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**JOEL**

A Story of One of the Prophets to the Kingdom of Judah.

BY THE "HIGHWAY AND BYWAY" PREACHER

(Copyright, 1905, by the Author, W. B. Edson.)

Scripture Authority—The Book of Joel.

The Prophet Joel—A "worshiper of Jehovah," as his name meant, was the first prophet to Judah, his period of ministry coming probably in the reign of King Joash, about 850 B. C. His father was Pelehu and tradition assigns him to the tribe of Reuben. His prophecy is comprised in three short chapters and is "pre-eminently pure, being characterized by smoothness and fluency in rhythms and roundness in the sentences." It combines the strength of Micah, the tenderness of Jeremiah, the vividness of Nahum and the sublimity of Isaiah. The judgments of God set forth in the first two chapters merge into a declaration of overwhelming judgments upon Judah's enemies and the establishment and prosperity of Judah forever.

**SERMONETTE.**

**Drunkenness a National Curse.**

"Awake, ye drunkards, and weep; and howl, all ye drinkers of wine, because of the new wine; for it is cut off from your mouth." A people given to strong drink never can make a strong nation.

Intemperance is nearly always the forerunner of national decay. Indulgence in strong drink destroys the moral stamina of a people and makes them an easy prey to their enemies.

The drunkard will sacrifice everything on the altar of his passion. Note in the prophet's arraignment of the drunkards the cutting off of their supply of wine. The peril of the nation, the dishonoring of her womanhood, and the enslavement of the children were as nothing in comparison to their consuming passion for strong drink.

The recent declaration of the Brewers' association on the virtues of moderate drinking and decrying the evils surrounding the drink traffic would be sublimely ridiculous were it not so diabolically insidious. "Moderation." Why there is no such thing as moderation when it comes to indulgence in strong drink, as every nation has learned to its sorrow when the traffic has been permitted unrestrained operation. From the ranks of the boasted moderate drinkers are constantly being recruited the despised wrecks of the army of drunkards. Drunkards are not always made in a generation. The seed sown by the moderate drinker may not bring forth its fruitage of ruin through strong drink until the third or fourth generation, but bring forth its fruitage it does, and the moderation of the father or grandfather gives place to the unchecked passion of the child.

"Therefore, also now, saith the Lord, turn ye ever to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God; for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of evil." The life line of mercy and love let down out of the gathering storm of judgment in the hope that some might repent and be saved. Surely our God does not desire the death of the wicked, but would have all men come unto a knowledge of the truth and be saved.

**THE STORY.**

GOD'S servants are always fitted in schools peculiarly adapted to prepare for the special service it is desired should be rendered. Unconsciously perhaps the life moves forward to the point where the peculiar mission to which the life is to be called suddenly opens up. Like a dream perhaps seems the call to the new ministry, and yet as the backward glance is taken the one thus called is forcibly struck by the fact that the events and experiences of life have peculiarly fitted for the new work. Such consciousness of the providential leading and preparation for a work is certain to deepen the consecration and to give inspiration for the work lying just ahead.

"Let us call his name Joel, for so shall he be a worshiper of Jehovah." Thus spoke Pelehu, the father, as he took his little son to the priest to have the Jewish ceremonial law observed and to give to the little life the name that was to become great as the accounting of God reckons greatness.

Whether there was any thought in the heart of the father as he stood before the altar at the time of the circumcision of his son that the babe would one day be called to the prophetic office and would come with his message of judgment and of promise to Judah we may not know. Certain it is that the father never intimated any such thought to the boy, nor did he make any effort to direct the life in the channels which would specially prepare for a religious life or service. He was a man, however, who sought to instill into the heart of his child a true devotion to God and to keep him free from the apostate conditions all about. This was the reason he had chosen the name Joel and why he so carefully instructed the lad in the history of the people of Israel, pointing out carefully how God's blessing had been upon the nation while it obeyed him, but that when there had been turning from the pathway of obedience to God's law there had been national disaster.

Thus early Joel learned to associate prosperity with goodness and to hold the deep conviction that the only safe road for any one to travel was the way

which was marked out by the signposts of truth and righteousness.

