

CHAPTER 15

THEN said the LORD unto me, Though Moses and Samuel stood before me, *yet* my mind *could* not *be* toward this people: cast *them* out of my sight, and let them go forth.

2 And it shall come to pass, if they say unto thee, Whither shall we go forth? then thou shalt tell them, Thus saith the LORD; Such as *are* for death, to death; and such as *are* for the sword, to the sword; and such as *are* for the famine, to the famine; and such as *are* for the captivity, to the captivity.

3 And I will appoint over them four kinds, saith the LORD: the sword to slay, and the dogs to tear, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the earth, to devour and destroy.

4 And I will cause them to be removed into all kingdoms of the earth, because of Manasseh the son of Hezekiah king of Judah, for *that* which he did in Jerusalem.

5 For who shall have pity upon thee, O Jerusalem? or who shall

bemoan thee? or who shall go aside to ask how thou doest?

6 Thou hast forsaken me, saith the LORD, thou art gone backward: therefore will I stretch out my hand against thee, and destroy thee; I am weary with repenting.

7 And I will fan them with a fan in the gates of the land; I will bereave *them* of children, I will destroy my people, *since* they return not from their ways.

8 Their widows are increased to me above the sand of the seas: I have brought upon them against the mother of the young men a spoiler at noonday: I have caused *him* to fall upon it suddenly, and terrors upon the city.

9 She that hath borne seven languisheth: she hath given up the ghost; her sun is gone down while *it was* yet day: she hath been ashamed and confounded: and the residue of them will I deliver to the sword before their enemies, saith the LORD.

10 ¶ Woe is me, my mother, that thou hast borne me a man of strife

and a man of contention to the whole earth! I have neither lent on usury, nor men have lent to me on usury; *yet* every one of them doth curse me.

11 The LORD said, Verily it shall be well with thy remnant; verily I will cause the enemy to entreat thee *well* in the time of evil and in the time of affliction.

12 Shall iron break the northern iron and the steel?

13 Thy substance and thy treasures will I give to the spoil without price, and *that* for all thy sins, even in all thy borders.

14 And I will make *thee* to pass with thine enemies into a land *which* thou knowest not: for a fire is kindled in mine anger, *which* shall burn upon you.

15 ¶ O LORD, thou knowest: remember me, and visit me, and revenge me of my persecutors; take me not away in thy longsuffering: know that for thy sake I have suffered rebuke.

16 Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

17 I sat not in the assembly of the mockers, nor rejoiced; I sat

alone because of thy hand: for thou hast filled me with indignation.

18 Why is my pain perpetual, and my wound incurable, *which* refuseth to be healed? wilt thou be altogether unto me as a liar, *and as* waters *that* fail?

19 ¶ Therefore thus saith the LORD, If thou return, then will I bring thee again, *and* thou shalt stand before me: and if thou take forth the precious from the vile, thou shalt be as my mouth: let them return unto thee; but return not thou unto them.

20 And I will make thee unto this people a fenced brasen wall: and they shall fight against thee, but they shall not prevail against thee: for I *am* with thee to save thee and to deliver thee, saith the LORD.

21 And I will deliver thee out of the hand of the wicked, and I will redeem thee out of the hand of the terrible.

CHAPTER 16

THE word of the LORD came also unto me, saying,

2 Thou shalt not take thee a wife, neither shalt thou have sons or daughters in this place.

3 For thus saith the LORD concerning the sons and concerning

the daughters that are born in this place, and concerning their mothers that bare them, and concerning their fathers that begat them in this land;

4 They shall die of grievous deaths; they shall not be lamented; neither shall they be buried; *but* they shall be as dung upon the face of the earth: and they shall be consumed by the sword, and by famine; and their carcasses shall be meat for the fowls of heaven, and for the beasts of the earth.

5 For thus saith the LORD, Enter not into the house of mourning, neither go to lament nor bemoan them: for I have taken away my peace from this people, saith the LORD, *even* lovingkindness and mercies.

6 Both the great and the small shall die in this land: they shall not be buried, neither shall *men* lament for them, nor cut themselves, nor make themselves bald for them:

7 Neither shall *men* tear *themselves* for them in mourning, to comfort them for the dead; neither shall *men* give them the cup of consolation to drink for their father or for their mother.

8 Thou shalt not also go into the

house of feasting, to sit with them to eat and to drink.

9 For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will cause to cease out of this place in your eyes, and in your days, the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride.

