

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. SELLERS, Acting Director of Sunday School, Conn.)

LESSON FOR JANUARY 3

GOD'S PATIENCE WITH ISRAEL

LESSON TEXT—Judges 17-19.
GOLDEN TEXT—I will love them freely.—Ezek. 34:6.

This year we again return to the history of the chosen people and follow them through the period of the judges, the days of the monarchy under Saul, David and Solomon, and the divided kingdom in the times of Elijah, Amos, Hosea and Jonah, down to the time of Daniel during the captivity.

I. Another Generation, vv. 7-10. During the days of Joshua Israel served Jehovah, but his influence did not last long after his death. Ever and anon God must needs raise up a Joshua to lead his church. We have another "Joshua"—Jesus—who is ever with his people and we do not need any earthly leader (Ps. 62:5; Phil. 2:12). Still God is working through human agents and in every crisis raises up his spirit-clothed leaders. No doubt this "another generation" honored Joshua as a hero but they did not follow in his obedience to Jehovah. It is easy to dismiss God's mighty deeds among men by calling them myths and traditions, or to deny the "accuracy of the records." Doubtless the Israelites felt their obligations to their neighbors and fellow-tribesmen, but they lost a realizing sense of their obligations to God. America today is charged with an altruistic spirit but seems lacking in a deep sense of that obligation to God which is primary.

II. They forsook the Lord, vv. 11-13. Backsliding Israel is a proverb. Over and again there was a return to true worship and just as often a forsaking. For centuries Jehovah bore with, forgave, restored and punished this "stiff-necked" people, until the final overthrow and captivity burned into their consciousness the sin of idolatry. The reason for this was their disobedience in not putting out of the land "the gods of the peoples that were round about them." Liberty of this sort always results in spiritual ruin. A nation's ideals about God not alone determine its moral status but eventually its physical and temporal welfare as well. Their way was not evil in their own sight and doubtless they were considered very progressive, and their course an evidence of greater wisdom than that of their fathers, but it was "evil in the sight of the Lord."

We do not understand that these Israelites took up the worship of Baal, the sun god, with all of its abominations at once, but rather sought a combination, a compromise worship, which of course led to the inevitable forsaking of God. Verse 13 indicates the base ingratitude of such a course for he was "which brought them out of the land of Egypt" (Titus 2:14; 2 Pet. 2:1).

III. The Anger of the Lord, vv. 14, 15. There is no anger like that of outraged love. We are apt to forget the other attributes of God, those of justice, holiness and purity and that God can not look upon iniquity (Hab. 1:13). The light men enjoy only heights and makes more black their offenses. God's anger can "wash hot" and here he "delivered them into the hands of the spoilers that spoiled them."

God Keeps His Promises. IV. And the Lord Raised Up Judges, R. V. vv. 16-19. These were men who felt the bitterness of the distress of their nation. God keeps to the letter his promises, both of blessing and of punishment, but "in wrath he remembers mercy." These judges had higher aspirations than simply to judge, for they "saved" the people. We who live in this present dispensation of grace have one who is now the savior but who shall yet be the judge. That these righteous leaders of the people had a difficult task is suggested by verse 17. The hearts of the people "went a whoring," lusted after the things represented by Baal and Ashtaroth, which history tells us were too vile to be enumerated. The judges secured for the people of Israel their rights according to the mercy of Jehovah. At the same time they were rulers, and as such secured for individuals their rights. Professor Beecher has calculated that the period of their administration was about three hundred and thirty-two years, from the death of Joshua, 1434 B. C., to the anointing of Saul, 1034 B. C. It is probable that at times one part of the land was under oppression and other parts were enjoying security under its judge. It has been suggested that Israel, during the time we have been and now are studying, passed through four grades in God's school: (1) That in Egypt; training in bondage and contact with the highest civilization of the day. (2) That in the desert; training in faith, law and religious observances in the presence of peril and hardships. (3) That in the time of the judges; training in self-government while in contact with enemies and training in the arts and in religious life as manifested by the temple, the priesthood and the prophets. Idolatry was fascinating, it had a false freedom, it appealed to every passion, and was the very antithesis of the Jehovah worship of purity itself.

