

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON FOR JULY 16th

BY REV. M. F. HODGES
Subject—"The Handwriting on the Wall."

Golden Text—"God Shall Bring Every Work Into Judgment, With Every Secret Thing, Whether it be Good, or Whether it be Evil."—Ecc. 12:14.

Time—538 B. C.
Place—Babylon.

Babylon reached the mountain peak of her glory under Nebuchadnezzar; he is dead however some time before the present lesson. For a period after the death of Nebuchadnezzar the kingdom had lost in prominence and power when Nabonidus who was not of the royal family usurped the throne. It appears from the records that he had married a daughter of Nebuchadnezzar and thereby became the father of Belshazzar. We find that Nebuchadnezzar is called the father of this Belshazzar, which is only natural when we study the customs of that day.

At the time of the present lesson Nabonidus has left Babylon on an expedition against the Persians, where in he meets defeat at their hands. In the absence of Nabonidus from the throne, he appoints his son Belshazzar to rule while he is away, at this time he is only about twenty years of age; like the majority of young men to whom signal honors came it made a fool of him and he played the fool as we shall see from further study of the lesson. The walls of Babylon were three hundred and fifty feet high, broad enough on the top for six chariots to drive abreast, the city was fourteen miles square, in the wall were one hundred heavy brass gates. Inside of this great outer wall was another wall six miles in length that enclosed the palace of the king. The entire city was surrounded by a canal as protection against enemy invasion. Inside this inner wall were the beautiful hanging gardens, one of the wonders of the world. Can you wonder that this young fellow, possessing more authority than sense became high-minded and his head turned? Just look about you in modern times and see many young people given a few glad rags, a few dollars with "in God we trust" erased, an automobile and turned loose for a good time as the world calls a good time and see where they will head. In most every case they head for the trash heap and along the way you will see human wrecks in abundance. This is not confined to the young in every

case however. Even grandparents have caught the habit in these latter years and cannot stand a little prosperity. Many heads have been turned in the past few years. May be some handwriting will eventually bring them to their senses.

This young temporary ruler decided while his father was away to have the biggest time of his life. He calls together a thousand of his lords and honors them with a big reception. While Belshazzar had the high balls, cocktails and mint juleps served in abundance, of course he drank too, his brain became inflamed with alcohol, he ordered his servants to bring in the sacred vessels that Nebuchadnezzar had stolen from the temple of Jehovah in Jerusalem, in order that he and his wives, lords and concubines might drink wine from them. Can you wonder that Babylonian society was as rotten as hell? Can you wonder today that some places we might mention are almost as bad? Only the law and it is being flouted and flagrantly violated keeps some places from being in every sense of the word a modern Babylon. It is said that old Nero drank wine, fiddled and danced while Rome was going up in smoke. While old Herod was having the time of his life, in the midst of a big reception, being incensed by drink and lust he had John Baptist beheaded to satisfy the hellish desire of a lewd woman. Study the history of the ancient and modern ball room and watch the results; inflamed passions, animal desires rampant and the road to hell paved every time it is indulged in.

While this feast is in progress, Belshazzar discovers a man's hand writing something on the wall. The writing was in mysterious characters. There was consternation in the ball room, none could understand, they never saw the like before, Belshazzar calls for the astrologers, Chaldeans and soothsayers to interpret the writing. They were promised a scarlet robe, chain of gold about the neck and be made third ruler in the kingdom if only they would make known the meaning of this strange writing. They all fail in their attempt at the interpretation. About this time feeling is running high in the ball room when Nebuchadnezzar's mother appears on the scene and tells Belshazzar "O king, live forever; let not thy thoughts trouble thee, nor let thy countenance be changed." This voice fails to quiet the young man's fears. She tells him again to send for the prophet Daniel who has lived in the land for nearly seventy years. Daniel is now an old

man, near the age of ninety. She remembers the wisdom of Daniel in the days of Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel is called forth and stands before the proud young ruler undisturbed by his presence. Doubtless the young man had never met Daniel before, too proud to form his acquaintance and too big a fool to recognize the worth of God's prophet. We have come to a day when God's messengers are not respected in many instances as they should be and as they were in former days. Belshazzar asked "Art thou that Daniel, which art of the children of the captivity of Judah, whom the king my father brought out of Jewry?" Again the promise is made to Daniel as was made to the astrologers, Chaldeans and soothsayers.

