

# GOD'S PROMISES TO THE PENITENT

**BIBLE TEXT** : Deuteronomy 30:1-20

LESSON 140 Senior Course

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the LORD God: and not that he should return from his ways, and live?" (Ezekiel 18:23).

## **BIBLE TEXT in King James Version**

### **Deuteronomy 30:1-20**

<sup>1</sup> And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call *them* to mind among all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath driven thee,

<sup>2</sup> And shalt return unto the LORD thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul;

<sup>3</sup> That then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee.

<sup>4</sup> If *any* of thine be driven out unto the outmost *parts* of heaven, from thence will the LORD thy God gather thee, and from thence will he fetch thee:

<sup>5</sup> And the LORD thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed, and thou shalt possess it; and he will do thee good, and multiply thee above thy fathers.

<sup>6</sup> And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.

<sup>7</sup> And the LORD thy God will put all these curses upon thine enemies, and on them that hate thee, which persecuted thee.

<sup>8</sup> And thou shalt return and obey the voice of the LORD, and do all

## **BIBLE REFERENCES:**

### **I Great Mercies to the Penitent**

1 The Lord promised to turn the captivity of the Israelites when they repented and returned to God, Deuteronomy 30:1-3;

#### **1 Kings 8:46-52**

<sup>46</sup> If they sin against thee, (for *there is* no man that sinneth not,) and thou be angry with them, and deliver them to the enemy, so that they carry them away captives unto the land of the enemy, far or near;

<sup>47</sup> Yet if they shall bethink themselves in the land whither they were carried captives, and repent, and make supplication unto thee in the land of them that carried them captives, saying, We have sinned, and have done perversely, we have committed wickedness; <sup>48</sup> And so return unto thee with all their heart, and with all their soul, in the land of their enemies, which led them away captive, and pray unto thee toward their land, which thou gavest unto their fathers, the city which thou hast chosen, and the house which I have built for thy name:

<sup>49</sup> Then hear thou their prayer and their supplication in heaven thy dwelling place, and maintain their cause,

<sup>50</sup> And forgive thy people that have sinned against thee, and all their transgressions wherein they have transgressed against thee, and give them compassion before them who carried them captive, that they may have compassion on them:

<sup>51</sup> For they *be* thy people, and thine inheritance, which thou broughtest forth out of Egypt, from the midst of the furnace of iron:

<sup>52</sup> That thine eyes may be open unto the supplication of thy servant, and unto the supplication of thy people Israel, to hearken unto them in all that they call for unto thee.

#### **John 8:32-36**

<sup>32</sup> And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

<sup>33</sup> They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

<sup>35</sup> And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: *but* the Son abideth ever.

<sup>36</sup> If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

2 God would gather His people from all the nations and from the outmost parts of Heaven, Deuteronomy 30:3, 4;

#### **Nehemiah 1:4-11**

<sup>4</sup> And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned *certain* days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven,

<sup>5</sup> And said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments:

<sup>6</sup> Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of

his commandments which I command thee this day.

<sup>9</sup> And the LORD thy God will make thee plenteous in every work of thine hand, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy land, for good: for the LORD will again rejoice over thee for good, as he rejoiced over thy fathers:

<sup>10</sup> If thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which are written in this book of the law, *and* if thou turn unto the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul.

<sup>11</sup> For this commandment which I command thee this day, it *is* not hidden from thee, neither *is* it far off.

<sup>12</sup> It *is* not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it?

<sup>13</sup> Neither *is* it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it?

<sup>14</sup> But the word *is* very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it.

<sup>15</sup> See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil;

<sup>16</sup> In that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it.

<sup>17</sup> But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them;

Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father's house have sinned.

<sup>7</sup> We have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which thou commandedst thy servant Moses.

<sup>8</sup> Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, *If* ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations:

<sup>9</sup> But *if* ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, *yet* will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there.

<sup>10</sup> Now these *are* thy servants and thy people, whom thou hast redeemed by thy great power, and by thy strong hand.

<sup>11</sup> O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name: and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king's cupbearer.

#### **Zechariah 8:7-8**

<sup>7</sup> Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will save my people from the east country, and from the west country;

<sup>8</sup> And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness.