10 ¶ And it shall come to pass, when thou shalt shew this people all these words, and they shall say unto thee, Wherefore hath the LORD pronounced all this great evil against us? or what *is* our iniquity? or what *is* our sin that we have committed against the LORD our God?

11 Then shalt thou say unto them, Because your fathers have forsaken me, saith the LORD, and have walked after other gods, and have served them, and have worshipped them, and have forsaken me, and have not kept my law;

12 And ye have done worse than your fathers; for, behold, ye walk every one after the imagination of his evil heart, that they may not hearken unto me:

13 Therefore will I cast you out of this land into a land that ye know not, *neither* ye nor your fathers; and there shall ye serve

other gods day and night; where I will not shew you favour.

14 ¶ Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that it shall no more be said, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt;

15 But, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he had driven them: and I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers.

16 ¶ Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith the LORD, and they shall fish them; and after will I send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks.

17 For mine eyes *are* upon all their ways: they are not hid from my face, neither is their iniquity hid from mine eyes.

18 And first I will recompense their iniquity and their sin double; because they have defiled my land, they have filled mine inheritance with the carcases of their detestable and abominable things.

19 O LORD, my strength, and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction, the Gentiles shall

come unto thee from the ends of the earth, and shall say, Surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and *things* wherein *there is* no profit.

20 Shall a man make gods unto himself, and they *are* no gods?

21 Therefore, behold, I will this once cause them to know, I will cause them to know mine hand and my might; and they shall know that my name *is* The LORD.

CHAPTER 17

THE sin of Judah *is* written with a pen of iron, *and* with the point of a diamond: *it is* graven upon the table of their heart, and upon the horns of your altars;

2 Whilst their children remember their altars and their groves by the green trees upon the high hills.

3 O my mountain in the field, I will give thy substance *and* all thy treasures to the spoil, *and* thy high places for sin, throughout all thy borders.

4 And thou, even thyself, shalt discontinue from thine heritage that I gave thee; and I will cause thee to serve thine enemies in the land which thou knowest not: for ye have kindled a fire in mine anger, *which* shall burn for ever.

5 ¶ Thus saith the LORD; Cursed

be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.

6 For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, *in* a salt land and not inhabited.

7 Blessed *is* the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.

8 For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and *that* spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

9 ¶ The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

10 I the LORD search the heart, *I* try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, *and* according to the fruit of his doings.

11 As the partridge sitteth *on* eggs, and hatcheth *them* not; so he that getteth riches, and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool.

12 ¶ A glorious high throne from the beginning *is* the place of our sanctuary.

13 O LORD, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, *and* they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters.

14 Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou *art* my praise.

15 ¶ Behold, they say unto me, Where *is* the word of the LORD? let it come now.

16 As for me, I have not hastened from *being* a pastor to follow thee: neither have I desired the woeful day; thou knowest: that which came out of my lips was *right* before thee.

17 Be not a terror unto me: thou *art* my hope in the day of evil.

18 Let them be confounded that persecute me, but let not me be confounded: let them be dismayed, but let not me be dismayed: bring upon them the day of evil, and destroy them with double destruction.

19 ¶ Thus said the LORD unto me; Go and stand in the gate of the children of the people, whereby the kings of Judah come in, and by the

which they go out, and in all the gates of Jerusalem;

20 And say unto them, Hear ye the word of the LORD, ye kings of Judah, and all Judah, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, that enter in by these gates:

21 Thus saith the LORD; Take heed to yourselves, and bear no burden on the sabbath day, nor bring *it* in by the gates of Jerusalem;

22 Neither carry forth a burden out of your houses on the sabbath day, neither do ye any work, but hallow ye the sabbath day, as I commanded your fathers.

23 But they obeyed not, neither inclined their ear, but made their neck stiff, that they might not hear, nor receive instruction.

24 And it shall come to pass, if ye diligently hearken unto me, saith the LORD, to bring in no burden through the gates of this city on the sabbath day, but hallow the sabbath day, to do no work therein;

25 Then shall there enter into the gates of this city kings and princes sitting upon the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, they, and their princes, the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: and this city shall remain for ever.

26 And they shall come from the cities of Judah, and from the places about Jerusalem, and from the land of Benjamin, and from the plain, and from the mountains, and from the south, bringing burnt offerings, and sacrifices, and meat offerings, and incense, and bringing sacrifices of praise, unto the house of the LORD.

