

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Zechariah Pleads For Righteousness

International Sunday School Lesson For April 25th, 1948

Golden Text: "Execute true judgment, and show kindness and compassion every man to his brother."—Zechariah 7:9.

Lesson Text: Zechariah 1:1-4; 7:8-14; 8:16,17

In our lesson discussion last week, we learned that the Israelites returned from exile in Babylon to the desolated city of Jerusalem and of their feeble attempts to rebuild the temple. The temple was the center of the Jew's religious life and the symbol of God's presence with them, so its rebuilding was very important in their lives. Although they abandoned the work for fourteen years at Haggai's urging, they began the work again and finished its construction.

Next week, we shall learn how the returned exiles, under the leadership of Nehemiah, rebuilt the walls around Jerusalem. Our lesson for this week comes in between these two great enterprises. Zechariah, the grandson of the prophet Iddo, realized that while the building of a temple for the worship of God was very important, there was something even more important than that—the moral and ethical condition of the people themselves. Thus, it was Zechariah's mission to try to teach the people the way that God would have them live.

Pointing out the causes of the recent exile of their fathers, Zechariah declared that it was their failure to heed the warnings of the prophets of former days to forsake their sinful ways and turn to God. As a result, God allowed them to be taken into captivity, exiled in a foreign land and their beloved city of Jerusalem, with its magnificent temple, utterly destroyed.

Anxious that the new generation be an improvement over the old, Zechariah called the people to repentance, saying that God had declared, "Return unto me, and I will return unto you." As a matter of fact, this is the great theme of the Book of Zechariah: "The one thing essential to God's forgiveness is man's repentance." It is an amazing fact of history that God, in his patience, raises up for every generation prophets to voice his word of warning or invitation. The people in Zechariah's time needed the warning and so does every nation on the face of the globe today.

Zechariah was as anxious as Haggai to see the temple rebuilt, but Zechariah realized that unless the people themselves turned to God in repentance, the dedication of a new temple would be more hypocrisy and a hollow mockery. Formal religion is not enough. Samuel warned, "Man looketh on the outward appearance, but God looketh on the heart." Obedience to God, reverence for his standards of life and faith in the heart are pleasing to Him.

The prophet pointed out explicitly what God's standards of life are: True justice tempered by mercy, a compassionate attitude toward one's brother, care for the widows and the



*Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim thro' this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty,
Hold me with Thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more.*

*Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing waters flow;
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey thro';
Strong Deliv'rer,
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.*

Amen.

orphans, the foreigner or the poor. Stopford A. Brook, in explaining what it means to be merciful, declared: "To be merciful is not to do an act of mercy here and there; to be swept away, on impulse; into forgiveness of a wrong; to be pitiful on Monday." (Continued on Page Eight)

**Be a Better Citizen!
Go to Some Church
Next Sunday**

BAGLEY SWAMP PILGRIM
Coy S. Saunders, Pastor
Sunday School, 10:00 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Young People's Meeting, 6:30 P. M.
Evening Worship, 7:30 o'clock.
Mid-week Services, Thursday at 7:30 P. M.

HERTFORD METHODIST CHURCH
D. L. Fouts, Pastor
Church School, 9:45 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Youth Fellowship, 7:15 P. M.
Evening Worship, 8 P. M.
Mid-week Fellowship, Wednesday at 8 P. M.
Choir rehearsal Saturday, 8:00 P. M.

Perquimans Church Services

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH
C. W. Duling, Pastor
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Evening Worship, 8 o'clock.
Mid-week Services, Wednesday at 8 P. M.

BETHLEHEM CHRISTIAN CHURCH
W. H. Marler, Pastor
Church services first and third Sundays at 3:00 P. M.
Christian Union, 7:30 P. M.

BURGESS BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. J. R. Byerly, Pastor
Church services first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.
Sunday School at 10:00 A. M.
Burgess and Bethlehem Churches hold Christian Union together on second and fourth Sundays.

PERQUIMANS CHARGE CHURCHES
E. B. Edwards, Pastor
First Sunday:
New Hope Church, 11:00 A. M.
Oak Grove Church, 3:00 P. M.
Second Sunday
Winfall Church, 11:00 A. M.
Cedar Grove Church, 3:00 P. M.
Woodland Church, 7:00 P. M.
Third Sunday
Oak Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.
New Hope Church, 7:00 P. M.
Fourth Sunday
Cedar Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.
Woodland Church, 3:00 P. M.
Winfall Church, 7:30 P. M.
Fifth Sunday
Woodland Church, 11:00 A. M.
Prayer Meeting each Wednesday at Winfall Church at 7:30 P. M.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
E. T. Jilson, Rector
Holy Communion, 9:00 A. M.
Every Sunday except first Sunday at 9:00 A. M.
Church School, 10:00 A. M.
Morning Prayer and Sermon, 11:00 o'clock.
Holy Communion first Sunday at 11 A. M.

UP RIVER FRIENDS CHURCH
Elizabeth White, Pastor
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.
Church Services, 11 A. M.
Christian Endeavor, 6:30 P. M.

WHITEVILLE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Harry F. Bean, Pastor
Sunday School, 11 A. M. every Sunday except third Sunday.
Sunday School third Sunday, 2 P. M.
Church services every third Sunday at 3 P. M.

PINEY WOODS FRIENDS MEETING
Jertha V. Smith White, Minister
Bible School, 10 A. M.
Meeting for worship, 11 A. M.

CHAPPELL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
A. H. Outlaw, Pastor
Sunday School, 2 P. M. every first Sunday.
Church Service 3 P. M. every first Sunday.
Sunday School at 10 A. M. every second, third and fourth Sunday.
Church Service 11 A. M. every second, third and fourth Sunday.

Go To Church -- Your Church -- Any Church -- But Go

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