THE BIBLE SPEAKS

International Uniform Sunday School Lessons

BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

SCRIPTURE: Joshua 1-11.
DEVOTIONAL READING: Deuteronomy 32:9-13.

Living in Victory

Lesson for December 16, 1951

THE story of the conquest of Canaan is of course a story of historical events. By itself, however, it is not so "edifying" as it once was. Joshua repeatedly committed, or attempted to commit, what is now known as "genocide," or the total deliberate slaughter of an entire nation.

Dr. Foreman

So it is better, all around, to take the story of the conquest of Canaan not in its bare historical form but to follow the example of earlier generations of Christians and take it as a kind of parable, a parable of the victorious life.

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Victory Has Many Wounds

BY the victorious life is meant the life that rises above its temptations, living for God against all opposition, the strong life, not overthrown by selfishness and sin but overcoming evil with good.

First of all, as a famous war correspondent said, "Victory has many wounds." Joshua and his armies won; but they had casualties. No victory is ever won without a fight; or to put it another way, no victory without a fight is worth much. Yet we forget this in our personal struggles against sin. We are tempted to think, I could be a better person if I did not have so many temptations. I could be a better person in more sympathetic surroundings. I could be a better Christian if I had had better upbringing. If . . . If . . .

Maybe you are right, more likely you are wrong. Is an oak a better tree if it is raised in a hot-house? Is a race-horse faster if he never has a hard race? We pray for strength and God sends us difficulties. That is God's way of answering our prayer.

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Life-Long Campaign

IN another way Joshua's wars are a type of the war of our best against our worst. He never did quite conquer Palestine. In Judges I the repeated phrase strikes the eye,—"did not drive out . . ." In the very center of Palestine, for example, what we now know as the city of Jerusalem remained a hostile strong-point for centuries after Joshua.

The whole story of the Israelites after Joshua shows how imperfect the conquest was at first, and archaeology has underscored the record of the Bible. Yet it is true to say that there was a real conquest of Canaan. The country was won, though there was a vast deal of mopping-up to be done. This is again a parable. The victorious life is not the same as the sinless life.

The majority of Christians believe there was one sinless life, but only one. We have a right to call a man good (as the Bible does) without meaning that he is perfect. Some people are needlessly discouraged at this point. If we expect the victorious life to be so completely victorious that not a single tinge of evil remains in it anywhere, we shall not only be expecting ourselves to be better than the saints, but we shall be living in disillusionment.

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D-Day and V-Day

THERE is another, brighter side to this. It is true, no present conquest of evil is complete; but final and complete victory is assured. For the "Captain of our salvation" is Christ, and we Christians believe he has actually conquered evil, once and for all.

As Dr. Cullman puts it, D-Day and V-Day are not the same. The battle of the beachheads came long before the surrender. Christ has put the powers of darkness to flight. The Cross and the Resurrection are the Christian's D-Day. There will be much fighting, many casualties, perhaps many backsets, before V-Day, but it will come.

The only assurance Joshua had that his cause would finally win was his confidence in God. So the real guarantee, and the only guarantee, which a Christian has of ultimate and total victory is that he fights in the name and in the strength of Jesus. As Martin Luther's hymn has it,

"Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing."

"Christus Victor," Christ the Conqueror, is an ancient name for our Lord. But his victories are not old finished stories; they still go on—in us.

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WOMAN'S WORLD

Personalize Xmas Decorations For True Spirit of Season

By Ertta Haley

PLAN to enjoy yourself to the fullest this Christmas season! It's easy to get bowed down with shopping and so busy that you just wish it were all over, but you can have fun!

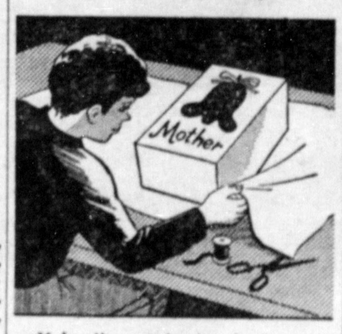
The secret is to plan in advance and never try to do too much, like decorating the house all at once or wrapping all your presents at one time. Do your house decorating bit by bit, and with every decoration thoughtfully and tastefully placed, you'll be saying "Merry Christmas" not only to yourself but to everyone who sees the final result.