And if the moral teachings of his father were impressive and sound, certainly several experiences had come with peculiar sharpness to drive home the truths thus taught. It was when he was a mere lad scarcely old enough to be entrusted with the important errand upon which his father had sent him, and yet one which the exigencies of the case demanded, for there was no one else to send, and word had to be taken to the priest as quickly as possible concerning a certain political crisis which had arisen.

Full of the consciousness of the importance of his errand, Joel trudged forth, his devout little heart expanding with the thought that he was to see and talk with the priest, the servant of the most high God. It seemed to him that of all things in the world he would like to be it would be a priest serving at the altar, and reading the wonderful scrolls of the prophets concerning which he had heard his father speak. He wondered what the priest would say to him and whether he would have time to tell him any of the wonderful stories which his father had told him the priest knew.

Such was the current of his thoughts as the sturdy little fellow reached the door of the priest and knocked. No response came, and after a long wait, and repeated knockings, he timidly pushed the door ajar and looked within.

There on the floor lay the mauld form of the priest, while beside him lay the jar from which he had been drinking, the red liquid flowing out over the stone floor and looked for all the world like the dark red blood from the veins of the fallen man. With one wild shriek of fear and excitement, the little lad fled.

He saw the men come in and lift the form to the couch; he noted the contemptuous looks and shakes of the heads, and he understood just enough to know that the priest was drunk. Such was one of the early impressions which had come to him to shock his religious sensibilities and make him wonder over and over again how one who was in the Lord's service could fall so low.

Other incidents occurred as he grew into young manhood which made him realize the corrupting influences that were at work in the nation. Even in the school of the prophets which he had by dint of hard work and earnest effort been permitted to enter, he found the corrupting influences at work, the teachers for the most part being more or less dominated by the loose moral and political conditions which prevailed. And because Joel held himself aloof from participation in any of the frivolous conduct of those in attendance upon the school, he aroused the enmity of his teachers and classmates, being dubbed a bigot and a narrow-minded fool.

The crisis came one day when he would not help forward plans which were designed to politically strengthen the priesthood, but which was nothing less than a compromise on the part of the priesthood with the evil which was rampant in the nation.

"Then there is no future for you in the priesthood," angrily declared the officials of the schools, and it becoming a choice of yielding or being driven forth homeless and friendless, he chose the latter.

What was to become of him he did not know. He knew that the regular channels of religious service were forever closed against him, and that few if any in the nation would sympathize with his severe views in reference to the religious life of the nation. But he had the comfort of the memory of the loyalty of his father to God, and he felt strengthened as he recalled his teachings.

"I am in God's hands. I will wait. Better to perish abiding his will than to come to ease and prosperity through transgression of his laws, either in letter or in spirit."

Thus he waited, and under the baptism of the fire of persecution that raged about him he came into that rich experience which prepared him for the prophetic message which he was called of God to deliver later.

"It is well," he exclaimed. "It does pay to follow God and to speak his message."

**Monopoly of Gold.**

According to statistics just published by a Parisian contemporary, France, indeed, is the happy possessor of one-third of all the gold coinage in circulation throughout the world. The writer explains that this happens in various ways. In the first place; the people are thrifty, save and invest money and insist on the fragment of the interest in gold. Then, every year, crowds of foreigners come to France, spend some time at hotels and make purchases, paying mostly in gold. Exports, again, bring in large sums, so that France literally scores all round. Here are some eloquent figures about the reserve of gold in the Bank of France: In 1900 it amounted to 2,331,000,000 francs. Last year it reached 2,706,000,000 francs, while at the end of May in this year it had attained the figure of 2,806,000,000 francs, or about \$12,250,000.

**Rabbit Attacks a Horse.**

In defense of her offspring a mother rabbit attacked a colt belonging to Charles Miller of Jamaica, a suburb of New York, and sinking her teeth in the horse's foreleg continued the struggle until she died. While romping at pasture the colt, which is six months old, ran a leg into a rabbit hole. The colt was unable to free itself and was found partly buried in a snowdrift by Miller. It did not take Miller long to pull the colt's leg from the hole, and as he did so he found the body of the mother rabbit encircling the leg above the hoof. The rabbit's life was extinct, but its teeth were still sunk deeply into the leg. Miller drew from the hole four rabbits a few days old. He took them and the body of their mother to his home.—Philadelphia Evening Telegraph.

