

Mr J. Winfield

SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

INTERNATIONAL

Bible Reading Association.

HINTS ON DAILY READINGS.

AUGUST, 1899.

TUES., Aug. 1.—Ezek. 36, 31-38.—*The new heart.* A changed life; obedience to God's leadings; hatred of former sins—these are proofs that the new heart has been given.

WED., Aug. 2.—Ezek. 11, 14-21.—*The gift of God.* The new heart must be the gift of God. We must be born again—born from above. No other change goes deep enough.

THURS., Aug. 3.—Jer. 31, 31-34.—*The new covenant.* These promises are completely fulfilled in Christ Jesus. See Hebrews 8, 7-13; 12, 24. Are we in this new covenant which Jesus sealed with His blood?

FRI., Aug. 4.—Jer. 32, 36-44.—*A God-fearing heart.* "A heart in every thought renewed, and full of love Divine." Is it mine?

SAT., Aug. 5.—Jer. 24, 1-7.—*Whole-hearted return.* Turning over a new leaf; making good resolutions; conforming to what is right—these are not enough. We must seek and obey *with our whole heart.*

SUN., Aug. 6.—Titus 3, 1-8.—*Regeneration.* Ponder prayerfully verses 4-7. Lord, give me Thy Holy Spirit, that believing in Jesus, who died for me, I may know that I have eternal life.

Golden Text.—"A new heart also will I give you." (Ezek. 36, 26.)

MON., Aug. 7.—Ezek. 37, 1-14.—Ezekiel's vision. This strange vision was a picture parable showing, first, what God by His Spirit would do for His people in captivity: and, secondly, how by the same Spirit He gives life to those who are dead in trespasses and sins.

TUES., Aug. 8.—Ezek. 37, 20-28.—*Promise of restoration.* It is long since the Jews went back to Palestine, and left it again, and this prophecy has not had its best fulfilment yet. Compare verse 24 with John 10, 16, and verse 27 with Rev. 7, 15.

WED., Aug. 9.—Ezek. 22, 23-31.—*All have sinned.* The troubles of the Jews were the fruit of their own way (verse 31), and it is still true that the wages of sin is death.

THURS., Aug. 10.—Isa. 1, 1-9.—*Dead in sin.* Worse than all the calamities that befell sinful Judah is the lot of the soul that sins against light; to be dead in sin is to be dead to God, to light, to heaven.

FRI., Aug. 11.—Deut. 8, 11-20.—*Warning.* The Jews were warned; they did not sin in ignorance. It is easy to blame them, but why do *we* not follow the good we know?

SAT., Aug. 12.—Rom. 8, 1-11.—*Quickened by the Spirit.* "No reformation will suffice: 'tis life poor sinners need"—Divine life, eternal life, that is received by faith through the Spirit.

SUN., Aug. 13.—Ephes. 2, 1-10.—*From death to life.* This is the greatest change in the world: have I experienced it? Dead in sin, or dead to sin: which is my case?

Golden Text.—"*I will put My Spirit within you.*" (Ezek. 36, 27.)

MON., Aug. 14.—Ezek. 47, 1-12.—*The River of Salvation.* Jerusalem had no river, as most great cities have, and in his dream of the glorious future Ezekiel saw its great need supplied—a picture of "the great wave of the grace of God."

TUES., Aug. 15.—Isa. 35.—*Streams in the*

desert. As God gave the Israelites water in the wilderness, so now He gives heart-satisfaction to His people, and a life that is manifested in holiness in the midst of the sinful world.

WED., Aug. 16.—2 Kings 3, 9-20.—*A miraculous supply.* Notice verse 17. We may not see or hear or feel anything strange or wonderful, yet believing God's true word we may take the living water into our hearts.

THURS., Aug. 17.—Zech. 14, 4-11.—*Living waters.* This recalls another prophecy—the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord. Rivers make the earth fruitful: God's grace makes men's lives blessed.

FRI., Aug. 18.—Psalm 65.—*The River of God.* See Rev. 22, 1, for the reason why this river never fails, as earthly rivers do, but is infinite, inexhaustible.

SAT., Aug. 19.—Rev. 21, 1-7.—*A free gift.* The best things of this world cost much: the great gift of God "may be had for the asking." *Thirst: take*—these are the only conditions.

SUN., Aug. 20.—Rev. 22, 1-7.—*Water of life.* Water—pure, fresh, abundant, fertilising, satisfying, life-giving—this is the symbol of God's salvation. "Whosoever means you: does who-soever will mean you?"

Golden Text.—"Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." (Rev. 22, 17.)

MON., Aug. 21.—Ezra 1.—*Returning from Captivity.* This story of fulfilled prophecy may teach us to look for God in history. He is working in and through all the events of life.

TUES., Aug. 22.—Ezra 2, 1, and 64-70.—*Returning captives.* What a joyous company was this, though it was setting out on a long and weary journey—some 700 miles, partly through the desert.

WED., Aug. 23.—Jer. 29, 10-14.—*The word of Jeremiah.* How impossible it seemed, when the prophet spoke it! But every word of God is sure, and His promises are always fulfilled.

THURS., Aug. 24.—Isa. 44, 21-28.—*Prophecy of return.* Perhaps Cyrus read this prophecy, and so was moved to fulfil it. Let me remember that God knows my name and appoints my lot.

FRI., Aug. 25.—Isa. 61.—*Proclamation of liberty.* Cyrus could set a nation free: Christ came to deliver the world from sin.

SAT., Aug. 26.—Isa. 51, 9-16.—*Joy of redemption.* The returning exiles had great joy, but it was touched with pain. *Everlasting joy* must have a heavenly source.

SUN., Aug. 27.—Psalm 107, 1-15.—*Praise for deliverance.* From bondage to liberty: from exile to home—that change was great cause for praise. From what has God delivered me, and why should I praise him to-day?

Golden Text.—“*The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.*” (Psalm 126, 3.)

MON., Aug. 28.—Ezra 3, 1-7.—*Daily offerings.* The first care of the returned exiles was to restore the daily sacrifices. No such sacrifices are needed now, but every day I may bring offerings of praise and prayer.

TUES., Aug. 29.—Ezra 3, 8-13.—*Rebuilding the Temple.* First, the will to worship, and then the rebuilding of the Temple. It is those who pray privately every day who most love the services of God's house.

WED., Aug. 30.—Ezra 4, 1-6.—*Rebuilding the Temple.* Probably the request in verse 2 was refused because those who made it were half idolaters, and verse 4 proves that the refusal was wise. Those who work for God must be pure in life and purpose.

THURS., Aug. 31.—Ezra 4, 11-24.—*Enemies prevail.* For a time—a time of testing for the faith and courage of the Jews. But the right side is always the winning side at last.

S.