

IMPROVED
UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL
SUNDAY Lesson

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Lesson for May 12

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HABAKKUK FIGHTS THROUGH DOUBT TO FAITH

LESSON TEXT—Habakkuk 1:12-2:4.
GOLDEN TEXT—The just shall live by his faith.—Habakkuk 2:4.

"The just shall live by his faith"—the great rallying cry of the Reformation; in fact, the very essence of Christianity, is found in the glorious conclusion which the prophet Habakkuk reaches in his triumphant confidence in God. Trying circumstance, doubt and fear must all yield to faith in God.

The lesson for today is peculiarly appropriate to the situation in which the world finds itself just now. Men's hearts are failing them for fear. It seems to them that all is chaotic disorder; they wonder whether God has any plan for the world and its people, and whether He really cares. "Why doesn't God do something?" is the question on many lips. The answer is in our lesson.

I. Believe, Though Surrounded by Questions (1:12-17).

Habakkuk does not question that his people had sinned and were worthy of God's disciplinary chastening, but he is astonished to learn that God plans to use the wicked Chaldeans to bring it about. Questions pour in upon him as he describes their iniquity (v. 13), and speaks of them as catching Judah in their net (vv. 14, 15) and gloating over their victims (vv. 16, 17).

He does not yet know the answer to his questions, but he has already stated the foundation of his faith in verse 12. Whatever happens, no matter how sore the trial and non-understandable the outworking of God's plan, the prophet is sure of his God as the eternal and holy One. The point to be borne in mind in such a time is that God is not making plans for the moment or because of some unexpected change in circumstances. He is "from everlasting" (v. 12). His plans are eternal. But He is also the "Holy One" (v. 12). It may seem for the present that sin and wickedness have triumphed, but let us remember that the eternal plans of God are conceived and executed in holiness and power.

II. Be Alert in the Midst of Uncertainty (2:1).

One who does not have faith in God is prone to say in such times that all hope is lost, and give up in despair. Not so Habakkuk. He knew that there is nothing harder than to wait patiently for God. He determines to be neither discouraged nor impatient, but to stand watch in the tower (v. 1). "His words bespeak a very right and proper condition of soul. Perplexed and confused by the seeming enigma of God's ways, he owns he may require reproof, and takes his

stand upon the watch tower, above the mists of the earth and beyond the thoughts and doings of men, where he can quietly wait on God and look out to see what He will say to him" (Ironside).

How desperately we need such alert and earnest watchers in our day. Christians, arise! Do not permit yourself to be either lulled into a false security or into deadening discouragement.

III. Receive the Answer of Triumphant Faith (2:2-4).

"The Lord answered me." He always does, if we are ready to listen and to abide His time. Habakkuk received a vision of God's truth in which he was to write so plainly that everyone who read it would understand it and, in turn, run to others with the message. Those of us who teach and preach would do well to follow that admonition. All too often our message is not understood or fails to stir those who hear it to go quickly and tell others.

Looking forward to Christ, the just man of Habakkuk's day was to live by faith; even as we of this day, looking back to the cross of Christ, are justified by faith and then are to go on to live by faith. This is the word which, as we have already suggested, stirred Luther and his fellows to bring about the Reformation. Long before Luther's day, however, the same words had come by the Holy Spirit's inspiration to be the heart of the great messages of Paul the apostle as he taught justification (Rom. 1:16, 17), as he defended grace against legalism (Gal. 3:11), and as he portrayed "the pilgrim's path through this world from the cross to the glory" (Heb. 10).

Explorer's Idea of Antarctic
Vilhjalmur Stefansson, noted Arctic explorer, believes that the United States is wise to acquire territorial rights in the Antarctic. The vast "down under" continent, he says, may prove to be a valuable source of petroleum, radium and food and in the near future it may become valuable for long-range weather forecasting. "If the land in the Antarctic proves to have the worthlessness which now is ascribed to it, then it will be unique in the history of the world," the explorer said. "Nearly all newly discovered lands have been considered worthless." He said the value of the Antarctic could not be ascertained because no one could look into the future. "Who would have known a hundred years ago that Canada some day would become an important source of radium?" Stefansson asked. "Benjamin Franklin was a wise man, and he was smart enough to make a good-sized fortune. But he knew about petroleum in western Pennsylvania and, despite his wisdom, he could not conceive its commercial value."