**Daily Thought.**

If we will take the good we find, asking no questions, we shall have helping measures. The great gifts are not got by analysis.—Home Notes.

**PRETTY COSTUMES**



Visiting-Dress. Linen Costume. Home-Dress.

**Visiting Dress.**—A very effective but simple dress of Aubergine colored soft cloth is shown here, the skirt is slightly full at the waist, and is trimmed with cross-wise bands of silk of the same color, one and a half inches wide. The over-bodice is trimmed to match the skirt, the fronts being connected by straps of silk attached each side under small rosettes. The under-slip is of piece lace. Hat of silk to match the dress, with a soft frill of lace under the brim. Materials required for the over-bodice and skirt, six yards 46 inches wide, three yards silk.

**Linen Costume.**—Here is a very trim costume, in rather coarse white linen. The skirt is set in very deep plaits, turned up at the foot with a deep facing of blue linen; the fronts are ornamented with pearl buttons and blue cord loops. The jacket is edged with blue, and ornamented with buttons like the skirt. A skirt of white lawn is worn with the costume. Sailor-shaped hat of Tuscan-colored straw trimmed with pale pink roses. Materials required for the costume, seven yards white linen 44 inches wide, two and a half yards blue linen, 22 buttons, two and a half yards cord.

**Home Dress.**—A pretty flowered cotton is used for the dress shown here; the skirt, which is slightly eased in at the waist, has two deep tucks above the hem, and a band of muslin embroidered insertion above the tucks. The blouse bodice has deep tucks over the shoulder to waist each side, and small tucks and insertion in center of front. The telescope sleeves are finished with a deep tight cuff of finely tucked material, trimmed with insertion. Materials required, 12 yards 28 inches wide, six yards insertion.

**BUTTONS SEEN ON EVERYTHING EASY TO MAKE PRETTY GARMENT**

Must Be Acknowledged Favorite Trimming of the Season. Much Depends on the Fastenings Being Properly Arranged.

Buttons are a most favored trimming. They are used not only upon tailored gowns and summer frocks, but upon the more elaborate evening costumes. They are oftentimes placed the full length of the clinging skirt at one side, in the center front or in the center back. This line of buttons is a continuation of the button trimming upon the bodice portion, and is one of the little tricks employed to give the much-desired "long-line-effect" fact.

There is ample opportunity for the enthusiastic needlewoman to make buttons which will prove a feature of her costume. An old-fashioned method was to embroider upon the covered button-mould a five-pointed star. This requires time, but is very simple to make, and, if the embroidery silk be in a tone darker than the covering of the button, the effect is very handsome.

Other embroidered buttons have beads introduced. French knots assist in the decoration of buttons. Whole buttons are covered with soutache braid.

Some buttons are slipped into little crocheted covers of embroidery silk. There is opportunity in the making of buttons to show great individuality and taste.

**PRETTY AND STYLISH.**



Pretty coiffure formed of a bandeau of silver paillettes and two black velvet bows; hair dressed low at the back with soft curls.

The latest Charlotte model is the revolutionary cap of enormous proportions.

**Pretty Model for Stout Women.**

Recently a smart model in a coat suit was seen. It was made up from the bordered goods that would be becoming to a stout, elderly woman, provided she were not too stout.

The skirt was pleated in four groups, with the border forming the hem, and the coat was barely half length, cut into four points at the lower edge, breaking up the straight line—an excellent fashion for stout figures. This decorative portion of the material also trimmed the fronts of the coat, the cuffs and the neck. The sleeves were coat shaped.

**Fashions from Old Egypt.**

One of the most famous dressmakers in Paris says that Rameses II. set the fashion in tea gowns this year. "The Rameses gown is one of the most comfortable designs possible," she says. "It is like a loose tea gown with a crossover bodice which resembles one of the fashionable boleros. I have made a gown of brilliant ultramarine, embroidered with a pattern of lotus flowers in dull mauves and purples. Another Egyptian novelty is the introduction of long chains, which I have copied from old pictures."

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