Such inducements as the king had to hand out were in nowise attractive to the man of God. "Let thy gifts be to thy self, and give thy rewards to another: yet I will read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation." Here let the reader read verses 22 and 23 and hear their ring as they burn like fire in the conscience of the king. Daniel had all the qualities of real manhood and stood and preached one of the greatest sermons recorded in the Book to one lone man and that the king. This young man was just as guilty as his grandfather had ever been and Daniel had the backbone to tell him so to his face. Daniel makes known the meaning of the writing on the wall, was made third ruler in the kingdom but the fall of Babylon's glory was ringing out over every plain.

The armies of the Medes and Persians have been engaged for some time, cutting a new channel for the river Euphrates in order to turn the river to one side of the city. That night they complete the task and we read "that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain." And Darius the Median took the throne." All through these lessons the height of her glory and fell. She sinned away her day of grace. The nations of the earth today are sick and nauseated with sin but there are no signs of repentance.

God was gracious to these sinning Hebrews and sent them prophet after prophet whom they enslaved and tried to drive from among them. They treated as a light thing this thing we call sin, (a thing which we have come to treat very lightly nowadays,) until God could tolerate it no longer.

Don't fail to get the practical lessons from today's study; God will punish sin whether practiced by individual or nation as he has always

BETHLEHEM NEWS

On Friday night at the home of Mrs. Frank Green, quite a number of her friends, both young and old, gathered to celebrate her fifty-sixth birthday. The young people played games and refreshments consisting of home made cake, ice cream and fruits, were served. The guests departed wishing their hostess many more birthdays.

Mr. Chas. A. Turley, Jr., and little daughter Ruth Evelyn of Lakeland, Fla., and Mrs. M. E. Goodwin of Suffolk, Va., are spending a week with Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Lowe.

Mr. and Mrs. M. V. Wilson and little grand daughter Ruby Overton were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Lowe last Sunday evening.

Miss Edna Ellis of near Center Grove is visiting Miss Cecil Simons.

Mr. and Mrs. Willie Rabey and children of Gates, N. C., are visiting their sister, Mrs. Bettie Adkins of this section.

Miss Susie Hill and Jessie Vann are visiting their aunt at Scotland Neck.

The B. Y. P. U. of Bethlehem church will meet Sunday evening at eight o'clock.

Mrs. C. F. Peale is reported as being ill at her home at this writing.

Rev. Barnes, pastor at Brantleys Grove spent Tuesday night at the home of Mr. and Mrs. P. D. Parker.

Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Godwin and family, Mr. and Mrs. Claxton Godwin and son Albert, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Hill.

Plans for the picnic and outing for the 4th of July were cancelled on account of the heavy rains of that day.

(Ed. Note—The above letter was received too late for publication last week.)

done. (2). When we think we are in our glory in this world God can quickly show us who and where we are. (3). With all the sin and wickedness rampant in the world still God has a Daniel, Ezekiel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego who will stand true to Him. (4). In the midst of all the temptations common to man there is a way of escape if we stay close enough to the Cross. (5). Though the fiery furnace and the Den of Lions await the servant of the Most High, He will be found there to protect his children. (6). The message of God's servant will be heard whether we will it so or not.

MEETING OF BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Board of County Commissioners of Hertford County met on the 10th day of July, 1922. Present J. M. Eley, Chairman, John C. Taylor, E. W. Whitley, E. H. Eure, and F. G. Tayloe.