The worship of Jehovah always taught and impressed moral and spiritual truth and required the confessing and forsaking of evil. These judges were God-endowed and did not prostitute their gifts. They were God-led, saw Israel's need and had courage, faith and zeal enough to show Israel that the first thing they needed to do was to forsake the evil and return to a life of obedience to God.

FIGHTING THE PLAGUE SPREADING RAT



DR. CLAUDE C. PIERCE



ASSISTANT SURGEON GENERAL W.C. RUCKER

By Edward B. Clark STAFF CORRESPONDENT OF THE WESTERN NEWSPAPER UNION

LONG levees guarding the crescent-shaped banks of the Mississippi river at New Orleans, the good rat ship, Neptune, is at its deadly work. Deadly work which is life-saving work, done under the direction of Uncle Sam's public health service. Rats carry the parasite which transmits the frightful disease, bubonic plague, to man. The Neptune's work is to kill the rat and to save man. It is doing its work most efficiently.

The Neptune is in charge of Past Assistant Surgeon Norman Roberts, while Assistant Surgeon-General William C. Rucker is in charge of the general crusade being conducted by the public health service against the rat plague and parasite. Dr. Claude C. Pierce is also one of the determined workers in the antiplague crusade. This rat-killing ship is worth a thousand ferrets, a thousand cats and a thousand terriers in its work of rodent extermination. With one breath it can kill 10,000 rats. It can kill the 10,000, but let it be said that only occasionally is it called upon to breathe out death upon more than 500 of the pests at one exhalation, for seldom is a larger number found on one ship.

Why it is done, and how it is done, is here the purpose of a layman to set down, trusting that the doctors of the public health service will approve the spirit, even if the strict language of science, in which the profession usually communicates its views, is here notorious by its absence. Let it be told first how it is done.

The Neptune is little more than a big tub, but it is well fitted up with quarters for the medical officers and the crew who navigate it and direct its beneficent work. When there were rumors of the appearance of the dread plague in the Crescent City, the Neptune put to sea from Philadelphia and made the trip in quick time to New Orleans. Its deadly projectile is monoxide of carbon; its hose and nozzle; and its powder is coke which burns in a closed furnace. Monoxide of carbon is more deadly than shrapnel, which occasionally wounds only, allowing its victim to live out his natural days and to die in bed. There are no wounded to be picked up after a battery of monoxide of carbon has been at its work. The casualty list is one of the dead only.

Rats, as has been said, carry the parasite, which is a flea, from which it is possible for man to become infected with the disease, bubonic plague. The public health service has classified all the commercial ports of the world as follows: "Clean," "Suspected," "Infected." When a ship bound for New Orleans, reaches quarantine, which is a good way down the river from the Crescent City, it is boarded. There, if an unusual number of rats are found on board, or if other conditions seem to require it, there is a sulphur fumigation. The ship proceeds on its way to New Orleans. It is then that the public health officers take up a watch on the vessel.

There have been plague rats in New Orleans. There are certain places where rats are more likely to succeed in getting onto a vessel than they are at others. There is no greater desire that rats which possibly may be infected shall get on to a ship than that rats in the same possible condition shall leave it for the shore. It is possible for precautions to be taken which will prevent the rodents either from leaving or entering the vessel. Their ordinary way of egress or ingress is along cables or ropes which lead from the vessel to the shore. To prevent entrance and exit guards are attached to the ropes and no rat is able to pass them.

When the public health officials find that it is necessary to turn their monoxide of carbon battery loose on a ship the hatches are battened down, every window of every cabin is sealed, and all the cracks of the doors are closed with paper attached by means of gyp paste. Then the Neptune steams up alongside, the coke in the closed furnace is started burning and the generated monoxide of carbon passes through a hose into the hold of the ship until it is filled with the deadly gas. Then attention is turned to the cabins and staterooms, each of which is given its full charge of the overpowering fumes.

