

Stop blaming others because the buck stops with you

Lesson Scripture: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 20-21, 25-32

Lesson aims: to explain the faulty excuse for captivity, to understand the principle of personal responsibility, and to recognize that God's arms are always open to the repentant.

Background: Our journey this quarter ends in yet another Old Testament book, Ezekiel. Named for its author, it is directed to the exiles in Babylon.

The five dominant themes are "God is transcendent, responsible, and restoration is

Israel (both kingdoms) is sinful, judgment is sure, individuals are

ahead" ("Richard's Complete Bible Handbook").

Ezekiel began his ministry around 593 B.C. and lasted 20 years. Like Daniel and the Apostle John, Ezekiel prophesied outside of the Promised Land. This prophet, the son of a priest whose name meant "God will strengthen," was deported to Babylon after Nebuchadnezzar's second attack (597 B.C.).

He held a prominent position among the elders and was consulted often (Ezekiel 8:1; 11:25; 14:1;

and 20:1). Called "the captive prophet" ("NIV Standard Lesson Commentary"), he affirmed Jeremiah's prophecy and offered hope to the exiles. You must remember that God's judgments are not complete. People were given the opportunity to repent and avoid judgment. They refused.

What is known about this prophet is contained within the book. Considered an eccentric, he was obedient to God in sharing his revelations.

Lesson: The second deportation of Jews to Babylon has occurred. There are 10,000 plus captives looking for an explanation for their current predicament.

They use an adage (old saying accepted as truth) to fix things in their minds. Found in Exodus 20:5 and 34:7, they take no responsibility for being in Babylon. Their fatalistic (fate brought them to this end) attitude does not impress God. Yes, their forefathers set the judgment in motion, but they are given the opportunity to repent because they did evil in the sight of the Lord. Ezekiel addresses their irresponsibility.

Soul here refers to the person before physical death not afterward. Simply put, this verse means "the one who sins is the one who dies." God says that all souls are His and He judges accordingly. There is no room for fatalism. The Almighty holds each individual responsible for her/his actions. God is just and righteous! His love is so complete that He offers repentance to all. This is the message of hope for the exiles.

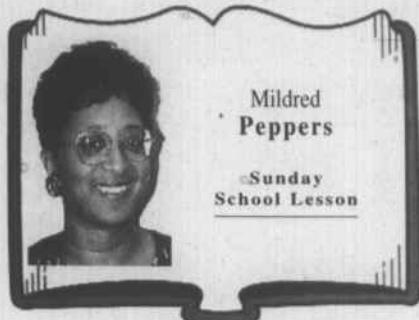
tainted, our religious education may not exist, and our silver spoons were lost during the Middle Passage, but God saw fit to allow us to be here. Stop making excuses for your current situation. Yes, racism, sexism and the like have impeded progress but God is with you.

Our lesson today encourages us to take responsibility. This also includes the judgment when we reject God. We have done it or we are in the process of doing it. God isn't pleased but He offers repentance with open arms. We are as arrogant as the Jews (both kingdoms). We believe that we are chosen and that God doesn't care about anybody but us. God loves us but He will chastise when the need arises. Anytime evil is practiced over and over without repentance judgment is coming.

A loving parent (God), He is always paving the way for our return. Our decision to keep Him first must be a deliberate one. Stop blaming because the buck stops here!

Take someone with you to Sunday School.

Application: We have a tremendous story to tell! Our backgrounds may have been



Mildred Peppers

Sunday School Lesson

Church to hold annual Family and Friends Day

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

United Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church will hold its annual Family and Friends Day Nov. 17. At 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, the guest teacher will be Jannie Pass Stewart of Phillips Chapel Baptist Church. At the 11 a.m. worship service, Dr. Joshua J. Hairs Jr. and the congregation of First Missionary Baptist Church of Southern Pines will be the special guests.

Hairs is a native of Fort Bragg and was raised in Fayetteville. He is the son of a preacher, school teacher, and the grandson of an



Dr. Butler

evangelist, so the word of God is no mystery to this man of God.

Hairs completed his undergraduate studies at A&T State University. He has also studied at Shaw Divinity School and C.B.S. Theological. He has received several awards and honors for his work in youth development and human resources. Among these are the doctor of ministry degree, doctor of divinity degree, and the Army Commendation Medal.

