

# **BREAD OF LIFE**

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS - TEACHINGS FROM THE WORD**

### **3rd Quarter**

This is the third quarterly in the series of Bible studies called "Teachings From The Word." Covering the Bible in one year, this study emphasizes the doctrinal truths found in God's Word. It attempts to follow the historical narrative of the Bible and presents doctrines as they appear in that sequence.

Historically the lessons of this quarter are concentrated on the captivity and on the advent of the Holy Spirit. Following the first lesson, which is an Easter lesson, are four lessons on Nebuchadnezzar, Ezekiel, Cyrus, and Zerubbabel. Although two of these four are not godly men, their lives have been included in the Bible because of the significant roles they played in the history of God's people. A study of their actions and motives can be highly profitable.

The lesson on the "Godly Family" coincides with Mother's Day, a special day set aside in the continental United States to commemorate mothers. It is fitting that on such a day the very important topic of the home and the family as discussed in God's Word be emphasized.

The lesson on the "birth of the Spirit" is sequenced next so that it corresponds with Pentecost Sunday. This lesson is followed by six lessons of a doctrinal basis on the ministry of the Spirit. Wherever possible, great care was exercised to include in the daily readings of these doctrinal lessons material of an historical setting so as to provide a basis for instruction to all ages of the Sunday school.

Dwight L. Moody once said, "I never saw a useful Christian who was not a student of the Bible. If a man neglects his Bible, he may pray and ask God to use him, but there is not much for the Holy Spirit to work with. We must have the Word itself, which is sharper than any two-edged sword."

Moody himself experienced the power of the Word of God in, his own life. Led to the Lord through his Sunday school teacher, he later, at the age of 23, gave himself entirely to Christian service. Although it was plain that God's hand was upon him, he sensed that something was lacking in his ministry. Finally, it was brought to his attention that instead of preaching the Word, he was preaching about the Word. He began to saturate himself with the Bible, studying it for hours each day, and immediately a great change was evident in his ministry. He then preached in the power of the Holy Spirit and was used to sweep thousands into the Kingdom. Small wonder that Moody became a great exponent of Bible study.

No workman ever learned his trade by an indifferent and uninspired approach to his work. The study of the Bible is no different. The results are in proportion to the effort expended.