book taken as a whole is one story of faith. And faith is the cornerstone of Christianity—faith is Christianity. Without faith Christianity means nothing; without faith our lives become meaningless. Faith is the most beautiful, the most uplifting power in the world. What is more beautiful than our faith in some person dear to us; what is more beautiful than an utter faith in God? What is more satisfying than faith in some particular thought or movement which is bettering the world? Just so does a faith in God give meaning and aim to our lives.

The book of Genesis and the whole Bible for that matter is subject to many interpretations and therein lies its strength. It offers to each one of us, those who are striving to learn and those the most devout, some light which leads to God. The quality of our faith, our conception of God, changes with our experience, with our mental condition, but if our belief remains strong we will reach our ultimate goal—unity with Christ.

The story of faith begins in Genesis with the lack of it in Adam and Eve. We see the sin and consequences thereof. God commanded them to eat not of the tree of knowledge, but they were tempted and fell. The first reaction after their sin was a sense of nakedness which was followed by an effort on their own part to cover it by means of fig-leaf aprons. This is the first record of man's attempt to remedy or cover his sin by his own devices. Then God made his second covenant and we have proof that Adam had faith in God's promises to him that there was to be a Redeemer, to come from the seed of Eve in Gen. 3:20, "And Adam called his wife's name Eve because she was the mother of all living." God responded to this faith in Adam by giving him and Eve "coats of skins and clothed them." Thus, so far as eternal life is concerned, God had given them righteousness—removed their sin. Here too we see God as something beside the Creator; we see Him giving grace to sinners, even seeking them out, for Adam and Eve hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden, and God said, "where art thou?" He sought them out and saved them.

Next we have the almost superhuman — perhaps superhuman — faith of Noah, which for a time cleansed the world of all wickedness. The long patient faith of Abraham, a faith which wavered at times but never failed. His whole life attests to a wonderful belief. That of Hagar in following God's command to leave her home took a mighty faith; then the dramatic testing of Abraham at the sacrifice of Isaac, for he was willing to sacrifice his son to God. We reach a spiritual and moral development only through trial just as Abraham was tried.

God shows mercy and kindness to those of little faith through intercession of those of great faith. Just as Abraham's intercession for him saved Lot at Sodom. We know that it is through the great faith shining in one face that ones of little faith are brought to the realization of the truth. By the faith of parents little children are often protected and shielded by their guardian angel.

The childlike, unquestioning faith of Rebekah is an example worthy to be followed in these days of religious arguments. The first romance in the Bible is a story of faith.

The thought is often expressed "why should all this sin be preserved in Genesis?" In studying Genesis it is well to remember that we are reading of a people just in civilization [illegible]

[illegible]

this would be if we were not assured of the beneficence of God's grace. After a life of sin Jacob came to see the error of his ways. True it was by force, in the night of conflict with the angel, but we see the complete transformation in the changing of his name from Jacob, meaning "supplanter," to Israel, meaning "God-bidden." A life of faith was closed with an act of faith. In Jacob's command that he be buried beside his fathers Abraham and Isaac, we see the testimonial of a faith in God's promises.

Joseph, in character, is the very antithesis of Jacob except in the matter of faith. Joseph gives to us an example of most perfection in manhood and of perfect faith. In childhood, given advance knowledge of the power he was to have over men, he remained true to his God. He never forgot God and what God had given him. To me the greatest test of Joseph's character, the quality which appeals to me most is his ability to handle power with a high mind and clean heart. Men and nations throughout all history have been corrupted with power and have forgotten God in material wealth. The outstanding example of this is Roman civilization. Then when Christ stood before Pilate, that man of power said, "Knowest thou not that I have power to release thee and have power to crucify thee?" Truly misdirected and misused power. One often wonders about our own country, with the material wealth of the world in our grasp, with everything to make life comfortable, pleasant and full, with national power that bows to none, will we forget God and turn aside from Him? Joseph didn't. He had within his power to corrupt his master's house, to take his wife, but he rejected all and was true to his God.

We admire Joseph for his faith, but we love him for his magnanimity in forgiving his brothers. His brothers had envied him and hated him, had sold him into bondage, and yet when Joseph had the power to retaliate he forgave them and settled them in the land of Goshen in plenty. All through his life Joseph felt and demonstrated that God had complete dominion over him and expressed it by saying when Pharaoh asked him to interpret a dream, "It is not in me; God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace."

Beside the theme of faith running through Genesis, we have the presentation of types. Types are those things given indicative of things which are to happen. Among these are three types of atonement. Atonement is the shedding of Christ's blood as a reparation for our sins. In Hebrews 9:22 it says, "Almost all things are by the law purged with blood and without shedding of blood there is no remission." Before the coming of Christ on earth the blood of animals was given as an atonement, but Christ offered His blood [illegible]

[illegible]

Seeks Pilot License

Helen Westterdahl of Salt Lake City, is spending lots of her time in the air these days to qualify as an aviator. She has completed her three months ground course.

[illegible]

Young Attorney

After passing the Florida bar examination Mrs. William A. Gober of Jacksonville had to wait several months until she was 21 before she could practice law.

DE SOTO GETS NAME EASY RIDING CAR

[illegible]

EX-ENDURANCE TITLE HOLDERS GET JOBS

FORT WORTH, Tex. (AP)— [illegible]

[illegible]

SOCK ON JAW ENDS SUICIDE TRIALS

NICE, France—(AP)—To an Italian peasant, [illegible], goes the world's record for perseverance in trying to commit suicide. He made eight attempts within twelve hours but could not manage to kill himself.

Making three attempts to drown himself, twice throwing himself before automobiles, once trying to shoot himself with a water-logged revolver, once trying to cut his wrist with a dull table knife, [illegible] was saved by officers or bystanders every time.

Taken to the police station, he tried to obtain a detective's revolver. The nearest he came to death was when the officer floored him with a right to the jaw.

HONOLULU (AP)—All steam passenger trains have been discontinued on the Island of Oahu, motor buses taking their places. Steam freight trains are used to haul pineapples to the packing plants in this city or to carry sugar cane from the plantations to the mills.

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