

Church

God's charges against a corrupt society

(Ezekiel 22:3-4; 23-31)
 "I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me Lord, that I should not destroy it: but I found none." (Ezekiel 22:30)

Mrs. S. Edward Tesh, writing for the Standard Publishing Co., International Sunday School Lessons, made this statement concerning today's Bible lesson. "Few people need to be reminded of the corruption in modern societies. It seems that murders, rapes and burglaries have become a matter of routine reports in our news media.

Ezekiel's description of Judah, which we read in chapter 22, is disturbingly similar to our own society. Charges are often made against the evils in our society, but frequently they are made by the unbelieving editorialists, sociologists or psychologists, rather than one speaking in behalf of God.

Many believe that God has no claim over them since they have not claimed God, but God's authority extends to all people not just to the Christian community." (Unquote) The text for today's lesson contains some of the last words of warning prior to the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians in 587 B.C. Ezekiel was already in Babylonian exile at this time; God had made him a "Watchman" to the house of Israel.

He was told to speak God's messages to them whether they listened or not. At least they would know that a prophet had been among them; they would know why they were in their disastrous condition. Perhaps the foremost point of today's lesson

may be found in the area of responsibility of God's people.

God's called preachers (proclaimers) and teachers are to deliver all of God's message. The unpleasant as well as the pleasant. We today, like Judah of old, do not like to hear the messages of God's justice, judgement and righteous requirements.

CONSEQUENCES OF JUDAH'S GUILT

(Ezekiel 22:3, 4, 23, 24)
 Judah's guilt may be summed up in one word, "transgression." The people were transgressing God's commandments. These verses focus on just two, the guilt of bloodshed and idolatry. When we read the books of Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Isaiah and Micah we see a pattern of progression in Judah's sin.

It begins with a lax attitude towards God's requirements. Small things that perhaps God would hardly notice, they thought. It progresses to corruption in society, courts and government.

This led to a crisis in their national life, all of which God viewed as an abomination. When they failed to heed the warning messages from God through His prophets, the crisis eventually led to collapse and finally God's judgement.

Reynolds sponsors seminar

Five Perquimans women have been selected to attend the Leadership Development Program for Rural Minority Women from July 31st-August 1st at the Holiday Inn in Wilson, N.C.

Those attending the seminar are: Estelle Felton, Marian Frierson, Celestine Modlin, Gloria Thomas and Joyce G. Felton.

The theme for the seminar is "Family and Community Leadership." Several group sessions have been planned for each day.

Mrs. Estelle Felton is a member of the Advisory Committee for this program. If you are interested in upcoming seminars or general information concerning the program, please feel free to contact her or the Home Extension Office for details.

The teaching is plain. God got no joy from His act of judgement. He stood ready, right up to the last minute, to forgive the people and restore them, if they would but repent and return to Him. There are many lessons in these verses of Scripture for people living in the twentieth century.

The Apostle Paul reminds us that the penalty of sin is death—and whatever a man sows he shall also reap. Yet, it is so easy to be deceived into thinking that we can escape the consequences of sin. God said, in verse 30 of this chapter, that He looked for one good man among them (a national leader) who would stand in the gap and lead the people back to Him, but found none.

THE CHARACTER OF JUDAH'S SINS (Ezekiel 22:25-29)

In these verses Ezekiel stressed

Nutrition site menus

The following is a list menus for the Nutrition Site program for the elderly for the week of July 28—Aug. 1.

Monday—bbq chicken, cucumbers, tomatoes, onion, marinated, corn on the cob, dinner roll, margarine, fruit cocktail, milk.

Tuesday—baked ham in fruit sauce, buttered baby limas, buttered broccoli, dinner roll, margarine, orange, pineapple juice, sugar cookie, milk.

Wednesday—salisbury steak with

that Judah was not simply partially polluted because of its sinfulness: every major group of people was deeply involved in corruption. It speaks of the cruelty of the princes (the royal leadership), the unholliness of the priests, the callousness of the prominent (the wealthy, the judges, etc.), the deception of the prophets (false prophets who only claimed to speak for God) and the crookedness of the people.

It sounds like the jungle syndrome, the "survival of the fittest." This Scripture lesson tells us something today, something loud and clear. God loves us with an everlasting love. He is forgiving, patient and long suffering, but a people bent on idolatry and immorality may proceed to the when God says enough is enough, and brings judgement.

(Lesson based on the International Sunday School Lessons)

Bookmobile schedule

The following is the schedule for the Perquimans County Bookmobile for August 1 and 15.

Cherrix Day Care, 9:45, Wynne Fork Court, 10:00-10:45, Holiday Is-

land Club House, 11:00-12:30, and Snug Harbor, 1:00-2:00.

Also, George's Store, 2:15-2:45, Kirby Drive, 3:00, Gladys Warren, 3:15 and Gertrude Boyce Drive, 3:30.

gravy, buttered squash with onions, seasoned field peas with snaps, cornbread, margarine, cantaloups, milk.

Thursday—baked ham in pineapple juice, buttered steamed cabbage, buttered sweet potatoes, dinner roll, margarine, cranberry juice, sugar cookie, milk.

Friday—fried fish (perch), baby lima beans, coleslaw with green peppers & carrots, cornbread, margarine, diced peaches, milk.

Church News

Dates set for revival

Bay Branch A.M.E. Zion Sunday school begins at 10:00 a.m. with Mrs. Esther Hunter in charge. Morning worship begins at 11:15. Music will be rendered by the young adult choir.