As for gift wrapping, you're in for a real treat if you try to be imaginative and creative about the presents. Don't you like to get presents which look as though they were wrapped for you alone? Other people do, too!

You'll find real pleasure in giving if you make a special effort not only in choosing carefully, but in wrapping with distinction. Plan to do two or three presents at a time, and your wrapping will be ever so much nicer, as well as so much loveliер.

Those who do a lot of gift wrapping will find that it's advisable to save all sorts of cards, bits of ribbon, cards, tinsel, broken tree fragments and paper doilies. Most delightful packages can be concocted from them. Scissors, rubber cement, cellophane tape, ends of wallpaper rolls, pins and new ribbons and papers should go into this carton so everything will be handy.

Set aside a table to use for gift wrapping as you'll need space for



Make gift-wrapping imaginative . . .

wrapping. The box can rest underneath the table as you work. Everything that is ready for wrapping should be assembled so that you need not stop once you start, and, of course, while you're inspired.

Here are Suggestions For Personalizing Gifts

Are you giving some feminine hankies or a bit of lingerie? You don't need a box if you will wrap the gift between a sheet of white tissue paper and enclose it in a wrapper made of two paper lace doilies held together by red ribbon laced through "holes" in the paper and tied in a bow. On top you might place a large sticker of Santa Claus, or one cut from an old greeting card pasted with cement.

For musical friends, you might wrap a present in plain paper and then paste a carol from an old card on top. If desired, you can paste ribbon cut appropriately for a staff, cleff and notes on top of the box.

If you know someone with a favorite flower, you might be able to cut these out of odd bits of wallpaper and paste on a box wrapped in plain white paper. A spray run through the middle, and ribbon ties on either side are effective.

Any child is fond of Santa Claus pictures. After wrapping a gift in plain red and white paper, half and half, make small bows and paste these on the package with Santa stickers.

Names placed on packages as a decoration are made in several different ways. You can buy indi-

and decorate the home tastefully.

vidual letters, of course, but you can use large size print for cutting them out of the desired paper. Simply cement these on the package.

Names can be cut from red cellophane ribbon, too. Then use cement on the back to put them on the packages.

You can also print names with a glue brush, then sprinkle it generously with mica snow. Let the "snow" dry on the glue, then blow off excess.

Make Your Own Paper For Wrapping Gifts

When you're feeling creative, you can make your own gift wrapping paper with excellent results. One of the simplest ways to do this is to use plain white tissue paper. You'll also need ruler and colored wax crayons.

Spread the paper out and make stripes, plaids or checks, and other designs, too, in whatever colors you want. Some lines should be light and others dark for really beautiful effects.

Then, too, you might like to make starch paper for gift wrapping. For this you'll need white or light colored wrapping paper. Cut it in a size, like 18x24 inches, for ease in making. Make a batch of clear, thin cooked starch free from lumps and divide into several different bowls. Color each with food coloring.

Use a brush or a sponge and spread the starch thinly over the paper. Then using fingers or a stick make designs with a free hand, clouds, trees, waves or whatever is desired. You might also like to write messages with the colored starch.

Let the starch dry and then press on the wrong side with a warm iron, and you're ready to use the paper for wrapping.

Decorate Your Home With Greeting Cards

Just what do you do with your greeting cards? Pile them away somewhere after opening? Or, do you display them so that friends can actually see they were received and are being put to a decorative use?

For a holly wreath on which cards can be displayed, take a two foot square mat board and cut it into a big "doughnut" shape. Paint green with poster paint. Now you'll need two yards of pale pink or green tarlatan, sprigs of holly, sequins, green and gold ribbon and cards. Cut tarlatan or other stiff net material into holly leaf shapes and fit them to the board, starting at the inner edge of the circle and leaving no bare places.

Wire or tack holly sprigs to the outer rim overlapped by tarlatan leaves. Attach cards, as they arrive, with paste or pins. Sprinkle tarlatan leaves with sequins and finish off the wreath with a big bow tied with two yards of colored ribbon.