Works of the Lord
Oh, that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing.—Psalm 107:21-22.

Pride
The lofty looks of men shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down.—Isaiah 2:11.

Town Without a Mayor
Looking for One in Vain
MEAFORD, ONT.—The town of Meaford has no mayor, and the chances are it will be without one for several months.

No one is interested in taking the job. The difficulty in obtaining a mayor lies in the fact that the new two-year term, or "for the duration of the war" term, which recently was put into effect for all municipalities by Ontario Premier Mitchell Hepburn, has removed likely prospects.

Twins in Triplicate
COLUMBIA, KY.—The stork is ganging up on Dr. B. J. Bolin. The physician has delivered three sets of twins within a week.

Youthful Music Writer
George Garratt, 21, of Mount Lebanon, a suburb of Pittsburgh, has composed 20 unusual selections. He is studying piano, composition and conducting technique. Already played in public concerts in Texas, Detroit, and Chicago, two of Garratt's compositions are being considered for publication by the Composers Press in New York. "Many people ask me if I'm worried when my compositions are played in public without first being published," Garratt said recently. "I'm not, because there is only a slight chance of classical pieces being stolen; there is a much greater chance with popular pieces." The youthful composer's works include "Symphonic Variations," a piano concerto, a suite for two pianos and several short selections.

U. S. Reclamation Projects
British engineers are studying western United States reclamation projects to determine if such projects can be adapted to areas of low rainfall in the Union of South Africa.

Oriental Party
Toshiko Matsumoto was the guest of honor at a kitchen shower given by a group of Livingston, Calif., Japanese girls. The afternoon was spent playing Chinese checkers.

Wool in Automobile Industry
The pelts of three million sheep, producing twenty-five million pounds of wool a year, are now required to meet the wool consumption of the automobile industry.

Hard-Hearted
WORCESTER, MASS.—Elbert M. Crockett, chairman of the county commissioners, vetoed a suggestion that hard benches in the court room should be padded. "Cushions might allow the jurymen to go to sleep," he argued.

Tax Collector Finds
He's Welcome Visitor
AMHERST, N. S.—Constable Charles Haynes, tax collector, declared on his return from a routine tour of lumbering areas that employment conditions have improved so much he actually was welcomed into the homes of his "clients."
In one district he found only two men out of work—and he was able to find jobs for them so they could pay their taxes.

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Traffic Safety Campaign
Is Under Way in South

A new Confederacy is being formed in the South—not to fight and kill in battle, but to end the ever-growing menace of death on the highways.

Hundreds of tourists are killed and other thousands are injured every year through the lack of uniform speed and safety laws and incomplete enforcement of existing regulations.

To curb this toll of motorists, Georgia Safety Commissioner Lon E. Sullivan has sought and found the co-operation of other state law-enforcement officers in a drive on highway fatalities.

The south-wide safety movement is directed especially toward Alabama, Tennessee, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia and Kentucky which catch the bulk of the annual migration to and exodus from southern seasonal resorts.

In Georgia, uniformed patrolmen are stationed throughout the day and night where U. S. highways 1, 17 and 41 enter the state, stopping every tourist car to acquaint the driver with state traffic laws. Each tourist is sent on his way with a booklet on accident prevention.

Another Fish Story
Ruth Bennett and Katherine Bayssee, Dorena, Mo., are two of the proudest little girls in the state. They hooked and landed, unaided, a 79-pound catfish.

'Perfect' Water Supplies
There are more than 70 Texas cities with water supplies that are rated as "perfect" by state water inspectors.

South American Rubber
Experts estimate that the Amazon basin contains 300,000,000 wild rubber trees that never have been tapped.