Revival service will begin Sunday, July 20th, at 2:00 p.m. The Rev. Oliver Kee, Associate Minister of Riddicks Grove Missionary Baptist Church will render service accom-

pained by the Celestial Choir and congregation.

The Rev. E.H. Whitley, pastor of Greater Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church, Norfolk, Va. will be the speaker July 27—Aug. 1 with different area choirs rendering the music. Services begin nightly at 8:00.

The public is invited to attend.

Watchtower convention held in Hampton

Jehovah's Witnesses from the Hertford area just returned from attending a four day convention at the Hampton Coliseum in Hampton, Virginia, July 10-13.

Local spokesman Floyd McDowell, of Washington, stated that they were part of a group of over 8,500 delegates that attended the four days of Bible talks, experiences and dramas, acted out in authentic costume.

On Saturday, the Baptism was held, where 82 new Witnesses were Baptised in the lake behind the Coliseum, by total immersion.

The high point of the convention was the public address on Sunday. The title of the talk, "Peace at Last—When God Speaks", really concerns one of the basic beliefs of the Witnesses. It was given by Kelly Bond of Tyner, N.C.

McDowell reported that the theme of the convention was "Divine Peace", and that each day considered some aspect of how Divine peace was to be made manifest in the lives of the convention delegates. The information really highlighted how families played a vital part in promoting Divine peace among themselves, and then extending this peace to others.

On Friday, the audience thoroughly enjoyed the Bible Drama about Joseph, his father Jacob, and the famine in Egypt, and what these events mean for our modern times. This drama was directed by Kenneth Miller or Tarboro, N.C.



Over 8,600 persons attending the "Divine Peace" Convention on Sunday listened as Kelly Bond Delivered the Public Discourse: "Peace At Last! "When God Speaks"

Dear friends,



When the death of a loved one has been preceded by a long illness, the bereaved may be physically and emotionally exhausted and more susceptible to illness themselves. The grieving process is an added burden. At this time, the prolonged support and caring of friends is truly needed for physical and emotional health, and to return to a socially satisfying life.

Respectfully,

Larry S. Swindell

Swindell Funeral Home, Inc.

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Cards of Thanks

I wish I could thank all my friends and loved ones personally for every deed of kindness shown to me while I was in Norfolk General Hospital and since my return home but since that is impossible, I say thank you all for the beautiful cards, flowers, gifts, food, phone calls, visits, and especially your prayers, they meant so much to me.

May God bless you as he has blessed me.
 Mildred S. Howell

We acknowledge with grateful appreciation your devoted love and kindness to our mother, Pauline D. Perry, during her years at Winslow Memorial Home, and also recently to her family during the time of her death, we are extremely thankful for your concern and support.

Geard and Geneva Perry
 Steve and Phyllis Perry
 Billy and Janice Winslow
 Marjorie P. Fields

I would like to thank everyone who remembered me with prayers, cards, flowers, visits, and gifts, and every other act of kindness shown me while in the hospital and since my return home.

May God bless you as He has me.
 Barbara F. Harrell

The family of Charles Ward would like to thank each of you for the many kind deeds you expressed at the time of his death. For the visits, flowers, food, cards and donations made in his memory and for prayers made for us.

Lula Mae and children

I deeply appreciate all the prayers, flowers, food, cards, visits, calls, and other acts of kindness shown me and my family while in the hospital and at home.

It is so wonderful to know that we live in a community that shows great love and concern for others. Your continued prayers will be appreciated as I return to Raleigh to work. May God bless each of you in a very special way.

Robert H. Chappell

"NO SOFT TOUCH"

Kendall Hastings
 Woodville Baptist Church

We describe someone who can easily be talked into a loan or a gift of money as a "soft touch". Sometimes it's to pay the price to bail someone out of a jam he's gotten himself into.

The presence of a soft touch among one's acquaintances is an encouragement to careless living. We say, "don't worry, so-and-so is always good for a buck!"

Unfortunately, many people view God as a soft touch. They see God as "that somebody up there" who will help out if they ever get in a pinch. True, God will help you out—and you're already in a pinch if you have not taken his warning seriously: "The wages of sin is death..." (Romans 6:23); and the greatest sin is unbelief: "He who believes on Christ, God's Son is not condemned, but he who does not believe is condemned already" (John 3:18).

As the Creator of all people and as the ultimate Judge of everyone, God does not cease to be righteous, holy—and demanding. "All have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious ideal." At the same time, however, we can indeed be grateful that he has already paid the price to deliver us from the wrath of his judgement because of our sins. The Bible specifically emphasizes this fact: "But when the time came for the kindness and love of God our Savior to appear, then he saved us—not because we were good enough to be saved, but because of his kindness and pity" (Titus 3:4,5).

That characteristic of God's dealing with us is perfectly exemplified at the cross where Jesus died for our sins. As he suffered death on the cross, he did not curse those who had placed him there. Rather, he uttered this prayer to God: "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34).

We must forever rid ourselves of any notion that we deserve God's favor or that we can somehow earn our standing with him: "Because of his kindness you have been saved through trusting Christ. And even trusting is not of yourselves; it too is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good we have done, so none of us can take any credit for it" (Eph. 2:8,9). We may imagine that we can earn our standing with God, but that route leads only away from him—forever.

God has mercy, however, for those who are painfully aware of their need for him and know that they don't deserve his forgiveness and salvation.

If you sense within you at this moment a need for God, just tell him so and trust Jesus Christ who died for your sin. If you do it now, you then become a member of God's family.

Yes, God is tender, kind, and compassionate, but he is no soft touch. He does ask questions: "Do you believe in Christ my Son? have you accepted him personally as your savior?"

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