Should there be available space above your mantel or on any other wall in the living room or entrance hall, use it for a gay Christmas tapestry.

For a tapestry you'll need two yards of 50-inch oilcloth in red or green, a jar each of black and white poster paint and a brush. Spread the cloth on the floor, sketch in a design for a sleigh and poodle with pencil, then paint over it. If desired, scroll in a border all around the cloth.

Attach a few Christmas baubles over the poodle's collar with adhesive. When dry, tuck or tape to the wall. Fill the sleigh with cards by taping, pasting or pinning them to the cloth.

Let Your Home Sparkle, Glitter

You can add glitter to your fireplace by making two large cardboard stars and covering with metallic green or red paper. Mount cards on these as they arrive.

If you have shadow boxes or hanging shelves in the room, remove the decorations temporarily and use them for Christmas figures or candles molded into figures. The whole shelf or shadow box can then be wrapped in glistening cellophane for hanging.

If you have plain drapes or cornices, display your cards on these, or hang Christmas balls on them for specially festive appearance.

You may even want shiny stars on the ceiling of the living room. These can be cut from metallic paper and suspended with string, attached to the ceiling with cellophane tape. The slightest movement of air makes them sway and glitter.

Festive Card Wreath

Dramatize your front door with this colorfully different holly wreath to which you can attach Christmas cards. Stiff net or tarlatan in pale pink or green is cut into holly leaf shapes and mounted on a board. Holly leaves, sequins, ribbon and cards complete this gay decoration.

Signs of Christmas

THE 1951 CHRISTMAS CARDS HAVE A SURPRISE TUCKED INTO EVERY DESIGN. MANY OF THE ILLUSTRATIONS RECALL LEGENDS AND CUSTOMS THAT ARE CENTURIES-OLD

TODAY, HOLLY WREATHS SYMBOLIZE GOOD CHEER AND A WARM WELCOME. BUT IN MEDIEVAL EUROPE, HOLLY PICKED ON CHRISTMAS DAY WAS USED TO SCARE OFF WITCHES AND EVIL SPIRITS

CHRISTMAS CAROLS FIRST BECAME POPULAR IN MERRIE ENGLAND, WANDERING BANDS OF MINSTRELS SANG THEM TO HUSHED AUDIENCES AS EARLY AS THE 15TH CENTURY

EARLY DUTCH SETTLERS BROUGHT THE LEGEND OF "SANTA NIKALAUS", HIS MIRACLES AND KINDNESS, TO AMERICA. HOWEVER, THEY PICTURED SANTA AS TALL, THIN, AND RIDING A BEAUTIFUL WHITE HORSE

GIFT-GIVING AT CHRISTMAS BEGAN WHEN THE THREE WISE MEN BROUGHT PRESENTS OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH TO THE INFANT JESUS

MARTIN LUTHER BROUGHT THE FIRST CHRISTMAS TREE INDOORS SOME 400 YEARS AGO. A GIFT TO ALL THE WORLD, LUTHER DECORATED HIS TREE WITH GLITTERING CANDLES.... SYMBOLS OF THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM

AN ANCIENT LEGEND SAYS THAT WHEN CHRIST WAS BORN, THE DEVIL DIED.... WHILE ALL THE BELLS ON EARTH RANG IN CELEBRATION, AS THEY WILL AGAIN ON CHRISTMAS MORN

Christmas cards first appeared in America in 1875.... migrating here from Victorian England. Since then their sparkling designs, and cheerful verses, have become the First Sign of Christmas in homes everywhere.

Entire Family Helps With Preparations For the Holiday

Why not make this a real Christmas by having the entire family help in preparing for the great holiday? Follow the suggestions below and you may be amazed at the family solidarity shown around the Yuletide feast table.

First of all, getting the tree. This is an assignment that should fall to the younger members of the family. Going to the woods is the American tradition, and there is a special thrill in bringing in a tree of one's choice. City dwellers, however, have to buy their tree, so be sure to let the youngsters be able to say, "We chose the tree."

Decorating the home is a project that will offer jobs and fun for all. Arrange a nativity scene, decorate the doorways and windows, and, if there are any sick members of the family, decorate a small tree for the bedside. But, work together.

