

# EZRA'S JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM

Sunday School Lesson for Nov. 19, 1911  
Specially Arranged for This Paper

LESSON TEXT—Ezra 8:15-36.  
MEMORY VERSES—21, 23.  
GOLDEN TEXT—"The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him."—Ezra 8:22.

TIME—B. C. 458, the seventh year of Artaxerxes.

Ezra leaves Babylon with his company on the 1st day of the 1st month, March; and reaches Jerusalem on the 1st day of the 6th month, July.

The convocation was on the 20th day of the 9th month (in Nov.-Dec.).

His reforms were made during the winter, Dec. 458, to March, 457.

The nearly sixty years between the sixth and seventh chapters of Ezra, of which there is almost no direct record, could scarcely be called "the blank annals of well-being." Without these happy periods of dullness our lives would be hell, and our hearts eternally bubbling and boiling in a huge pot made hot with thorns. But these were years of slow progress, of dullness, and neglect, like a garden wherein the heavenly plants, while still growing, were overrun with weeds, and the vines and olive trees, untrimmed and neglected, bore but small and scanty fruit.

The temple had been built, but the opposition had been so great that the walls had not been restored and the rubbish still arose in long-stretching mounds. The visions of glory had faded. They had expected a vast influx of their brethren, from Babylon and other lands, but had been to a great extent disappointed.

Ezra, no doubt knowing the condition of things in Jerusalem, had not only prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, but he planned to go up to Jerusalem and teach in Israel statutes and judgments. Moved by religious zeal, and also, it would seem, with the statesmanlike view of making Jerusalem once more the real spiritual metropolis of Judaism, Ezra conceived the idea of infusing new life and new ideals into the Judean community by leading a fresh band of zealously religious exiles back to Judea on a mission of reform.

They came to Jerusalem, after a journey of four months, arriving there the first day of the fifth month, or about the middle of July. The distance in a direct line was about 500 miles, but the road followed by Ezra's caravan made a long detour to avoid the desert and could hardly have been less than 900 miles.

Ezra brought \$2,000,000 for the repair of the temple, and for all that was necessary to put the outward forms of worship in perfect condition. He infused the community with his own devoted and consecrated spiritual life and fervor. He brought with him the Book of the Law and the Prophets, with its strict morality, and made it known to the people. In contrast with this holy law the conduct of the people in adopting "the abominations" of the heathen appeared in all its glaring wickedness.

Then Ezra entered upon his great reform. Some of the leaders pointed out to Ezra that the people, even the princes and rulers, were intermarrying with the idolaters, and there was danger that the religion of Israel would be destroyed, that all the sins which caused the exile would be repeated, and all that the exile had done as a discipline would be lost.

Ezra first by himself was astounded and stunned by the report, and showed all the signs of deepest sorrow and humiliation. Then there was a meeting together with him of "every one that trembled at the words of the God of Israel, because of the transgression of those that had been carried away." They sat in bitter astonishment till the time of evening prayer. Then they bowed themselves before the Lord, and wept and prayed and confessed and entreated.

Then followed a public meeting, a great congregation of men and women and children. There came the great moral reform. There was a proclamation throughout all Judah and Jerusalem, that all should gather themselves unto Jerusalem, upon pain of having their property confiscated and themselves excommunicated from the brotherhood of Israel. In a great train they confessed, repented and reformed.

Those who are bribing and taking bribes—trying to get rich by graft and dishonesty, forging, cheating banks, committing all kinds of crime, although the sinners are rich, and officeholders—are now working in jails separated from their wives and children, and are learning honest trades. It is sad, indeed, but there is no other way of saving the nation.

The suffering involved by Ezra's course was not necessarily so great as it would seem, not so great as imprisonment of a family man causes today. The man could still support the discarded wife and children, and do all possible for her comfort. But he must not join in her idolatry, or be subject to a bad family atmosphere.

## MISSOURI STATE NEWS

### Arguments on Local Option.

After hearing lengthy arguments by attorneys on both sides in the appeal case of the state of Missouri to the relation of James D. Rainwater against J. C. Ross and others, in which an attempt is being made to declare null and void the local option laws of Carthage, the judge of the Springfield court of appeals announced that a decision would be handed down at the convening of the December call.

### Bankers Complete Inspection.

After an inspection of the new shops and other properties of the Frisco in Springfield, a party of American and European bankers continued their journey to St. Louis, completing there a nine-days' inspection tour of Frisco lines. The financiers traveled in a special train of six private cars and were accompanied by B. F. Winchell, president of the Frisco, and W. C. Nixon, general manager.

### Girl Identifies Assailant.

Miss Eva Adams, the 15-year-old daughter of C. T. Adams, a farmer living about seven miles north of Rich Hill was attacked near her home by a strange man. A suspect was captured eight miles northeast of Butler by a posse and Miss Adams identified him. Sentiment against the man is at a high pitch in the Adams neighborhood.

### Bank Gets \$11,108 Verdict.

The Gates City National bank of Kansas City was awarded a verdict at Springfield \$11,108 against the defunct Merchants and Miners' bank of Aurora, the award being made solely against L. Ruppel, one of the former directors of the bank. The suit was brought in the circuit court of Lawrence county, and was brought to Springfield on a change of venue.

### Model Farm to Be Shown.

A model five-acre farm in miniature and designed to show the possibilities of farming in the hilly country such as is found in some parts of Southern Missouri will be a unique exhibit of the immigration department of the Missouri Pacific-Iron Mountain system at the Ozark land congress to be held in December.