3 The Children of Israel would once more be brought into the Promised Land, and the Lord would do them good in the day they returned to Him, Deuteronomy 30:5-9;

#### **Isaiah 62:1-5**

<sup>1</sup> For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp *that* burneth.

<sup>2</sup> And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name.

<sup>3</sup> Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God.

<sup>4</sup> Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate: but thou shalt be called Hephzibah, and thy land Beulah: for the LORD delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married.

<sup>5</sup> For *as* a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee: and *as* the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee.

#### **Luke 15:6-10**

<sup>6</sup> And when he cometh home, he calleth together *his* friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.

<sup>7</sup> I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

<sup>8</sup> Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find *it*?

<sup>9</sup> And when she hath found *it*, she calleth *her* friends and *her* neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost.

<sup>10</sup> Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

#### **Luke 15:12-24**

<sup>12</sup> And the younger of them said to *his* father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth *to me*. And he

<sup>18</sup> I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, *and that* ye shall not prolong *your* days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it.

<sup>19</sup> I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

<sup>20</sup> That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, *and* that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he *is* thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

divided unto them *his* living.

<sup>13</sup> And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

<sup>14</sup> And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.

<sup>15</sup> And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

<sup>16</sup> And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

<sup>17</sup> And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

<sup>18</sup> I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

<sup>19</sup> And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

<sup>20</sup> And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

<sup>21</sup> And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

<sup>22</sup> But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put *it* on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on *his* feet:

<sup>23</sup> And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill *it*; and let us eat, and be merry:

<sup>24</sup> For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

4 These promises were on condition that the Israelites would keep God's commandments with all their heart, Deuteronomy 30:6, 10;

#### **Ezekiel 18:21-22**

<sup>21</sup> But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

<sup>22</sup> All his transgressions that he hath committed, they shall not be mentioned unto him: in his righteousness that he hath done he shall live.

#### **Ezekiel 33:11**

<sup>11</sup> Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

#### **Ezekiel 33:19**

<sup>19</sup> But if the wicked turn from his wickedness, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall live thereby.

#### **Matthew 22:36-40**

<sup>36</sup> Master, which *is* the great commandment in the law?

<sup>37</sup> Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

<sup>38</sup> This is the first and great commandment.

<sup>39</sup> And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

<sup>40</sup> On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

## **II Commandment Not Hidden**

1 The Lord, through Moses, emphasized the fact that God's commandment was near at hand and easy to be understood, Deuteronomy 30:11

#### **Psalms 147:19-20**

<sup>19</sup> He sheweth his word unto Jacob, his statutes and his

judgments unto Israel.

<sup>20</sup> He hath not dealt so with any nation: and *as for his* judgments, they have not known them. Praise ye the LORD.

**Isaiah 45:19**

<sup>19</sup> I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth: I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain: I the LORD speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.

- 2 The commandment was not left in Heaven, Deuteronomy 30:12;

**John 1:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> *That* was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

**John 1:14**

<sup>14</sup> And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

- 3 The Word had not been scattered beyond the sea that Israel need send for it, Deuteronomy 30:13;

**Matthew 12:42**

<sup>42</sup> The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon *is* here.

**Acts 8:35**

<sup>35</sup> Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

- 4 When the Word is sought in sincerity, it will be found "in thy mouth, and in thy heart," Deuteronomy 30:14;

**Romans 10:8**

<sup>8</sup> But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, *even* in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

**Romans 10:10**

<sup>10</sup> For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

### III Life and Death from Which to Choose

- 1 The Lord set before Israel and all humanity life and good, and death and evil, Deuteronomy 30:15;

**Mark 16:16**

<sup>16</sup> He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

**John 3:16**

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

- 2 To love the Lord, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments; would bring God's blessing to Israel in the land of possession, Deuteronomy 30:16;

**John 14:21**

<sup>21</sup> He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

- 3 The curse of God would be visited upon all who would refuse to hear God, upon all who would turn away from Him and worship idols, Deuteronomy 30:17, 18;

**Joshua 23:15-16**

<sup>15</sup> Therefore it shall come to pass, *that* as all good things are come upon you, which the LORD your God promised you; so shall the LORD bring upon you all evil things,

until he have destroyed you from off this good land which the LORD your God hath given you.

