

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

JUDGMENT ON JEREBEAM

International Sunday School Lesson for May 2, 1954.

Memory Selection: "Beware lest thou forget the Lord thy God, in not keeping His commandments." — Deuteronomy 8:11.

Lesson Text: I Kings 14:5-16.

As pointed out in our lesson for last week, following the death of Solomon, the twelve tribes of Israel assembled to crown Solomon's son, Rehoboam, king. Already there was much dissatisfaction and discontent in the kingdom because of the heavy burdens which the extravagances of Solomon had imposed on the people.

Because of the unwise choice of Rehoboam, in accepting the advice of the young men in his father's kingdom, ten of the twelve tribes chose Jeroboam, a member of the tribe of Ephraim, industrious and able, who had been promoted by Solomon into a position of leadership among the many engaged in various public works. This fulfilled the prophecy of Ahijah, as related in our lesson last week.

God had promised that if Jeroboam would hearken unto his commands and walk in his ways and keep his statutes as David had done, then the divine presence would be assured to him to preserve him and to establish his seed in ruling the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Thus, it seems that God was doing all that he could to call forth the best in one of his servants, to inspire in him a sense of humility and obligation, and to challenge to obedience and loyalty as the assurance of God's mercy and favor.

What a wonderful opportunity Jeroboam had to go down into history as a great king! But Jeroboam squandered his opportunity and instead of being remembered as one of Israel's great kings, he is known as the one "who made Israel to sin." Instead of leading the Israelites to deeper loyalty and love of God, he corrupted the worship of the people in three ways:

He set up golden calves at Dan and Bethel, persuading the people to worship there instead of making the long trip back to Jerusalem where they would worship in Solomon's Temple. He made priests of those who were not of the tribe of the Levi and established the harvest feast at a time contrary to the instructions of God through Moses.

God was greatly displeased with Jeroboam. We should notice that God was not condemning Jeroboam of his administrative failures as king. He did much that was good for his people. His great sin lay in the breaking of the commandment of God against idolatry—"Thou hast gone and made thee other gods."

Jerusalem and its Temple were still at the heart of the religious life of the children of Israel and all good Jews were still expected to go there to worship. Jehoram was King of Judah, with his seat of government in Jerusalem and Jeroboam feared his competition. If the people of Israel went at stated times to Jerusalem to worship, he was afraid they might get to like the king of Judah and go over to him. So, in order to avoid this competition, he set up two shrines of his own at Dan and Bethel and permitted idolatrous rites and worship there. He also established new altars, new feasts, unauthorized priests and brazen worship of bull calves.

God's judgment on Jeroboam is seen first in the serious illness of his child. Afraid to go to the prophet himself, Jeroboam sends his wife, dressed as a peasant woman, to the prophet for help. Ahijah, warned of God, recognizes the queen and through her sends a message of pending destruction of Jeroboam's kingdom.

The punishment came in the person of Abijah, son of Jeroboam, who invaded Jeroboam's territory and inflicted a stinging defeat on his armies. Bethel, Jeshanah and Ephraim fell. It was a fearful blow—fatal to Jeroboam and draining the life-blood of Israel.

Of Jeroboam, George Rawlinson has written: "Jeroboam is not condemned for his ambition, for his self-seeking, or for his rebellion against the house of David, but emphatically for his religious innovations. To himself no doubt they seemed masterpieces of worldly policy. They suited the temper of the people; they effectually secured the maintenance of his kingdom in a state of separation from Judah; they remained in full vigor to the last days of the monarchy. But they had in them a root of bitterness, which proved fatal to the state. They were of human device; they had no divine sanction; and they rested on falsity."

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GO TO SOME CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

LANDING THE BIG ONE

What a thrill to land that old "granddaddy" of all fish... to feel his vicious tug at the line... to see his silver side gleaming in the sun as he rolls and breaks the surface. Then the big moment... out of the water with a final great splash and into the landing net. He is yours!

The catch of a lifetime. You tell about it a hundred times over—about your new fly-rod, that special lure, the deep hole in the lake, the big rock where "granddad" used to lie. But somehow you can't put it all in words. It was your own personal experience with old "granddad."