Merely Crystallized Carbon
The diamond has the simplest chemical structure of all gems, being merely crystallized carbon.

Velocity of Tornado
The wind of a tornado sometimes reaches a velocity of 500 miles an hour.

Labrador's Fishing Industry
Fishing is the principal industry of Labrador.

Government-Owned Islands
All the islands in San Francisco bay are government property.

'It's a Long Trail'
Through National Forests

If a motorist set out this year to travel all of the highways and truck trails in the 160 national forests, it would take more than four months of steady driving, 12 hours a day, at an average of a little better than 40 miles an hour.

Then if he stopped driving and set off to walk the trails which are used by fire fighters, sheepherders, cattlemen, recreationists, and others of the millions of visitors to the national forests each year, it would take a little more than 15 years traveling 20 miles a day, says the forest service, United States department of agriculture.

Even then the visitor would not have seen all of the 273,000 square miles of Uncle Sam's forest lands, although he would have passed some of the 70,000 miles of trout streams and many of the thousands of lakes and would have visited all of the 3,600 developed camping and picnic grounds.

Hotel Convention Business
Conventions send nearly 10,000,000 persons to hotels in the United States each year, and most hotel rooms have about 50 miscellaneous articles for guest use and comfort.

Cleaning the Chimney
Tie a rope to a burlap bag filled with excelsior and branches and weighted with bricks. Pull this contraption up and down the chimney a few times. It will scrape off all the soot. Be sure that you first hang heavy canvas over the fireplace openings, so that dirt does not filter into the rooms.

Sour Cream Substitute
When you need sour cream in a hurry to make something, don't despair. Take ordinary cream and add to it two teaspoonsful of lemon juice. Or you can use evaporated milk, in which case you add a teaspoonful of vinegar to each cup of milk.

Bone Water Filter
A special bone filter which removes fluorine from drinking water and indicates its own saturation by setting off an electric alarm was recently developed by Arizona university. Fluorized drinking water causes unsightly mottled teeth.

Football in Puerto Rico
Although the weather in Puerto Rico is too warm for football, thousands of fans there are interested in a sport they never see. Games in the U. S. are closely followed via radio and newspapers.

Old Ocean-Sailing Craft
Used in Training Sailors

Sailors down Florida way who want to learn the seas as the old salts did still have the opportunity.

On an old sailing craft, a sailor learns the signs of the sun and the stars and how to set his ship for foul weather, things that are almost forgotten in these days of modern seamanship.

With that in mind, the government maintains a picturesque old three-master in the harbor at St. Petersburg for the officers and apprentice seamen selected from the nation's CCC camps for maritime training.

The ship is the old 158-foot Joseph Conrad, built in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1882. It served many years as a Danish training ship but it now belongs to the U. S. Maritime commission, which bought it as a training ship. At first it was stationed at Hoffman's island, New York, but was brought to St. Petersburg when the new training station was established there.

Pacific Coast Rainfall
Pacific coast rainfall ranges from 100 inches a year in northwest Washington to two inches in the California desert.

Indirect Lighting Is Popular

Indirect lighting has become a popular form of illumination and from cellar to attic this type of lighting may be found. It may be used with equal success as a means of lighting the outside of a home. Entrance and front garden will be enhanced with light and the visitor will be able to locate the house with no trouble. A light so situated that it illuminates the walk between house and garage is doubly useful. Illuminated panels at the side of a doorway, or directly over it, will display the house number advantageously. In rainy weather it will prevent the visitor from stumbling in puddles or tripping on the bottom step.

Wild Rice Goes High Hat
Some years back wild rice was primarily the food of the mallard and the Chippewa. Today this wild grain of shallow lakes has gone high hat. It has moved from the wigwam to the stylish restaurants. Once all of it that was used was cooked by squaws. Now chefs with white aprons and caps serve it. Wild rice was once processed by the primitive methods of the Indian. Now making it ready for market is an industry with equipment and capital.