He is married to the former L'Tanya Holmes, and they have nine children.

The theme of this year's occasion is "Let All the Families of the Earth Receive God's Promised Blessings" (Genesis 12:2-3). The church is at 2745 Patria Street at Wright Street. Dr. J. Ray Butler is host pastor. Dinner will be served immediately after the morning worship service. The public is invited.

St. Stephen will have Gospel Jamboree

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church, 5000 Noble Street, will have its second annual Gospel Jamboree Celebration Nov. 16 at 6 p.m. at the church.

The All Women's Confab, the sponsor of this program,

has invited choirs and soloists to provide a diverse selection of music and songs. Some of the guests will include New Trinity Baptist Church Male Chorus of Winston-Salem; Quintenna McMahan of Cooleemee, N.C.; Triumphant Ministries of Charlotte; Bro. Jimmy Wright Jr. and Singers

of Winston-Salem; and the Gospel Warriors of Winston-Salem.

The program will begin with the St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church Gospel Choir, under the leadership of Deacon James Diggs, singing old Negro spirituals, such as "Trouble Don't Last Always,"

"I'm Gonna Hide Behind the Mountain" and "What Are They Doing Up in Heaven Today." Along with the Gospel Choir, other in-house choirs will participate in this program.

Everyone is invited to come and help celebrate Gospel Jamboree.

Emmanuel prepares for Revival of Hope

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The times in which we live are filled with a great deal of anxiety, fear and despair. Media reports are often filled with bad news and sad news that take the bounce out of our steps, the joy out of our hearts and the peace out of our spirits. But there will be good news coming out of Emmanuel Baptist Church Nov. 18-22 when the church observes a week of revival services,



Dr. Baltimore

which begin each night at 7 o'clock.

These special services will focus on hope and the renewing of the human spirit in these times of uncertainty. The goal is to empower God's people to be refreshed, revitalized, reinvigorated and restored.

The guest evangelist for the week will be the Rev. Dr. Carroll A. Baltimore Sr., pastor of First Evangelistic International Baptist Temple of Alexandria, Va.

Baltimore has a passion for evangelism. He has planted more than 18 churches in the United States, Africa, Philippines, India, Korea and Jamaica. He has also developed models for training and equipping young and new pastors to serve in these newly planted

churches.

Baltimore has been a leader in evangelism, missions, education, social-economic development and human rights for more than 30 years. He is also the president of C.A.B. Outreach Ministries Inc., a nonprofit organization that reaches across cultural and religious barriers to preach the Gospel. He has broadcast in the Philippines and Africa, and his Christmas sermon was heard in 135 countries.

He is an international evangelist who had traveled to more than 40 nations. He organized more than 31 crusades and conducted more than 40 crusades in Asia, Africa, Europe and the West Indies.

Baltimore was recently elected second vice president of the

Progressive National Baptist Convention.

As an activist, Baltimore served as an at-large delegate for Virginia to the National Summit on Africa, where he introduced the Child Labor and Slavery Policy to Congress to influence U.S. foreign policy for Africa. He also serves as a member of the Black Church Advisory Committee of the "Stand for Children" program of the Children's Defense Fund.

Emmanuel Baptist Church encourages the community to come to the revival. Certified Christian counselors will be available to talk to anyone who may wish to share. Transportation will be provided by calling 788-7023, and nursery care will be provided for children.

Calendar

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Chris Chapman of Knollwood Baptist Church, and Dr. Jack Noffsinger, pastor emeritus at Knollwood Baptist Church. The three ministers will share stories demonstrating what is working in racial relations in the Triad, followed by dinner and topic discussion group.

Conversations of Hope is a forum for discussion of positive solutions to various challenges in our community.

Nov. 23

Abused Women Break-Through Explosion

Greater Faith Holy Temple in God's Hand Ministry Inc. will sponsor an Abused Women Break-Through Explosion Nov. 23 at 6 p.m. If you're in an abusive relationship or you know of someone who is, or if you are confused, depressed, fearful or afraid, you are invited to come. There is help for you. There is an answer. For more information call Evangelist Betty Kinzer (336) 391-6205 or 661-7761. The church is at 4698 Indiana Ave.

Nov. 24

Choir anniversary

The Youth Choir of Greater St. Matthew Baptist Church, 149 Wheeler Street, will celebrate its first anniversary Nov. 24 at 3 p.m. William J. Purvis Sr. is pastor. The public is invited.