<sup>16</sup> When ye have transgressed the covenant of the LORD your God, which he commanded you, and have gone and served other gods, and bowed yourselves to them; then shall the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and ye shall perish quickly from off the good land which he hath given unto you.

**Hebrews 12:25**

<sup>25</sup> See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more *shall not we escape*, if we turn away from him that *speaketh* from heaven:

4 Moses admonished the Children of Israel to love God and choose life, that both they and their children would dwell long in the land, Deuteronomy 30:19, 20;

**Luke 10:42**

<sup>42</sup> But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

**Acts 2:38-40**

<sup>38</sup> Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

<sup>39</sup> For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call.

<sup>40</sup> And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

**NOTES:**

**God's Design**

The verses of this chapter should be considered as a conditional promise; and as such, they belong not only to Israel but to all other people of the world as well. The design of this chapter is to assure all men that the most flagrant sinners, when they repent and are converted, shall have their sins pardoned and be restored to God's favor. God's Word contains many wonderful promises to the penitent, even under the Old Covenant, while the whole import of the Covenant of Grace is the salvation of immortal souls and the reconciliation of men to God. "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" (I Timothy 1:15).

**Israel in Captivity**

Long before the Children of Israel entered Canaan Land, the Lord could see that they would break their covenant with Him and serve idols. As a result of this sin, God said that He would drive Israel into captivity among the nations. If Israel, while they were captives in the strange land, would call to mind the blessing and the curse which God had set before them, would return unto the Lord their God, and would obey His commandments, then God promised to turn again the captivity and have compassion upon the Children of Israel.

Consideration is the first step towards conversion. "Bring it again to mind, O ye transgressors" (Isaiah 46:8). The prodigal son came to himself first, then remembered the bountiful provisions of his father's house. If sinners would seriously consider the peace and happiness they have forfeited through sin, and the misery they have brought upon themselves, if they would consider that by repentance they could escape the misery and recover the happiness, they would be quick to return to God.



Returning to the Lord, and a willingness to obey His voice, are the heart and soul of repentance. Without these, all other expressions of repentance are in vain. The prodigal son was justified when he arose and went to his father's house. Had he stayed in the swine pen, he would have perished from hunger even amid all his thoughts of home and bread enough to spare. "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:7).

### God's Boundless Mercy

The scope of God's mercy to the penitent is without bounds. "If any of thine be driven out unto the outmost parts of heaven, from thence will the LORD thy God gather thee" (Deuteronomy 30:4). God can take the filthiest and the vilest of sinners and fashion them into glorious beings; He makes them saints whereas they had been transgressors. How can this be done? Through God's mercy and the Blood of the Lamb when the penitent comes pleading mercy. "The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit" (Psalm 34:18). "And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted" (Luke 18:13, 14).

The restoration into God's fellowship and favor will be complete. "He will do thee good, and multiply thee above thy fathers." This promise was to Israel, but how much greater is the promise of God unto us. "Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: and by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses" (Acts 13:38, 39). What excuse can any man offer, then, for any sin that is found in his life? God has indignation against those who persist in sinning (**Deuteronomy 29:20** <sup>20</sup> The LORD will not spare him, but then the anger of the LORD and his jealousy shall smoke against that man, and all the curses that are written in this book shall lie upon him, and the LORD shall blot out his name from under heaven), but He has compassion upon those who will repent with all their heart (**Jeremiah 31:18-20** <sup>18</sup> I have surely heard Ephraim bemoaning himself *thus*; Thou hast chastised me, and I was chastised, as a bullock unaccustomed to the yoke: turn thou me, and I shall be turned; for thou *art* the LORD my God. <sup>19</sup> Surely after that I was turned, I repented; and after that I was instructed, I smote upon *my* thigh: I was ashamed, yea, even confounded, because I did bear the reproach of my youth. <sup>20</sup> *Is* Ephraim my dear son? *is he* a pleasant child? for since I spake against him, I do earnestly remember him still: therefore my bowels are troubled for him; I will surely have mercy upon him, saith the LORD).