In a way, religion and fishing are alike. You can't put religion all in words either. It's not just rules for living, or doctrines, or spiritual values. Religion is a personal experience with God. It's your struggle with God until you surrender your rebellious spirit and become His.

Come to church. There you will learn to know and love God. It's the one great experience of a lifetime—an eternal lifetime.

THE CHURCH FOR ALL... ALL FOR THE CHURCH

The Church is the greatest force on earth for the building of character and good citizenship. It is a schoolhouse of spiritual values. Without a strong Church, neither democracy nor civilization can survive. There are four sound reasons why every person should attend services regularly and support the Church. They are: (1) For his own sake. (2) For his children's sake. (3) For the sake of his community and nation. (4) For the sake of the Church itself, which needs his moral and material support. Plan to go to church regularly and read your Bible daily.

Day	Book	Chapter	Verses
Sunday	Psalm	10	1-14
Monday	Psalm	29	1-10
Tuesday	Matthew	11	23-30
Wednesday	John	9	1-11
Thursday	John	9	1-11
Friday	Galatians	5	1-16
Saturday	Philippians	1	12-18

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Go To Church Your Church Any Church But Do Go

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 CHURCH OF CHRIST
Joe Brickhouse, Pastor
First Sunday
11 A. M. and 8 P. M.

BURGESS BAPTIST CHURCH
W. E. Thompson, Pastor
Church services second and fourth Sundays at 11 A. M.
Sunday School at 10:00 A. M.

PERQUIMANS CHARGE CHURCHES

H. M. Jamieson, Pastor
First Sunday:
New Hope Church, 11:00 A. M.
Oak Grove Church, 7:00 P. M.

Second Sunday
Winfall Church, 11:00 A. M.
Cedar Grove Church, 10 A. 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, 10 A. M.
Winfall Church, 7:00 P. M.

Fifth Sunday
Woodland Church, 11:00 A. M.
Prayer Meeting each Wednesday at Winfall Church, 7:00 P. M.

ANDERSON'S METHODIST CHURCH

C. H. Beale, Pastor
Church School, 10:00 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 A. M., second and fourth Sundays.

WOODVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
Harvey L. Coppidge, Pastor
Church Services on second and fourth Sundays at 11 A. M.
First and Third Sundays at 7:45 P. M.
Sunday School 9:45 A. M.

UP RIVER FRIENDS CHURCH
James Rahenkamp, Pastor
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.
Church Services 11 A. M., - 7:30 P. M.
Christian Endeavor, 6:30 P. M.
Prayer Service, Wednesday 7:30 P. M.

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. J. D. Stoner, Pastor
Sunday School 10 A. M.
Morning Worship 11 A. M.
Evening service 8 P. M.

PINEY WOODS FRIENDS CHURCH
D. Virgil Pike, Pastor
Church School 10 A. M.
Morning Worship 11 A. M.
Young People's Meeting 7 P. M.

WHITEVILLE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Caleb Goodwin, Jr., Pastor
Sunday School, 10:30 A. M., every Sunday except third Sunday.
Church services every third Sunday at 8 P. M.

HERTFORD METHODIST CHURCH

A. L. Chaplin, Pastor
Church School, 9:45 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Youth Fellowship, 8:45 P. M.
Evening Worship, 7:30 P. M.
Mid-week Fellowship, Wednesday at 7:30 P. M.

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.

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Rev. Charles F. Wall, Rector.
9:45 A. M., Church School, every Sunday.
9:00 A. M., Holy Communion, 1st Sunday.
8:30 A. M., Holy Communion, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays.
11:00 A. M., Holy Communion, 3rd Sunday.
11:00 A. M., Morning Prayer, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays.
10:00 A. M., Holy Communion, Fridays and Saints' Days.

BERRA CHURCH OF CHRIST

Walker Perry, Pastor
2nd and 4th Sunday at 10:30 A. M.
Morning worship on first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.
Evening worship first and third Sundays at 7:30 P. M.

CHAPPELL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Vivian Evans, Pastor
Sunday School second and fourth Sundays at 11 A. M.
Preaching service at 8 o'clock every first and third Sundays.
Training Union at 7 P. M.