This being the day set for equalization, the Board proceeded to examine the Tax lists and to hear complaints on equalization.

On motion and carried it was ordered that the "Moore" tract listed by G. O. Hare in Murfreesboro township, be reduced \$600 on account of lumber having been sold from said tract.

The Board upon motion and carried orders the Clerk to list tract lumber purchased by E. O. Hines from G. O. Hare in Murfreesboro township, at valuation of \$1050.00.

H. C. Faison appeared before the Board and made complaint that lumber had been sold from his farm Winton township and upon motion and carried the Board orders that valuation on said tract be reduced \$6,450.00.

On motion and carried the Board votes to reduce tract of land (wood-land) purchased by Camp Manufacturing Company from Robert Matthews be valued at \$1,000.

On motion and carried the Board votes to reduce tract of land Ahooskie township, known as Newsome land, belonging to O. L. Joyner from 120 acres to 79 acres and at a valuation of \$1,300.00.

The Board orders that Wynns estate be relieved of what property was sold from the original Wynns farm, and that the valuation of the remainder of said farm be placed on the tax list at \$16,500.00.

The Board upon motion and carried, votes to relieve P. D. Collins of valuation of \$400 on Kiff place making same read \$4,267.00.

On motion and carried, the Board orders that Spiers Quarter and Howell tracts in Manays Neck township be listed to Jordan Bros., at a valuation of \$2,760.00, the timber having been sold and listed to Camp Manufacturing Company.

The lot owned now by W. A. Sykes Winton, purchased from E. O. Hines is ordered by the Board to be reduced to \$835.00.

The Board orders the Clerk to change the valuation of house and lot listed by Basnight and Curtis known as the Mitchell lot to read \$1,048.00 on account of an error.

The Board upon motion and carried votes that the Weston tract listed by E. Brett, Murfreesboro township be reduced to \$8,000.00 on account of an error in listing.

Representatives of the Hertford County Fair Association appeared before the Board, and requested an appropriation be made for prizes for the best Agricultural exhibits, and upon consideration of the matter the Board, upon motion and carried, grants an appropriation of \$200.00 for this purpose to be used by said Association for the coming 1922 fair.

The following bills presented and ordered paid, to-wit:

Overton and Hall, moving houses at County Home.....	\$125.00
S. P. Winborne, services registrar primary election.....	32.35
R. O. Hill, services Judge election primary election.....	9.20
J. B. Majette, services judge primary election.....	4.00
J. A. Northcott, paid for indexing vital statistics.....	2.76
J. R. and W. M. Jordan Co., nails etc.....	6.50
Barnes-Sawyer Grocery Co., supplies to County home.....	35.55
W. E. Doughtie, amount paid E. O. Hines moving flat to Tar Landing.....	15.00
B. Scull, summoning jurors etc.....	11.05
T. V. Jenkins, taking tax lists 1922.....	100.90
W. B. Pollard, paid for toxin-antitoxin.....	5.05

No further business appearing before the Board it adjourned to meet again on the first Monday in August 1922.

J. M. ELEY, Chairman.

JOHN A. NORTHCOTT, Clerk to the Board.

COMMERCIAL PRINTING OF ALL KINDS NEATLY AND PROMPTLY DONE AT THE HERALD OFFICE

Bankrupt Sale!

Beginning WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, AND CONTINUING 10 DAYS

We will offer the Entire Stock formerly owned by Mrs. Helen Benthall, Regardless of Cost.

Dont be misled by anyone---The Bankrupt Sale will be held in the CORNER STORE IN NEWSOME'S BLOCK

Formerly occupied by Mrs. Benthall, and it will be a sale that will be long remembered by those who take advantage of it.

When you deal with the AHOSKIE DEPARTMENT STORE you are assured of a clean honest sale and a Square Deal. This stock was bought cheap and will be sold the same way, so don't fail to attend this Bankrupt Sale which will be held by the

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