

AS LIFE LOOKS FROM EDEN

The International Sunday School Lesson For May 4 is "Man Made in the Image of God."—Gen. 1:26-28; 2:7-9; Eph. 4:20-24

By William T. Ellis

Like escaping from the noise and stench and contentions of an oriental city, to a hillside whence may be seen, in all their vast and eternal grandeur, the snow-crowned peaks of storied mountains, so is the turning from the babble and strife of the day's news to a contemplation of the sublime story of man's creation and of his primary purpose in existence. There is a widespread tonic effect bound to follow the study this week of the story of human beginnings by the millions of Sunday school members of the world. While we are talking about making over the universal social order, let us consider the one essential factor, which is man. Nobody will be the worse, and everybody will be the better, for a little hard thinking on this subject. We see life and we see it whole from the standpoint of the Garden of Eden.

When machinery gets seriously out of repair, it sometimes has to be sent to the maker to be made right. Suppose we look at our jangling, creaking, thumping, mal-adjusted state of society as a bit of machinery that needs repairing by the Maker. Society is merely people in the mass. It is the multiple of one man. Most of its defects are in its individual parts. The whole mechanism will work well only after the personalities which comprise it have been made right. Our day's supreme issue is one, whether it be the League of Nations or that issue is personal to people. When "all men's good becomes each man's rule," then we shall have the perfect day toward which the world has been so bloodily, blindly, groping.

Getting Down to Bedrock Small boys pass through a period wherein they believe that a horse-hair, if left long enough in a bottle of water, will turn into a snake. As we grow older, we are almost equally credulous concerning the capacity of human beings to grow into what they were not. The delusion of youth will only give way into a new order dies hard. It matters not that the scientist who has followed the race back, through excavations and archaeological records, declares that for a period of known history man was as man is. He has not essentially altered in more than five thousand years. Still a host of intelligent folk believe that humanity, like Topsy, "just grewed," and that it will continue to grow until it reaches perfection.

We are not accidents. Man came not by chance, a mere prank of cosmic forces. He was created. God made him. Before he was a thing of flesh he was a thought of God. The inscrutable councils of eternity sat in deliberation upon his advent. Here we have the greatest truth of all concerning ourselves and our times—God had a hand in our making. And that hand has never been removed from man. If we know anything at all about a Supreme Being, it is that his chief interest in this earth is in mankind.

Reshaping the Scheme of Things Old religions, such as Paul discussed on Mar's Hill, did not get

much beyond the point that we are God's offspring, and that he has sovereign right in us. That is basic, and not always remembered. Sometimes we look at an intricate fabric of religious beliefs that we lose sight of the elemental fact that there is a God who made us and that we are his, "the sheep of his pasture," as the Psalmist says. Losing sight of God's creation rights, we set about undoing or revising his work. What is bringing nations to crash to-day? Whence springs this turmoil that resounds from Germany and Russia and contiguous parts? Why are statesmen more affrighted by Bolshevism than by militarism? Is the answer not simple? Men fancy that, as Omar sings, they can "Grasp this sorry scheme of things entire, And reshape it to our heart's desire."

Flouting God, his nature and his law, they are attempting to build Babels that will outwit him and overcome his purposes. Anybody who has seen Bolshevism at work in Russia, as I have, can understand why it has repudiated Christianity, and the centuries-tested Ten Commandments. These expressions of the Divine will run counter to selfishness, hatred, greed, lust, idleness and power. God must be dethroned, before Bolshevism can have its way with the world. Instead of calling men back to the beneficent provisions of the Creator for man's welfare and social solidarity, it bids them spurn the tested integrities, and give free rein to all the baser impulses of self-indulgence.

What Are We Here For? Dissect not only Bolshevism, but most of the current social radicalism and "liberal" thinking, and you will find at bottom the idea that human beings are merely physical creatures, whose material comfort and carnal appetites are supreme. Of course, this is a garden of Eden fallacy, but it swings into power recurrently through the centuries. Nowadays, as with the Greeks, it is cloaked in pleasing sophisms. We talk about the sanctity of our impulses, our right to self-expression, our untrammeled nature, or freedom to obey our desires and to do all conventions as mere man-made restraints for inferior beings. It all comes to the same thing: we want to do as we please, regardless of hurt to others, and we do not care to please God, whose beneficent laws are born of his omniscience and good will. Still more plainly put, this radical conception of life reduces us to the level of untrammelled animals, and would end in making the world a jungle.