27 But if ye will not hearken unto me to hallow the sabbath day, and not to bear a burden, even entering in at the gates of Jerusalem on the sabbath day; then will I kindle a fire in the gates thereof, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it shall not be quenched.

CHAPTER 18

THE word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,

2 Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words.

3 Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels.

4 And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make *it*.

5 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

6 O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD. Behold, as the clay *is* in the potter's hand, so *are* ye in mine hand, O house of Israel.

7 *At what* instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, and to pull down, and to destroy *it*;

8 If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them.

9 And *at what* instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant *it*;

10 If it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them.

11 ¶ Now therefore go to, speak to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I frame evil against you, and devise a device against you: return ye now every one from his evil way, and make your ways and your doings good.

12 And they said, There is no hope: but we will walk after our own devices, and we will every one do the imagination of his evil heart.

13 Therefore thus saith the LORD; Ask ye now among the heathen, who hath heard such things: the virgin of Israel hath done a very horrible thing.

14 Will *a man* leave the snow of Lebanon *which cometh* from the rock of the field? *or* shall the cold flowing waters that come from another place be forsaken?

15 Because my people hath forgotten me, they have burned incense to vanity, and they have caused them to stumble in their ways *from* the ancient paths, to walk in paths, *in* a way not cast up;

16 To make their land desolate, *and* a perpetual hissing; every one that passeth thereby shall be astonished, and wag his head.

17 I will scatter them as with an east wind before the enemy; I will shew them the back, and not the face, in the day of their calamity.

18 ¶ Then said they, Come, and let us devise devices against Jeremiah; for the law shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet. Come, and let us smite him with the tongue, and let us not give heed to any of his words.

19 Give heed to me, O LORD, and

hearken to the voice of them that contend with me.

20 Shall evil be recompensed for good? for they have digged a pit for my soul. Remember that I stood before thee to speak good for them, *and* to turn away thy wrath from them.

21 Therefore deliver up their children to the famine, and pour out their *blood* by the force of the sword; and let their wives be bereaved of their children, and *be* widows; and let their men be put to

death; *let* their young men *be* slain by the sword in battle.

22 Let a cry be heard from their houses, when thou shalt bring a troop suddenly upon them: for they have digged a pit to take me, and hid snares for my feet.

23 Yet, LORD, thou knowest all their counsel against me to slay *me*: forgive not their iniquity, neither blot out their sin from thy sight, but let them be overthrown before thee; deal *thus* with them in the time of thine anger.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

In chapter 15:1-22, the Lord's answer came to Jeremiah. Intercession was rejected and the nation's fate was sealed. The prophet's grief was followed by the Lord's reply (verses 10-21). The nation of Israel should have remembered II Chronicles 7:14, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." But they did not heed God's call—they did not repent—they did not turn from their wicked ways, in spite of the faithfulness of the weeping prophet, Jeremiah.

In chapter 18 the prophet visits the potter's house and watches him mold the clay. This is a picture of God's grace. As we read of the potter and the clay, we can see a picture of our lives and our relationship to God. Each object has a meaning. God is the Potter, and our lives are in His hands. We are not controlled by some invisible force or by blind fate. We are in the hands of a Person, Almighty God. He is not just our Creator. He is our Father if we have, by faith, accepted His Son. He has a personal concern for our lives. He is the power that molds us. Clay cannot mold itself; neither does man have the power to mold his own life. He makes it very clear that He is sovereign over all men (verses 6-10). Of course, this does not mean that God is to blame for the sins of man or failures of nations, but it does mean that He is all-power-

ful and Almighty, and He desires the free will that He has given us to be used for Him rather than for serving the devil.

Another way that God is like the potter is that He has a perfect plan for our lives. He, like the potter, sees the finished product in His mind. We cannot see God's plan for us, but He promises that if we will trust Him and turn our lives over to Him, the final outcome of our lives will be wonderful.

The patience of the potter can be easily compared to the patience God uses to direct our lives. Often He uses the hands of others to help shape us—parents, teachers, fellow Christians, and even those who persecute us. It takes time to make a worthwhile product, and God is patient as He deals with us. Of course, in Jeremiah's message the clay represents the nation of Israel, but we are not wrong in applying it to our lives today. Christians are God's vessels, molded by Him to contain the treasures of the Gospel and to give forth that Gospel. Clay is a mixture of dust and water. We are of the dust (Psalm 103:14), but the water of the Spirit of God has given us life through faith in Jesus Christ. Clay is of no value in itself, but it can become something great if molded by the right hands, for the right purpose. We are worthless to God unless we allow Him to mold our lives into what He has for us to do.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he

that hateth reproof is brutish” (Proverbs 12:1).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

Spend this month reviewing the previous 13 lessons. For today, review Memory Verse Assignment 14 (found on page 11).