The vessel is left alone for six hours and then the hatches, doors, windows and port holes are opened and the gas escapes. All that remains to be done is to go in and gather up the dead rats. The fumigating process kills not only the rats, but everything else living that is on board and means everything living down to the minutest form of animal life.

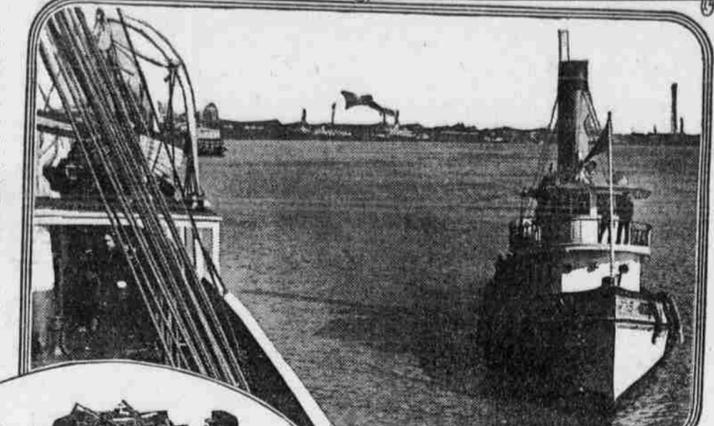
Danger is passing quickly from New Orleans and it is passing because not only the health authorities of the state and city, but those of the government took hold of the situation at once and saved it. If it really needed saving, and there are those who believe that if unchecked, the bubonic plague might have obtained a firm foothold. Dr. William C. Rucker, who has been in charge at New Orleans, is experienced in antiplague work.

with man. It frequents the great highways of the world, travels long distances in ships and occasionally on trains. The ground squirrel does not live in human habitations and it makes only short migrations. As Doctor Rucker puts it, it is almost a negligible factor in the direct transfer of the disease to man. The ground squirrel's great function in the plague scheme is that of a rural reservoir from which from time to time the disease flows over to the suburban rat, thence to his city cousin and thence to man.

In parts of the West the public health service is conducting a crusade against the ground squirrel. This animal looks not unlike the common gray squirrel, and the help of the scientists of the biological survey of the department of agriculture in Washington has been given to the work of the extermination of this animal over large tracts of land.

The public health service has given in its reports descriptions of the means which should be taken to prevent the spread of the disease with which the rodents are affected. Instructions are given in rat-trapping, rat-proofing, in methods of destroying rat habitations and to these are added chapters on the natural enemy of rats, owls, hawks, weasels, cats, dogs, ferrets and the other creatures which either consider the repulsive rat a delicacy or like to prey upon it from sheer love of killing.

The country probably has little knowledge of the constant work which is being done by the public health service of the United States government to safeguard the people from disease and death. The plague preventive work which has been done is to scientists one of the most interesting works in the whole field of their study and endeavor.



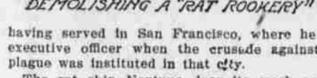
"NEPTUNE" COMING ALONGSIDE VESSEL TO FUMIGATE FOR RAT DESTRUCTION



A RAT PARADISE



A RAT GUARD



DEMOLISHING A "RAT ROOKERY"

having served in San Francisco, where he was executive officer when the crusade against the plague was instituted in that city.

The rat ship Neptune does its work on the waterfront of cities, but it must not be supposed that vessels alone are the habitations of rats which may carry with them the germs of a dread disease. In any city which may be suspected of harboring rats afflicted with the plague parasite, the crusade against the rodents is carried on in all sections of the town where the rodents abound. Thousands upon thousands of the rats are caught in traps and every rat caught is tagged, so that the place where it was taken can be known definitely. The bodies of the animals are taken to the public health laboratory and there they are examined, the examinations sometimes reaching the number of 1,000 a day.

Each of the dead rats is examined thoroughly and an experienced man can tell instantly those which appear to be affected. In the case of a suspect, or where it is definitely determined that the rat actually has the disease, the tag is consulted and the place of capture of the animal is learned. Then the work of extermination and of fumigation and perhaps demolition of buildings begins in the neighborhood from which the infected rat came.