Dead against this draft rises the majestic and man-ennobling declaration of our lesson, "God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him." Again, "Man became a living soul." There is the clarion word of our befuddled times. Man is man at his best when he is likeliest to God. The highest aim of life is to fulfill the divine design of the Creator, in whose image we have been formed. From the beginning there has been a divine destiny for the race. We all have Godlike potentialities. What is before us is a matter of surety that it is what is best in our mothers and wives and friends—is that which savors of God, which pursues truth and loves holiness and which has standards of honor transcending common practice. "We have bodies; we are souls." In those hours of illumination, when we best know our best selves, we perceive that godliness, with its corollary, the subjugation of fleshly passions, is the true aim of man.

With real pertinency, the lesson committee has clinched this teaching by one of Paul's ringing words to the Christians in the degenerate city of Ephesus, surrounded by the same downward forces that now surround us. "But ye have not so learned Christ; if so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus; that ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and he renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

The Man and the Woman If all the jests in the current press were to be tabulated, it doubtless would appear that most of them have to do with love and marriage. In a great time, with evidences of spiritual illumination and rebirth on every hand, it is nevertheless true that there is a great and growing cynicism and flippancy with respect to the holy passion of love between man and woman, and to the institution of matrimony. The practice of many men and even of nations has been a defiance of the Christian teaching of chastity and a living thing. Even in this, however, there has been a glaring inconsistency. Peoples that pander to human lust, still sacredly guard their own daughters from the ideals which they love themselves. And even the most abandoned man or woman cherishes the hope that some day the miracle of real love, with the consequent joy of home, will kindle a fire in the cold ashes of his heart.

I who write these lines am traveling in the ancient, weary and worn-out regions of earth; where the cup of self-indulgence has been drunk to the dregs. And the lees are bitter. If history has any power to teach the wise, this lesson should be learned to-day, that "Righteousness exalteth a nation;" and that "There is a way that seemeth right to man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Out here amid the burnt-out and backward peoples, the worst sufferers in the world, one gets a new devotion to our Anglo-Saxon, Bible-laughed ideals of home and the reign of love. What is written in the first chapter of Genesis is written also in the ruins of the nations that have spurned the divine command. "Male and female created he them." God made man for woman and woman for man—one man for one woman, and one woman for one man. Theirs is the completion and symmetry of existence to be attained. There are no other joys like home joys; no other success equal to the creation of a Christian home, with children's laughter resounding within its walls. Our times have turned thumbs down against the acquisition of vast personal fortunes as the standard of success. Let us instead proclaim the building of homes, filled with children reared in the fear of God, as the highest achievement possible to man and woman. For that is God's plan; and anything else is failure.

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Daily Health Talks

Better be Careful About Your Kidneys

BY N. B. COOK, M. D.

Foods taken into the stomach go through various chemical changes, and some of these changes are poisons that must be sifted out and disposed of. It is the duty of the kidneys to do this. When the kidneys do not fully perform their vital work, death may be only a few hours away. Happy fortune has provided warning alarms telling people when their kidneys are not well. These warnings come in the form of dragging pains in the small of the back, weak stomach, low spirits, chills, nausea, headache, scanty urine and frequent desire to pass it, short breath, numbness, cramps, coated tongue, bad breath, puffs under the eyes, thin blood, dry skin, ringing in the ears, spots before the eyes and many other symptoms. All come from the one cause of kidneys that are not filtering the poisons out of the system. Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets, Dr. Pierce, of Buffalo, N. Y., compounded what he calls Anuric Tablets. No other kidney medicine is its equal in giving relief and re-establishing healthful work in the kidneys. The treatment is very simple, as you need nothing except water when taking Anuric Tablets—a glass of water with each tablet. This washer flushes the kidneys while the medicine itself is dissolving the uric acid poisons and driving them out. Anuric Tablets are made double strength, so that they dissolve uric acid the same as hot water dissolves salt or sugar. Most people need Anuric Tablets because most people have uric acid. Better get that poison out of your body for safety's sake, and better begin to-day. To gently and agreeably coax the bowels back into normal activity, take Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets. They are just as good for constiveness as his Anuric Tablets are good for kidney disorders, and that is saying a great deal.

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50c Turkish Towels 37c

35c Ladies' Split-Foot Hose, Pair 25c

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78c Ladies' Bloomers, Pink and White 58c

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Ladies' \$1.50 Muslin Gowns \$1.00

35c Spring Dress Gingham, 25c

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