### Sublett Claimant Dies.

J. G. Sublett, 64 years old, died of bronchitis at Columbia. He was a native of Kentucky and was one of the claimants to the Sublett estate in St. Louis, which involved land valued at \$500,000.

### Bought Bloodhounds.

Chief of Police Dorney of Chillicothe visited Concordia, Kan., where he purchased two trained bloodhounds for Livingston county. The dogs will be kept at the county jail by Sheriff White.

### College President Dead.

The Rev. James Franklin Jones, 65 years old, president of William Woods College, died at the home of his mother, Mrs. Julia Jones, near Winston-Salem, N. C., where he had gone some time ago for a rest.

### Shot His Wife.

James Johnson shot his wife while she was telephoning to the police at St. Joseph for aid. He used a double-barreled shotgun and shot four times through a window. He was arrested. Mrs. Johnson is in a serious condition.

### Mutual Insurance men Meet.

Delegates from three-fourths of the counties of the state attended the fourth annual convention of the Association of Farm and County Mutual insurance companies in Missouri, at Springfield.

### Three Indictments Stolen.

Three indictments said to have been returned against a Higbee man by the grand jury, at Moberly which recently adjourned were stolen from the clerk's office in that city and the loss has just been discovered.

### Kansas City Theatres.

"The Soul Kiss," that big, soul-stirring musical comedy, comes to the Grand for the week commencing Sunday, November 19. This year, an entire new scenic and costume production will be seen and the charming and artistic dancer, Ethel Gilmore, will again be found in the leading role.

Forbes-Robertson, said to be the greatest English-speaking actor now before the public, will appear at the Shubert during the week beginning Monday, November 20, in his latest and greatest success, "The Passing of the Third Floor Back." The usual matinee will be given. Out-of-town patrons may reserve seats by mail.

## LABOR GIVES ITS APPROVAL

Powerful American Federation Cordially Joins in Fight Against Spread of Tuberculosis.

Direct approval of the campaign for the sale of Red Cross seals has been given by the American Federation of Labor, according to an announcement by the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis. At the last annual convention of the American Federation of Labor a resolution was adopted calling on all the members of the Federation to further the sale as much as possible. The resolution reads as follows:

"Whereas, The American Federation of Labor has in every possible way aided the movement for the study and prevention of tuberculosis throughout the United States and Canada; and,

"Whereas, the American National Red Cross has been in the past and is now making an especial effort, through the sale of Red Cross Christmas seals, to secure funds to carry on the war against tuberculosis, and by means of the fund raised in this manner has been able to do much effective work in this direction, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the American Federation of Labor give its endorsement to the movement of the American National Red Cross, and encourage its members to further in every reasonable way the sale of these seals in their respective communities."

### VAIN EXPERIMENT.



Daughter—Pa, why do you let the furnace go out every evening Mr. Romance comes to see me?

Father—I am trying to freeze out the microbe of love, my deluded daughter.

### MRS. SELBY AND PRIZE BABY

"I have always used Cuticura Soap and no other for my baby and he has never had a sore of any kind. He does not even chafe as most babies do. I feel sure that it is all owing to Cuticura Soap, for he is fine and healthy, and when five months old, won a prize in a baby contest. It makes my heart ache to go into so many homes and see a sweet-faced baby with the whole top of its head a solid mass of scurf, caused by poor soap. I always recommend Cuticura, and nine times out of ten the next time I see the mother she says: 'Oh! I am so glad you told me of Cuticura.'" (Signed) Mrs. G. A. Selby, Redondo Beach, California, Jan. 15, 1911.

Although Cuticura Soap and Ointment are sold everywhere, a sample of each, with 32-page book, will be mailed free on application to "Cuticura," Dept. 20 L, Boston.

It is much easier for us to forgive some one for being an enemy to our friends than for being a friend to our enemy.

Pain and Swelling seldom indicate internal organic trouble. They are usually the result of local cold or inflammation which can be quickly removed by Hamlin's Wizard Oil.

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### Tree Destroyers.

Porcupines are good climbers, and when unable to get enough apples wind-blown to the ground, swarm a tree and eat down the finest bearing limbs as quickly and neatly as a beaver can sever the trunk of a young hemlock. Besides that, when other food is scarce they nibble the bark off young apple trees, and can destroy a newly planted orchard in a short time. They also are a great enemy to the young spruce, but why they cut them is a mystery, as it is not found that they even eat the tenderest shoots.

### Rubbed Hard.

The Venus of Milo explained her missing arms. "I tried to get the tan off," she said. "Herewith she rejoiced she hadn't used the same method on her neck.—Harper's Bazar.

"A wife," says the sage brush sage, "has to have a lot more patience to let the cat in and out than she has for her husband, because if she didn't the cat would leave."

There are still a few legitimate ways of acquiring wealth.

### Death Bed Jest.

Among what may be called death-bed jests, that of the Rev. James Guthrie of Stirling, one of the Covenanters martyrs, deserves a high place. Lord Guthrie recalls the story in "From a Northern Window." Mr. Guthrie was executed at the Cross in the High street, Edinburgh. The night before he asked for cheese for supper. His friends wondered, for the physician had forbidden him to eat cheese. But he said, with a smile, "I am now beyond the hazard of all earthly diseases."—Uncle Remus' Magazine.

### Insulted.

A strapping German with big beads of perspiration streaming down his face was darting in and out of the aisles of a Philadelphia department store.

His excited actions attracted the attention of all salespersons, and they hardly knew what to make of it. A hustling young man of the clothing department walked up to him and asked, "Are you looking for something in men's clothing?"

"No!" he roared; "not men's clothing; vimen's clothing. I can't find my wife!"—Lippincott's.

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