Here is what Assistant Surgeon-General William C. Rucker has said in one brief paragraph concerning the eradication and prevention of bubonic plague:

"Plague is primarily a disease of rodents, and secondarily and accidentally, a disease of man. Man's safety from the disease lies in the exclusion of the rodent and its parasites. This is the basis of all preventive and eradication work. If a man can live in rodent-free surroundings he need have no fear of plague, because if there be no rodents there can be no rodent parasites, and for all practical purposes the flea may be considered as the common vector of the disease from rodent to rodent and from rodent to man. The eradication of bubonic plague, therefore, means the eradication of rodents."

Now, in a layman's language, the path of the bubonic plague from rodent to man is something like this: A rat has the plague. Where it got it we will say nobody knows, for the origin of the first, the Ben or the egg. Every rat has fleas. The rat which has the plague is bitten by a flea, which absorbs the plague poison. The rat dies, we will say; the flea leaves it and in some way gets on to a man; the parasite is charged with the disease and if the poison is transmitted be-

neath the skin of a human being the plague results.

In the week ending September 26, 1914, Assistant Surgeon-General Rucker's report shows that 70 vessels were fumigated with sulphur and 13 with carbon monoxide and there were 125,853 packages of freight inspected. In this week more than eight thousand rats were trapped and examined. Hundreds of premises were fumigated and many more places were inspected. During the one week 199 buildings were made rat-proof. Altogether the number of buildings thus guarded against the entry of rodents was 1,300.

Assistant Surgeon-General Rucker follows his work that the eradication of bubonic plague means the eradication of rodents by saying that in America we have two rodents which are comprehended in the problem, the rat and the ground squirrel, and apparently each plays a very distinct role in the propagation and perpetuation of the disease.

The rat is distinctly domestic in its habits, and therefore comes in more or less intimate contact

with man. It frequents the great highways of the world, travels long distances in ships and occasionally on trains. The ground squirrel does not live in human habitations and it makes only short migrations. As Doctor Rucker puts it, it is almost a negligible factor in the direct transfer of the disease to man. The ground squirrel's great function in the plague scheme is that of a rural reservoir from which from time to time the disease flows over to the suburban rat, thence to his city cousin and thence to man.

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OUT OF COMMISSION.

Nervous Wife—Oh, Harry, dear, do order a mouse-trap to be sent home today.
Harry—But you bought one last week.
Nervous Wife—Yes, dear, but there's a mouse in that.—Pearson's Weekly.

A SAD FAREWELL.

"So you are going to make another tour?"
"Yes," replied the actor.
"But you advertised your previous engagement as a farewell occasion."
"It was one. We said good-by to nearly a thousand dollars."

or shall the bird become a crow and the flag become a dishcloth?"
"Why, Thomas, is it as bad as that?" asked the wife in alarm.
"It's worse. The next gale that sweeps from the North—"
"Then hurry along, and be gone as long as you want to."
And Jones went down to his club and played poker until three o'clock next morning.—Exchange.

A train of thought isn't always as time.

HERE'S FRAGMENT OF FICTION

Of Course No Such Deceptive Creature as Mr. Jones Existed in Real Life.

Dinner had been over only ten minutes when Jones made a move down the hall for the hall-tree and his hat, and the long-suffering Mrs. Jones followed after to say:

"You have been out every night for a month. How long is this thing to last?"

"Only until the war closes, my dear."
"But I don't see that it is necessary for you to be out every night until midnight. During the Spanish war you were not out a single evening. In fact, you said the men who were whooping around nights were a pack of soft heads."
"So they were, dear, but last campaign is not this campaign. Last campaign things ran themselves, and there was nothing for the patriots to do."