Nov. 27

Feeding the hungry for Thanksgiving

Support God's Mt. Calvary Power House of Deliverance and House of Mercy's 12th annual feeding ministry. The ministry will feed the hungry for Thanksgiving at Emmanuel Baptist

Church Nov. 27 from noon to 3 p.m.

Nov. 28-30

Women's conference

The women's department (Heart-To-Heart) of Restoration Christian Fellowship invites you to its women's conference Nov. 28-30. Evening sessions will begin at 7. There will be two sessions on Saturday beginning at 10 a.m., with lunch included. This Holy Ghost-filled event will take place at the Adam's Mark Winston Hotel, in downtown Winston-Salem.

Speakers will be Pastor Maria Smith of Detroit, Mich.; Pastor Sarah Hauser of Winston-Salem; Prophetess Cheryl Frazier of Charlotte; and the host for the event, Co-Pastor Rochelle Richardson of Winston-Salem. There is a small registration fee of \$25 for all sessions, which include lunch.

For more information call 771-0717 or 771-2299.

True Temple Holiness Church of God will host Holy Convocation

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The True Temple Holiness Church of God will host its first Independent Holy Convocation, titled "A Time for Refreshing," Nov. 14-16.

On Nov. 14 at 7:30 p.m. the anointed and powerful speaker will be Bishop Chris Brinson of Impact Ministry, Kernersville. Nov. 15 at 7:30 p.m. the pastor and founder of True Temple Holiness Church, Apostle Wallace Gaither, will bring the anointed word. On Nov. 16 at 10 a.m. there will be baptizing and an ordination service. Bishop R.L. Linder, pastor of Mt. Sinai Glorious Church of God, Danville, Va., will be in charge of the ordination service. Every church can baptize in its own faith and beliefs. No doctrine will be taught. Various choirs



Apostle Wallace Gaither and wife Shirley Gaither

and soloists will sing.

Everyone is invited to attend. Apostle Wallace Gaither is host pastor. For information, call 748-0965.

Galilee Missionary Baptist Church
575 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
Pastor Robert L. McGowens Sr.

Annual Homecoming
November 17, 2002

8:00 am Service
Pastor Emeritus Juanita Tatum
and
Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church
Pinnacle, NC

Pastor Emeritus Juanita Tatum

10:30 am Service
Pastor Talmadge Thomas
and
Mt. Zion Baptist Church
Toledo, OH

Pastor Talmadge Thomas

For information please call the church office at 724-3857
Tapes of these services and other services are available.

Macedonia Holiness Church Of God
Of The Apostolic Faith, Inc.

Bishop R.L. Wise, Sr.
D.D.; S.T.D. - Pastor

Sunday Services
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
M.Y.P.U. 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Services
Prayer & Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

4111 Whitfield Drive
Phone: 336-767-3700
Fax: 336-767-7006

Piney Grove Baptist Church

4715 Indiana Ave. • Winston-Salem, NC 27106 • (336) 767-4044

James F. Linville
Pastor

◆ Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
◆ Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
◆ Evening Services 4:00 p.m.

Bible Study Every Wednesday 10:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Mission Statement: "A Saving Station for Lost Souls and Enrichment Center for Christians"

Website: www.pineygroveinc.org • E-mail: pgbtc2005@bellsouth.net

Mt. Olive Baptist Church

1301 E. Belevs Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
"Let God Be God"
724-5842 or 721-1959

Sunday Morning Broadcast 6 - 6:30 A.M.
WUPN 48

Sunday School 9:30 A.M.
Worship Service 11:00 A.M.
Wednesday 12:00 Noon
Bible Study 7:00 P.M.

www.letgodbegod.org

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

1201 New Hope Lane • Winston-Salem, NC 27105
Bishop John C. Parks
(336) 724-5401

Every Thursday - Joy Night Services - 7:30 p.m.

The Word & You 9:30 a.m.
Devotional Service 10:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:15 a.m.

Morning Service - Videos & Tapes Available - Van Service Available

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First Come First Served
Saturday, November 23, 2002
12:00 Noon
Mt. Olive Baptist Church

1301 E. Belevs St.
Winston-Salem
C.E. Gray, Pastor
721-1959

One Basket Per family
Free Hot Dogs, Sodas & Chips