Then, have a party, complete with games, dancing, caroling, refreshments and the exchanging of presents. The exchange of gifts should be well planned, so that no member of the family is slighted. Drawing names from a hat is an old custom in many large families. Strive also to add some extra entertainment. If a member of the clan can sing well, or dance, a solo performance should be a highlight.

Finally, after the party is well under way, call everything to a halt and give each member of the family a pencil and piece of paper, asking them to write in 25 or less words, "What Christmas Means to Me." You may be surprised at the answers turned in by some. Faith and sincerity may be found where you least expect it.

Old toys, adorned with a fresh coating of paint might make a wonderful gift for the very young.

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You can make an attractive apron gift that would be appreciated by a young housekeeper from a feed or flour sack.

Just how old is Santa Claus? That is a question that parents are called upon to answer often and it is one that is extremely hard to answer. Like everything else related to Christmas tradition, there is a wide difference of opinion.

The idea of Santa goes back to Europe, hundreds of years ago. Santa came to life from legends that followed the great St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra. He adopted different forms as suited to the different countries, but was mostly pictured as a thin, austere man with a long white beard.

The age of Santa, as American children know him, can be almost definitely ascertained. The plump, smiling and jolly fellow is 88 years old this Christmas.

Thomas Nast, an American cartoonist, drew the now familiar form of Santa in 1863 to illustrate a book of Christmas poems by J. M. Gregory. For the first time in his unknown life span, Santa appeared to have a full stomach under his red suit and a jolly smile on his face. It might well be said that his American life began in that year.

Early Puritans Frowned On Christmas Festivities

The early Puritans looked with disfavor upon the celebration of Christmas, preferring instead their own adopted celebration of Thanksgiving.

It was thus that in the year 1659 the general court of Massachusetts made a decree that would have startling effect in America today.

It read: "Anybody who is found observing, by abstinence from labor, feasting or any other way such day as Christmas Day for each and every offense shall be fined five shillings."

A CHILD IS BORN
Sing forth the honor of his name

THE OLD AND THE NEW

Visitor Finds Two Worlds in Jerusalem

Palestinian merchants still create a scene reminiscent of the three wise men as they carry their wares along the desert sands bordering the blue Mediterranean near ancient Tel Aviv. Their camels, laden with wares, remind one of the gifts the Magi brought to the scene of the Nativity.

Today, the visitor finds two Jerusalems. One is the modern city with street cars, hotels and automobiles; the other the old walled city with narrow streets passing through many graceful archways and mounting from one level to another by well-worn steps. Donkeys and camels are the only means of transportation, and the section is little changed since the time Christ lived there. Life is much the same.

Tailored Suit-Dress Is a Year Round Hit

FOR general wear the year around, nothing tops the good looking tailored suit-dress. This one has a choice of sleeves and comes in a wide size range.

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Pattern No. 8627 is a sew-rite perforated pattern for sizes 12, 14, 16, 18, 20; 40, 42. Size 14, short sleeves, 4⅛ yards of 45-inch.

SEWING CIRCLE PATTERN DEPT.
367 West Adams St., Chicago 6, Ill.
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YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU DID!

You'll be glad you took this piece of advice. This Christmas give the cigarette-smokers on your list cartons of Camels . . . and the pipe-smokers and "roll-your-owners" Prince Albert Smoking Tobacco. You'll be glad for two reasons: first, they're gifts that are sure to please—they're by far the most popular cigarette and smoking tobacco in America. Second, they're gifts that are so easy to give. Camels come in bright and cheery Christmas cartons this time of year, all ready to give. There's a space right on the top where you just fill in your personal greeting. The big one-pound tin of Prince Albert ("The National Joy Smoke") comes in a festive Christmas box and it, too, is all ready for Christmas giving, with a built-in Christmas card. Don't put it off. Go right to your dealer today while he still has plenty of these time-saving, money-saving gifts . . . mild, flavorful Camels, by far America's most popular cigarette . . . and Prince Albert, America's largest-selling smoking tobacco. "The bite's out and the pleasure's in!" —Adv.

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