"The bulwarks of liberty are tottering to their fall."
"Shall this country be ruled by patriots or traitors?"
"Is Bunker hill to go for nothing, and are our liberties to be sold for a mess of potatoes?"
"Shall I stand sulkily by and see this great and glorious country go to destruction, or shall I lead the movement to still further exalt her?"
"Shall the American eagle still continue to soar on pinions proud, and old glory wave in every breeze that blows,

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AFRO-AMERICAN CULLINGS

Henry Mock, a Negro of Mingo Junction, O., has invented what he calls a "mine destroyer," which will not only prevent a ship from being blown up by a submarine mine, but will set off the mine without harm to the vessel which is equipped with his device. He also claims that his invention will locate icebergs and prevent vessels from running into such "terrors of the sea," and that it is a safe device for rescuing passengers from sinking or burning ships. Mock says he has not secured patents on his invention, but has applied for them in this and other countries. He also says he has correspondence with governments regarding his invention, with gratifying encouragement of their adopting it as an equipment of their navies.

"I have made a number of experiments with my invention," said Mock the other day, "and everyone of them has been an unqualified success. I have experimented on an Ohio River steamer several times with dynamite bombs, and the steamer was as safe from harm when equipped with my invention as though there was no dynamite within a mile of it. The locating of other dangerous substances in the river in the path of the steamer also was tried a number of times with great success."

"I hope soon to secure patents on my invention. When I do I will be glad to have the secret of it made public. It can be used on any sort of steamer or sailing vessel, and I am sure it will be the means of saving thousands of lives at sea every year, as well as locating and destroying submarine mines and finding icebergs in time to prevent the destruction of ocean-going ships."

To ambitious Negro and Indian students, the following courses are offered: Academic-normal, covering four years of work for those who are preparing to become teachers; an agricultural course of four years; and a trade course of four years in any one of 13 trades, including the building industries, as well as such indoor trades as tailoring and printing.

"In 1914 and thereafter," according to the latest announcement, "a diploma from the Hampton school will indicate that the recipient has done at least four years of work beyond the grammar grades. It will be the policy of the school to grant a diploma to no one who has not received sufficient vocational training to make self-support possible at some skilled occupation."

"In all the industrial courses leading to a diploma, a fixed minimum of academic work is required; indeed, it is regarded as an essential part of all industrial courses."

In the agricultural course the Hampton student has the opportunity of learning the best modern practices in field, garden, orchard, greenhouse, horse barn, dairy and poultry houses. Hampton sends out "agricultural missionaries."

More business has never been a goal at Hampton. Every department has grown in natural response to the pressing needs of the races receiving training. Today, between twelve and thirteen hundred students, including some forty Indians, are enrolled. These figures include some four hundred children in the Whitlier school, which is a neighborhood elementary school, and is used by Hampton Institute as a training school for teachers.

The student life at Hampton Institute tends to develop character. In the dormitories, on the parade ground, on the football field, in the cabins of the old and lowly, indeed, at every turn, fortunate Negro and Indian youths who reach Hampton are receiving valuable training in self-control, obedience, in courtesy, in team work. From the rising bell, which sounds at 5:30 in the morning, until "taps" at 9:30 at night, the Hampton students are being trained in the value of promptness, alertness, discipline, endurance, respect for authority, and applied Christianity. Hampton Institute stands for all that aids in training Negroes and Indians to become earnest, industrious, Christian citizens. It teaches the dignity of labor, the happiness of service, and the value of moral and physical cleanliness. Hampton Institute is neither a state nor a government school. It must depend largely on voluntary contributions for its support. Indeed, \$125,000 are required annually, above the school's regular income, for scholarships and expenses. The school is striving to raise an endowment fund of \$4,000,000.

Argentina in January shipped 900,000 bushels of corn to the United States.

During 1913, 1,730,572 British workers received a net wage increase of \$67,566 a week.

Tampico, Mex., last year exported to the United States crude oil valued at \$7,130,632.

The oldest known specimens of writing are in the British museum. They are of Chinese origin.

Slames capital, employing Danish engineers and machinery, is constructing a large cement plant near Bangkok.

