

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

PUTTING GOD FIRST

International Sunday School Lesson For June 6

Golden Text: "Be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."—Daniel 3:18.

Lesson Text: Daniel 3:4-7, 13-18; 6:10.

The book of Daniel consists of two distinct portions, the first in narrative form containing a series of stories about Daniel or his companions, while the second in prophetic form contains a series of visions of Daniel, often called "The Apocalypse of the Old Testament."

The background for our lesson for this week is the old familiar story which practically everyone has known from childhood. It is similar to that of our lesson for last week when we saw Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego standing firm for their convictions. Then they were brave enough to request that they be not fed the rich food from the king's table and in this lesson we see them still standing for what they knew to be right.

Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, had a totalitarian view of government, believing that all people should be loyal to the king of the land and if they were loyal to the king, they must also be loyal to the king's god. This has often been true and history reveals the mistake of such a position. A nation of people cannot be regimented into loyalty to anyone or anything—loyalty must come voluntarily.

However, Nebuchadnezzar issued a decree that anyone who failed to fall down and worship the image of his god when he heard the sound of the harp, the flute, the trumpet, or any kind of music, he would be thrown into the midst of a burning furnace. The majority of the people obeyed, but some of the Jewish exiles in Babylon refused to do so. Some of the officials of the court, who were jealous because of some political reasons, reported that three of the Jews were disobeying the king's order, with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego named as the offenders.

Brought into the court, Nebuchadnezzar gave the young men a chance to deny the charge, stating that he would give them another chance to worship the golden image but, if they failed, he would have them cast into the burning furnace. How much courage it must have taken for the three young Jews to reply to Nebuchadnezzar, in the words of our Golden Text: "If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up." (Daniel 3:17-18).

Of course, the king was enraged. He ordered the servants to heat the furnace seven times hotter than it had ever been heated. The Jews were bound in their clothing and

thrown into the fire. The heat was so terrible that those who threw them into the furnace died of it, but Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego walked in the fire unharmed. When the king inquired whether the three had been thrown into the furnace and was informed that they had, he was astonished. (Concluded on Page Two)

WHO IS TO BLAME?



JUDGE TELLS

Can we be absolutely honest in our thinking about juvenile delinquency? A judge of Nashville, Tennessee, who tried 4,000 juvenile cases during the last four years, reports that only seventeen of those involved were in regular attendance at Sunday School at the time their crime was committed. Of these seventeen, nine were found not guilty. Do our educational leaders have the intellectual integrity to realize the import of this survey? The tragedy is that we must wait to hear these words from a judge on the bench.



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.

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

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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**
Bertha 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 11 A. M. every second, third and fourth Sunday.