### Commandment at Hand

Moses brought to the attention of the Children of Israel the fact that God's command was very plain and easy to be accomplished. Israel could never plead as an excuse for disobedience that God had enjoined anything that was impractical or unintelligible. The Law had been given to them on Mount Sinai, from Heaven, and had remained with them through their wanderings, in permanent form, written on tables of stone. God's

commandments and statutes were also written in the Book of the Law which was kept in the Ark of the Covenant (**Deuteronomy 31:26** <sup>26</sup> Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee). Whenever need required, Israel could refer to these commands of God; they need not send to Heaven for a new code, nor could it profit them to search to the ends of the earth for a new understanding of God. "For I am the LORD, I change not" (Malachi 3:6). God once revealed is always the same. "I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth: I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain: I the LORD speak righteousness, I declare things that are right" (Isaiah 45:19).

### Abounding Grace

When the Israelites put their heart and love into the service of God, they found that they could fulfill the commandments. No doubt the Law was heavy in comparison with the Dispensation of Grace under which we live today. The Bible says that the Law was a shadow of good things to come (**Hebrews 10:1** <sup>1</sup> For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect). Men are no longer living under the shadow, but have come into the blazing light of the Gospel. There is no need for any man to send to Heaven for Christ, for He came down in His incarnation and left a crystal-clear knowledge, by giving us His Word, of what men must do to be saved. There is no need to send into the deep for Jesus; for though He was crucified and buried, He arose again. In His ascension, He became our Advocate with the Father (**1 John 2:1** <sup>1</sup> My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous). "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:25).

How can mortal man come to God? and what are the promises of mercy held out to the penitent? "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13). "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37). There is a way of coming to the Lord and calling upon Him that is acceptable. John the Baptist proclaimed that way when he said, "Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.... Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance" (Matthew 3:2, 8). Jesus later preached the same message, thereby adding emphasis to it. One time a little child was asked the meaning of the word "repent." The answer was, "Being so sorry for something that you will never do it again." That is the Bible idea of repentance. "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death" (II Corinthians 7:10). These promises are to the truly penitent — the man or woman who has a heartfelt sorrow for sins committed, who is yearning for deliverance, who is seeking for a life free from sin in the future; a cry of that kind will never fail to reach the throne of God.

### Mental Acceptance

A mere mental assent to the truths of Jesus Christ and the Gospel, without any notice of sin in the life — past, present, or future — will never be regarded by God. Mentally to accept Christ

or confess Him will never avail for salvation. These are but the first steps towards conversion. God requires that the heart and soul be washed in the Blood of the Lamb; then the man is in Christ — "he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (II Corinthians 5:17).

### **Heartfelt Advice**

Moses finished his discourse to the Children of Israel with a very strong climax, holding out a bright light of hope to the obedient, but a strong fire of judgment to the disobedient. Every man wishes to obtain eternal life and good. Moses showed that by obedience and love to God and His commands, Israel would obtain all the blessings they desired and avoid all the misery they feared. Whatever the future held for Israel would be determined by their own decisions; Moses had delivered his soul. As a last word, however, he urged the Children of Israel to accept life, for those shall have eternal life who choose it. Those who die do so of their own will, and must blame themselves for it, because they refused eternal life upon the terms proposed.

"He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?" (Hebrews 10:28, 29).

It is a dangerous procedure for a man to live a whole lifetime for the world and sin, then depend upon praying the penitent's prayer on his deathbed. Sometimes the deathbed is the scene of such intense suffering and pain that all thoughts of repentance or prayer are forced completely out of the mind. Then, again, many people are removed from the earth very suddenly without a moment's notice or chance to pray. This happens to the young people as well as the old. If you are not already a Christian, make your decision today for Christ and life, happiness and eternity. Delay not another hour, for "Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (II Corinthians 6:2).

### **QUESTIONS**

- 1 When the Children of Israel found themselves captives in a strange land, what did God tell them to do?
- 2 If Israel would return to God, would God do good or evil unto them?
- 3 Was the commandment of God hidden or far off?
- 4 Where was the Word of God to be found?
- 5 How could Israel so live that they would be sure of life and good? How must we live today, to be sure of life and good?
- 6 What would bring death and evil?
- 7 Does the Dispensation of Grace give any hope to the penitent heart today?
- 8 Describe in your own words how a man can get saved. What must he do?