Aviator Makes Legs. Nearly forty one-legged people have asked M. Desoutter, the aviator, to supply them with legs like the one he has made for himself. It weighs only two pounds, has a padded calf, and is composed of an alloy of aluminum, the secret of which is known only to M. Desoutter. And so he has decided to take up artificial legmaking professionally, and is setting about patenting his invention.

"All the tools I use are those I have for my trade, which is watchmaking," he said recently. "Legmakers want me to share my secret with them, and I have even had requests for my old wooden leg. I have half a dozen orders now, which will keep me busy for the next six months, for each leg takes four weeks to make. I hope to buy an aeroplane out of the profits."

The music of the Negro, like the music of the Indian, has caused much ink to be spilled. Some enthusiastic souls have looked to the rhythms of the red man for the melody that is to create American music; in fact, some have gone so far as to declare that the only possible American music can be Indian music. Which is all very interesting and absolutely inconclusive. The fact remains that Indian composers, in any fair sense of the term, do not exist; while we have among us many talented and well-trained Negro creative musicians. It was with one of these that a New York Tribune representative talked last week, with a man who has written a very large proportion of the so-called modern dances. The man was Jesse Rees Europe, the composer of all the Castle dances, and the director of Europe's orchestra, an organization which has all but secured complete control of the cabaret and dance field in the city. Mr. Europe is a well-trained musician and a man who has thought deeply on the musical possibilities of his race, and of these possibilities he has firm and well defined opinions.

"I am striving at present to form an orchestra of Negroes which will be able to take its place among the serious musical organizations of the country," said Mr. Europe.

"The Tempo club now contains about two hundred members, all musicians, and from this body I supply at present a majority of the orchestras which play in the various cafes of the city and also at the private dances. Our Negro musicians have nearly cleared the field of the so-called spysy orchestras. The Negro, while not generally equal to the demands of the more sophisticated forms of music, is peculiarly fitted for the modern dances. I don't think it too much to say that he plays this music better than the white man simply because all this music is indigenous with him. Rhythm is something that is born in the Negro, and the modern dances require rhythm above all else."

"I myself do not consider the modern dances a step backward. The one-step is more beautiful than the old two-step, and the fox-trot than the schottische, of which it is a development. As to the so-called dance craze, it does not appear to be a 'craze.' I have had probably as good an opportunity to observe the various dances as anyone in the city, and I have found that dancing keeps husbands and wives together and eliminates much drinking, as no one can dance and drink to excess. However, these are questions for a philosopher and not for a musician."

The Negro farmer reads no bulletins, few agricultural journals, and seldom sees the daily or semi-weekly market reports published in our papers. He has not taken any interest in the subject of transportation. Freight, express and parcel post rates and their relative value and the importance of this service do not interest him, as he has nothing to ship. Demand and supply appeal to him only to the amount of food required or demanded to supply his appetite. He has never been taught anything about farm accounts, and so his receipts and expenditures have no safe check, and often, more often than otherwise, these expenditures are injudicious.

Kangaroo farming is a very important industry in Australia.

But we sit not down and complain of our lot. We know that we have women in our race today who stand shoulder to shoulder with any woman. We need and must make all the friends we can with white people. They need us and we need them. If centuries were needed to bring the Anglo-Saxon from the morasses of central Europe to the height of today's civilization they cannot expect us to be perfect—yet. We are like the wrecked ship which to the call, "Shall we lower the boats and take you in?" gave answer thus: "No. Lay by us till morning." So say we to our generous, sympathetic and true white friends. Our record for this white-misle stone from human slavery is unequalled. Let us go on with the team work which embodies the grand old motto of the Swiss republic, "All for each and each for all."—From An Address at the Biennial, Federation of Colored Women's Clubs.

In an electric gun invented in England, which seems to be successful, a projectile is hurled through a tube by the action of electric magnets on the outside.

An American visitor in Montreal recently saw a squad of boys whose ages ranged from six to nine, being drilled by two little girls of corresponding age. Upon inquiry one of the drill sergeants explained that her father said the war might last twenty years, and then these boys might fight for the union jack while their fathers came home to rest.

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