BIRTHDAYS TODAY

**FELICIA HURD
ZSA ZSA SCOTT**

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1769

NAPOLEON BONAPARTE WAS BORN.

1771

THE BIRTHDAY OF SIR WALTER SCOTT.

Sir Walter Scott lay dying. They asked him if they could grant him any requests. He said, “Bring me the Book.”

When someone asked him what book he had in mind, he answered, “There really is only one Book.”

There is only one Book inspired by God, only one Book that is infallible, only one Book that is the final authority, only one Book that is the source of all other good books, and only one Book that is the rule by which all other books may be based.

And I don’t mean different *versions* or *translations* of the Book—I mean the Book! The *Authorized* 1611 King James Holy Bible! Make no mistake—when you read the AV 1611, you are reading the very inspired, inerrant, holy Word of God!

In my devotions recently I learned another verse in the Bible. This one was Psalm 119:11, “*Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee.*” Oh, we ought to know, love, read, memorize, and meditate upon the Bible.

1914

THE PANAMA CANAL WAS OPENED.

1935

WILL ROGERS WAS KILLED IN AN AIR CRASH IN ALASKA.

Will Rogers, in my opinion, was one of the great men in our history. It would do one well to read his life and writings. Especially would this be true for young people.

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1824

FREED AMERICAN SLAVES ESTABLISHED COUNTRY OF LIBERIA, on the West coast of Africa.

1843

NATIONAL BLACK CONVENTION MET AT BUFFALO, NEW YORK, with some seventy delegates from twelve states. The highlight of the convention was a stirring address by Henry Highland Garnet, a twenty-seven-year-old-Presbyterian pastor who called for a slave revolt and a general slave strike. Amos G. Beman of New Haven, Conn., was elected president of the convention.

1931

ROY WILKINS JOINED NAACP AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

SPINGARN MEDAL AWARDED TO RICHARD B. HARRISON for his portrayal of the “Lawd” in *The Green Pastures*.

1962

SHADY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH WAS BURNED in Leesburg, Georgia.

1964

RACE RIOT, DIXMOOR, A CHICAGO SUBURB. (8/15-16).

1975

JOANNE LITTLE ACQUITTED OF MURDER CHARGES in the August 27, 1974, killing of a white jailer. The defense said she stabbed the jailer with an ice pick after he made sexual advances.

1979

ANDREW YOUNG RESIGNED UNDER PRESSURE AS U.N. AMBASSADOR after unauthorized meeting with representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Resignation created a storm of controversy and divided the black and Jewish communities.

A Christian Life . . .

STEPHEN PAXSON (1837-1881)

Stephen Paxson was born with a speech impediment and later nicknamed “Stuttering Stephen.” He also was crippled and was lame for life. Paxson was a hatter by trade, but also was the favorite fiddler for Saturday night dances. His daughter, Mary, begged her father to attend church and help her win a prize. He was pressed into service and taught a class of boys. They read the Scripture, and he asked questions out of a book. After accepting Christ, Paxson showed sincerity in voluntary service. He became a missionary of the American Sunday School Union.

Paxson often returned east to raise money for libraries to establish Sunday Schools. The sophisticated audiences wept and laughed alternately, never heeding his grammatical mistakes. They gave liberally. They became a part of founding Sunday Schools in log cabins, tobacco barns, taverns, and dance halls.

The Mississippi Valley Enterprise was one of the most successful in the annals of Sunday School. In 1824 there were 2,000,000 inhabitants unreached with the Gospel. In a 1,300,000-square-mile area, led by Stephen Paxson and other hard working missionaries, the American Sunday School Union established over 61,297 Sunday Schools with 407,244 teachers and enrolled 2,650,784 pupils in 50 years. The area grew to 4,000,000 people.

Stephen Paxson was finally retired to the St. Louis office and died in 1881. He founded 1,314 new Sunday Schools, with 83,000 students.



The Treasure Path to Soul Winning

DIFFICULT PROBLEMS SOLVED: "I AM TOO GREAT A SINNER"

(Assignment 14)

Review these verses today.

() Isaiah 1:18

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

() 1 Timothy 1:15

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

() Romans 5:6

For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

() Romans 5:7

For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

() Romans 5:8

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.